



Sheldon Family Association Inc.

~ ~ Quarterly ~ ~



FOUNDED 1939

JULY 2014

PAGE 1,144

President/Membership Chair:

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

Secretary/ Treas.

Barbara Gomez
PO Box 131462
Ann Arbor MI 48113
bgomez@umich.edu

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

Linda Williams
3013 Lakehaven
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
Lmhkw@umich.edu

SFA Quarterly Editor

James Russell
4529 Smoke Rise Road
Casper, WY 82604-9278
jprussell36@charter.net.

Genealogist

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

DNA Project Administrator

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

SFA Publication

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

SFA Webmaster

Bob Halstead
WebMaster
@SheldonFamily.org

Don't Miss it!



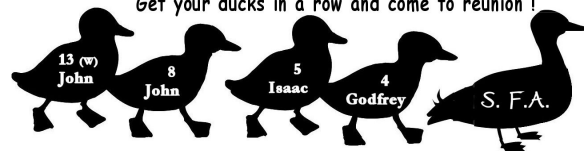
Reserve Today!

2014 Reunion will be held at Comfort Inn and Suites, 5775 Coventry Lane, Ft Wayne IN. Phone: 260-436-4300 or 260-436-2030. Special hotel rates are no longer available. Registration Form is available under the Reunion Section of Sheldon Family Association website at <http://www.sheldonfamily.org>.

Free shuttle to the library is available.



You too Richard!



Get your ducks in a row and come to reunion!

Contents:

PRESIDENT'S REPORT-JEANNE JEFFRIES.....	1,145
DNA REPORT-PETER JEFFRIES MD.....	1,146
DNA UPDATE.....	1,146
LOOKING FOR RUFUS-JEANNE JEFFRIES.....	1,146
HISTORY OF SHELDON FAMILY GENEALOGY.....	1,147
CITY DIRECTORIES.....	1,152
ERIE CANAL AND WESTWARD MIGRATION.....	1,153
SCHEDULE-FORT WAYNE REUNION.....	1,154



The Sheldon Family Assoc. Quarterly, is published quarterly by The Sheldon Family Association, Inc., (hereinafter SFA), and printed by AMBI Mail & Marketing, 312 W 2nd St, Casper WY.

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.

Libraries do not have permission to place SFA Quarterlies on the internet without prior approval of SFA.

ISSN:1063-956X

To Submit Articles Contact:

S.F.A. Quarterly Editor
James Russell
4529 Smoke Rise Road
Casper WY 82604-9278
jprussell36@charter.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
PO Box 131462
Ann Arbor, MI 48113
bgomez@umich.edu

President's Report July 2014

Jeanne A Jeffries

The Annual Meeting and Reunion are fast approaching. Our Board meeting will commence at 4 pm on August 7 in Fort Wayne at the Comfort Suites. Members are welcome to attend the meeting. Board Reports are posted on the Website as is the Agenda. Under discussion will be Genealogist Report and Database Conversion progress as well as Update of the Strategic Planning Process, Access to the database, Disposition of the Sheldon Archives, Member Access to the items in the Display Room, Annual Meeting/Reunion 2015 in California, Ways to increase membership, Future Reunion Sites, and Requests for Volunteers.

During the two day meeting, we shall greet Sheldon cousins and have an opportunity to discover the treasures at the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center. There will be short talks by members. Georgia Sheldon Newman discovered the James Sheldon house in Remsen NY and Judy Sheldon will share the story of Richard Sheldon the first known Sheldon to live in Iosco County, MI. Jeanne Jeffries will discuss Looking for Sheldons in Canada. Progenitor groups will share stories and we shall have wonderful meals as well as the Annual Member Meeting. There will be an opportunity to discuss the DNA project.

Our Quarterly Editor, Jim Russell reports with Web manager Bob Halstead about the successful posting of past Quarterlies on the website. Past President Wayne E Nelson provided an electronic archive of these Quarterlies. Mr Russell is always receptive to articles about Genealogy and Sheldon descendants. There is still much information about our families to be discovered and reported. If you have an article to share, send it to Mr Russell. He has several which will appear about California Pioneers named Sheldon.

Our Quarterly provides the members with Genealogy tips, Sheldon Family history as well as updates about the Association. Hope to see you in Ft Wayne.

DNA Project Report July 2014

Results from FTDNA can reveal a likely or unlikely relationship between project members. The information is contained in the results section on the web site for FTDNA. An explanation can be found by searching for "If two men share a surname, how should the genetic distance...be interpreted". There are explanations for 12, 25, 37 and 67 marker tests. The markers are SNP or alleles.

When the Y chromosome is passed from the father to son, mutation of alleles or genes may occur. When all of the 37 SNPs are the same for two men, it is a close match. The results in a marker test of 37 SNPs may reveal a mutation which does not match the other man. If there are no more than 0-4 mutations in the results between two men of the same Sheldon surname, it can be assumed that the two men are related to a common ancestor. If there are five or more mutations, it is unlikely that they are related to a common ancestor.

The results may be reported as 0,1,2,3,4,5, or 6 genetic distance.

This is a link to this information: <https://www.familytreedna.com/learn/y-dna-testing/y-str/two-men-share-surname-genetic-distan>

DNA Update

Dr Peter Jeffries also reports that Ancestry.com will discontinue selling Y DNA and mtDNA tests. Our Sheldon DNA project is with FTDNA. When members tested with Ancestry and wanted to join the Sheldon project, there was a cost. Since there were some SNPs which were not in the Ancestry test, additional lab testing was required. We recommend that Sheldon project members test with FTDNA.

Looking for Rufus July 2014 Jeanne A Jeffries

Although the earliest record in the Sheldon database for Rufus Sheldon is from 1744, many other men are named Rufus and probably relate to the

earlier men named Rufus. There are 91 entries for a male Rufus, and only 19 whose last name is Sheldon.

For instance, Rufus Herman Bailey was born September 29 1858 in Windham NH to Mary Sheldon and Samuel Bailey. Mary is the daughter of Amos Sheldon of the Godfrey line. A marriage record shows Rufus Bailey with Mina P Watson on December 17 1884 in Tewksbury MA. At the NH Archives, a death record reveals that Rufus died 16 Nov 1935 as a widower. Further research finds a Rufus Gulielmus Bailey listed as a tutor and alumnus of Dartmouth College in 1817. Was Rufus Herman Bailey named for this man or a Rufus Sheldon?

Another example is Rufus Sheldon Jenney who is listed in the Sheldon Family database as the son of Benjamin Jenney and Joanna Sheldon. This Rufus was born in 1833 in Greenwich OH according to the database and is found in the 1850 to 1900 census. Since Joanna is the daughter of Rufus Sheldon (1777-1835) who was the son of Roger Sheldon and Huldah Streeter of Rhode Island, we can see that Rufus is a family name. Indeed, it can be attributed to the Streeter family in which Huldah had a brother Rufus (1754-1816). Could there also be a connection to Rufus Harmon and Rufus Sheldon of the Isaac line?

A daughter of Roger and Huldah (Streeter) Sheldon named a son Rufus. Elizabeth (1766-1791) married Stephen Wilkinson of Cumberland RI and named their first son Rufus. Thus the name continued in the family. This family can be found in Wisconsin in 1850 census. They settled in New York and probate records show Rufus as Administrator of the will of Stephen Wilkinson deceased in Covington Genesee NY in October 1829.

(continued next page)

(continued from prior page)

In some examples, the Rufus name belongs to the husband of a Sheldon woman. In some cases the name Rufus is given to a child and there are no antecedent family members who appear to have the same name. In that case, perhaps the family knew someone by that name or just liked the name. Thus it is important to review all members of a family on a family group chart since there may be genealogy clues which can be derived from other family members.

History of Sheldon Family Genealogy (SFGS) called "the SFA Database"

As we move into the future

Memories of the first data base entry group

Rose Sheldon Newton

Wayne E. Nelson

This year, the Sheldon Family Association celebrates 75 years of archiving family records. Leland Sheldon, a retired engineer of Snyder, NY, discovered copies of *The Sheldon Magazine*, published in the 1800's, by Rev. Henry Olcott Sheldon. Rev. Sheldon was a New England born Methodist Circuit Rider in early Ohio. Leland decided to organize Sheldon family history by placing Sheldon Magazine family trees on genealogy index cards. Next, Leland enlisted Sheldon descendants attending annual reunions to "go forth" and collect Sheldon family information in towns they passed through on trips. Leland asked them to write letters from home to others and thereby begin the update of the six volumes of the Sheldon Magazine, which were reprinted from July 1957 to July 1973.

Leland used the Numbering system Rev. Sheldon developed. The system was a modified Henry System from *New England Historic Genealogical Society*. Rev. Sheldon was a member of the Society. Leland filed the cards in their numerical order under the original progenitor. Over the years, several thousand cards accrued for 4 Godfrey, 5 Isaac, 8 John, 13 John and 22 Richard. Descendant letters and documents were also filed by Sheldon number in a file cabinet for that

ancestor's line.

In the beginning, Sheldon descendants attended annual reunions on week ends in a big tent on a Sheldon farm in Vermont. Later the reunions alternated between the Sheldon Inn in Middlebury, Vermont and the Inn at Old Deerfield, Massachusetts. New Sheldons came bringing others to "see if their grandfather or great grandfather was there" and if so, they were allowed to hand copy family information from the cards. This continued over the years. Leland, Hortense, then Betty Sheldon, . Rose Newton would pick up Shirley Rider and later Keith M. Sheldon in Ohio, after he became genealogist, and the card files for transport to the meetings. Shirley and Rose added posters and memorabilia displays to the load. These two Sheldon daughters originated Sheldon Publications to provide research articles of interest for Sheldon researchers. They converted new member data forms from cards to Family Group Sheets that later proved easier for data entry process. Keith M. Sheldon next Genealogist later provided new SFA members computerized family group sheets for the reunion, to avoid carrying the now numerous "card files". Rose continues providing group sheets for new members. Sometimes she discovers several progenitor connections, so "cousins" see their ancestry laid out in an easily understood form. Back to the data history.

Edward Mark Sheldon, the great grandson of Rev. Henry O. Sheldon retired as a programmer and teacher of the first Xerox computer school in Hayward California. He telephoned Rose one day to ask then SFA President Rose "Sis, if you could have something done by a computer what would it be?" She quickly replied: "We really need an Every Name Index of Sheldons since your great grandpa only indexed heads of families in the Magazine, and we are much beyond that. The Index Past President Charlotte Stiles Alling Hunt made had disappeared, We need a way to locate and follow the Ancestors" (Charlotte Hunt's 'Indexes arrived in a box from Betty in MA some years later and you see the only hard bound copy

at reunions and in Allen Co. IN Genealogy Center. Dept.) Mark first studied the history of genealogy software and databases. He asked members of the 'learning committee' to purchase Personal Ancestral File (PAF), an early computer genealogy program. He asked us to enter our own family records in PAF to learn data entry . We did, and liked it, yet Mark had doubts whether the program had the capacity to hold all the Sheldon records. He believed he could do better. He busily researched, wrote, traveled, visited national genealogy conventions, sought advice, wrote, wrote, to fine tune what became SFGS, *The Sheldon Family Genealogy System*. He was honored in 1988 by Federation of Genealogical Societies for a first USA Family Association official Database.

Several Societies, also used the SFGS pattern for their Associations with Mark Sheldons' permission. SFA data pioneers lead by Mark and SFA Genealogist Keith M.Sheldon, were: Lou Harney, Wayne Nelson, Rose Newton, Rosemary and Al Hogan. Mark purchased Ancient Hartford History books, also Snow and Farnum *History of Providence, RI* history that documents Sheldon family information in SFGS. Keith M. Sheldon is author of 3 Volumes of S0008 John Sheldon descendants .He edited several volumes of Founders and Patriots of Ohio lineages. Rose transcribed most of Rev.H.O. Sheldons diaries and indexed them in the process with about 3 years left (Jerome library, Bowling Green, OH University cooperated with this effort as well.) Rose was editor of Allen Co. LINES for Allen Co.IN Genealogical Society as well as several surname newsletters. She indexed, West Suffield CT., Congregational Church Records with Marge Sheldon Phelon, SFA Secretary. She also indexed Hortense Sheldon's professional research she inherited, that is partially integrated into SFA records as her clients letters reveal connections.

During this time, data entry was underway by teams across the USA, Mark and Betty visited

each group, teaching and encouraging. A system was devised whereby Keith sent each entry location a stack of index cards to enter and return for another stack. Once or twice a year all disks returned to Mark to check, and combine in the master file. Beginning with 5 inch disks, moving to large Bernoulli cartridges. We each received updated cartridges continuing entry and see each Sheldon progenitor line grow. This did not always go smoothly, some dropped out. Lou Harney finished entering S0004 Godfrey lineage. Eventually, index cards and Group Sheet entries were completed as Mark and Keith taught us the SFA Genealogist must maintain data entry and carefully control and check sources to weed out errors.

The SFGS program contains several programs: each with necessary utilities for specific tasks. Mark designed several report formats that would export information to print:

1. **An individual genealogy book for a member** back to their progenitor. This was offered to any member. Several received camera ready copies they took to a printer. They contained Name Indexes, Documentation Lists, Reference Lists and bio notes and photos.. You may have seen first one: Henry Olcott Sheldon and Descendants in the white notebook at reunions, a gift to Rose, in the display room at various times.
2. **A book for each progenitor** and his descendants was planned. This awaits completion, as the report format was not included in Marks nephew, Brets version of SFA program .
3. **Individual Family Group Sheet** and bio notes. Rose uses SFGS as members are activated that yet await entry or completion in Roots Magic 6 during the 3 years Marvin and Sues team has been working. (Marvin took data several times in member activating processes as he worked and I moved.)
4. **Descendant Data Sheet**., is so handy to lay out grandparents to a Progenitor.
5. **Ancestral long lists** similar to modern program list utility also.

(continued next page)

(continued from prior page)

Rose used this to provide H.O.Sheldon lists and Ohio Sheldon lists for wall charts last year in the Gymnasium in Ohio for Reunion Hosts Deb and Rev. Brian.

Mark said a report format could be written by a programmer to publish the long planned Sheldon Progenitor Book Series to carry forth *The Sheldon Magazine* lineage with volumes for G,I,J,W. & R progenitors with an every name index for the books as every published genealogy needs.

The major problem with Mark's book report format, was also its beauty. Featuring attractive graphic borders and layouts that provided pages for each family heritage book, we now realize valuable space for facts and stories are needed rather than borders that limit space. Time passed. Mark and Betty moved to a beautiful retirement home. Their son, Ross Mark persuaded his cousin Bret Sheldon, President of Sierra Design Systems of Carson City, Nevada to migrate the Sheldon Family Genealogy System (SFGS) program to Microsoft Access as technology was moving on.

As data archival moves forward, professional programmer Marvin Parsons, realized that we were frustrated with the lack of Sheldon descendant spouse information. Mark did not include fields for birth date, or location for them in SFGS thinking only SHELDON!. While this was obvious in the first pages of Volume I of the *Sheldon Magazine*, it was not believed frequent as is now proving, so was not addressed. We could only enter spouse mother and father names. Today thanks to Marvin Spouse names that ended as simply First and Last Names are now carried back to their root ancestors! YEA!

Many parents of spouses we discover.. connect to other Sheldons and progenitors, creating multiple relationships!. People traveled in groups and by communities. You married within the group of your friends. Therefore, as genealogist, Rose has

long advised that SFA data "needed" to be moved into an 'over the counter' genealogy program to replace SFGS. Since the Portland reunion when *Marvelous Marvin Parsons, former Microsoft data handler and Sue Sheldon a professional project manager, have shown us how spouse parents who also have Sheldon roots fit in their rightful place. They are no longer dead end duplicates, and are now correctly listed in their rightful position as data naturally flows!. Hallelujah and Amen! Blessings on Marvin, Sue and helpers! Mark would be ever so proud to see how data is progressing! The journey of once more migrating the data into a better program named RootsMagic 6, is powerfully underway. *Triple blessing here! Marvin's wife Jeanne Sheldon Parsons is also a former Vice President of Microsoft.

Completing this the task of requires careful checking of files and sources, to complete. **For example:** Many, many, many Mary Sheldon names that might seem to be duplicates to Marvin, are found to be separate individuals who were carefully entered with scant information. Especially difficult to identify and preserve, but not impossible when more is known. Some entries have data and locations, others show only a child of parents named in a Bible. Some were discovered buried in the family plot and researchers discover a child was born, and claimed by childhood illnesses or at birth. These Rose also checks against card and letter files. **Another example:** Lists are called fields. Each program *renames lists* and uses them creatively or differently to reference, or connect to, or sort by. Each program gives choices of where to put this list that was over here, or to fit this bit over there. Sometimes you loose data that is larger than the specified space in a field in the new program. **For example:** Rose Marie Sheldon Newton might be listed as Rose Sheldon in one field but as widow Newton somewhere else. These details require checking to determine if there are two Roses, one Marie or a Rosemary. **Another example:** A male is listed as Jack

Laverne Sheldon III in the surname field **He cannot be found “searching a Sheldon” in SFGS! Why? You must search for Sheldon III. We couldn’t find Jack till we looked up his grandpa, then put III in a proper field when this was repaired!** This was a data entry error by an early earnest entry person *adding more information in the field than the field asked for, while the entry person was trying to be efficient and not loose that III.* (Marvin made a special field insert designations and “titles” such as Miss, Mrs. PHd, Dr. Prof. I, II, III –Marvin calls it AKA or Also known As. Cool!

SFA has at this date 71,514 records this week, some will combine as a few hundred duplicates are merged. New names will show up. **Another field overloaded was:** A woman’s maiden name placed in the middle name spot, or her previous marriage surname or “Polly” for Mary or “widow” etc. This summer, Rose discovered in Carew Sheldons notes **that “quotes” were used in early SFA card files to denote when the person WENT BY their middle name!** Who knew? This in Charlotte Stiles Alling Hunts files Rose received this spring from a seller of a family home! These items call for research to be stated correctly to determine where each surname or title correctly fits. We know that Mehitible Gunn, was Mrs. David Ensign before she became the second Mrs. Isaac Sheldon. Marvin has pulled his hair because (parenthesis) were inserted in fields as well. **Remember...**that to the genealogical researcher **every bit of data** is hard sought and found, and **important!** It is easier to search for a Matilda Unknown or a Thomas Smith than an Unknown Unknown or Unknown Smith. Information is hard won in a genealogy research, while being a troublesome fragment in the wrong place to a programmer. Everyone was trying so hard to help!

During the change over process, Rose continues to accept new members, check sources, and maintain new member data entry and perform data update additions in SFGS. This quickly

provides people their ancestral connection sheets in a timely way while Marvin, Rose, Jeanne, and Frank and the others, discuss changes needed and Sue directs a group. They formulate instructions for members of their corrections groups as the process continues. So members, thanks for your patience!

Rose kept new members activated during her husbands illness, death and during moving. New members have continued to receive their group sheets back to a progenitor to continue their research. Rose was told to hold footnote and sources citations because they would fit into different fields in the new program.. These must be added to the new designated field in Roots Magic 6. *When this is finished, the accrued tubs of group sheets will be checked for completion in the new program, then filed in the cabinets so scanning will begin with complete files.* Then a new system of entry would begin if voted to be entered that way.

Filing of member family data from new applicants *since Marvin began* the database conversion await as data is not all in the Master version but are in SFGS. Those will be added to SFA data *as the committee allows* when error checking is complete. You see, those allowed to help error check must do so via e-mail to Marvin and Sue. Until this phase is complete, file source entry completion for each person, remains in the plastic file tubs under Roses desk and growing. This means that while planners and leaders guide, Rose lays out the story to you illustrating how it is coming together. On we go each one cooperating toward goals just as Leland did with his group in the 50'.

Research reveals that organizations who have gone on the Internet with a database had problems to resolve before hand. Here are *only a few of the issues that* I have long planned to address with the Genealogy Committee in due time as needed:

1. Discussion of which *(continued next page)*

(continued from prior page) fields of data we might make publicly searchable such as: Name, date, place, yet

2. What fields, should remain member access only, searchable for documents sent in years ago by their ancestors, could be viewed by members after joining and how to maintain each families privacy.

3. How to maintain SFA Genealogy as a “living database” being constantly changing and because it is not a flat file but a living growing entity.

(You will read later Mr. Witcher has suggested solutions as he has worked with others like us.)

4. We have long kept member applications and documentation in the control of the Genealogist who makes needed entry and updates. This prevents erroneous data being entered on line without SFA oversight. You at this moment learn that as Genealogist, Rose and others have been “ordered” from time to time by members... to change this or that documented file to reflect a members *idea* of a line. Good genealogy requires documentation and Rose consults with previous genealogist Keith and also SFA member court Judge Don (a Sheldon descendant) expert in court documents, and our President an astute researcher, also Char you meet this year for Military research and other genealogists. This is the reason knowledgeable researcher oversight is necessary to protect what you, the member research and present. Who among us is not glad to see primary source documentation discovered?!

SFA historically has trusted their designated Genealogist: to carefully check and enter submitted data. Thank you for your trust, it is not taken lightly. Genealogists: Leland, Hortense, Betty, Shirley, Keith, each studied genealogy. Shirley and Rose were taught English Transcription from Cecil Humphery Smith of Achievements of Northgate in England so they could transcribe English wills in the SFA collection. Yes, SFA data does indeed include “what was known, or believed or reflected in- each family lineage” from Rev. H.O.Sheldon and family records forward. We welcome further primary sources

(first hand ..on the scene at the time) documentation for corrections, and we treasure the records of those who researched before us.

The Sheldon files; Cards and File Cabinets, are used daily checking lineage of new members and re checking stated facts and *where* they came from. I check though past letters and documents to previous Genealogists also. Knowledge of our predecessors was not easily obtained and was highly sometimes carefully preserved. There is not room to detail everything in a database. Often a submitters hand writing is recognized on the cards and the “*Share with me*” forms Leland sent out, that is indeed - a treasure if you have not seen the handwriting of your ancestors!. Some letters to Leland are missing. Rose also inherited from the estate, the files of Hortense Sheldon, a professional researcher and SFA President, who gave years to SFA research with Leland. These files revealed cards of Marie S. Hine and Clara S Gutermuth and Frank’s mother, and other cards Hortense continued working after retiring. SFA genealogists had noted these cards as missing. “Dear Hortense” letters Rose indexed and many have worked into the SFA letter files. There are letters to Leland from Walter Knoll of Chicago who cleaned up some problems for Leland. The list of libraries who purchased Lelands *Sheldon Magazine* updates remains also, they request notification to purchase updated books when available. Boxes of Annual Reunion bound reports, several Bibles from end of a line Sheldons. Martha Hutchins H.O.S relatives photo collection, Arthur Keith’s professional pictures of the England tour, a Sheldon store journal, back up research documentation for Sheldon Publications Wayne sells, and a few photostats!

Progress: In early July, Curt Witcher manager of The Genealogy Center reviewed both files and inventory. We recalled the Librarys’ help studying the early version of the database and they have long awaited the updated version to attach or link the scanned files to their Sheldon

Number. The Sheldon Family Association files remain with the Genealogist as the long time planned scan and archival phase plans become reality.

Recalling visits with Rose and Jeanne and various members of the Genealogy and computer committees to his office as we discussed and envisioned, how the data could be made searchable on the library website, he suggested a simple search of specific fields be designated for Sheldon Name, Date, Location and to protect scanned document files of earlier ancestors and cousins such as letters, forms, photos and documents should be become "member access available" after a persons connection is clear to their Sheldon ancestor and they have joined.. Curt said this would help the Sheldon Family Association stay alive longer than if all research is made free to all comers and this is what most associations are doing. He also said his group would be happy to work with the database administrators and genealogist/s to bring the long time plans and ideas to reality as data is scanned and preserved.

City Directories

By Brian Mulcahy; BMulcahy@lee.gov.com

City Directories are, by most accounts, one of the most over-looked resources by genealogists. Directories have been published in a variety of formats since the 1700s. City directories have survived for cities such as Boston, Charleston, New York, and Philadelphia from the 1780s. While the original intent of the publication was to identify commercial enterprises, publishers quickly discovered there was more potential for profit by also including residents. The earliest directories may or may not list occupational information for residents. The information found in city directories is valuable for locating ancestors, especially during the 1790–1840 periods when the federal census records only identified the head of household by name. By 1860, there were over 70 communities with some

form of published city directory. Historians and genealogists often turn to city directories to learn specific details about life in a particular locality at a given period/periods of time.

Examples may include:

1. Residents and business are listed by their street addresses for a given year.
2. Public agencies, schools, churches, and organizations are also listed.
3. By studying multiple years of directories, it is possible to trace the establishment of a business or to make an educated guess when a family moved into a dwelling, or to discover that an individual was a public official or an officer of a particular organization in a certain year.
4. Since the information listed about residents was collected at the time of the event, often by actual house to house canvassing, it often carries the same evidential weight as many "original" records.
5. The information found in city directories often serves as a "link" to other records. From a genealogical perspective, city directories may provide significant research clues such as:
 1. They often include ward maps in a given city, so you can trace the person in census records.
 2. Widows are often listed just after the death of a spouse which can lead to vital records or probate packets in that county or town.
 3. If the person is listed as a property/home owner, that will direct you to deed records for that location.
 4. City directories are one of the key elements in the long-range project by the LDS to re-create the missing 1890 federal census.
 5. The alphabetical listing of names can lead researchers to other persons, either with or without the same surname, living in the same location, or as neighbors. As American cities grew, city directories became more detailed. City directories often contain special sections pertaining to businesses, churches, and organizations. Addresses of churches can be useful in narrowing the search to addresses located near to where your family resided

(continued next page)

(continued from prior page)

In most localities, city directories were divided into five sections:

1. Business
2. Residential
3. Negro or Colored
4. Community Facts
5. Advertisements

BLM 6/4/2013

Note From Editor SFAQ:

City directories recently helped trace the wife of Charles H Sheldon S6058x7. It was noted that her name changed back and forth between Esther and Etta, in city directories for Toledo OH.

This linked the records of the two and provided a second marriage and information of her parents

**Erie Canal and Westward Migration
By Brian Mulcahy; BMucahy@lee.gov.com**

The Erie Canal had a significant impact on New York and America in the 19th century. The canal route which begins in Albany, New York served as a major migration route due to its flow westward from the Hudson River to Lake Erie. This route connected the Great Lakes with the Atlantic Ocean. Construction began in 1817 and was completed in 1825. The project was an enormous undertaking. Work on the canal was carried on by gangs made up, in many cases, of European immigrants. Many of the skilled designers and engineers were also recruited from Europe as well.

The Erie Canal was the first transportation route between the eastern seaboard and western interior of the United States that was faster than carts pulled by draft animals, and cut transport costs by about 95%. The Canal resulted in a massive population increase in western New

York State and opened regions further west to increased settlement. Completion of the canal played a major role in the rise of New York City as the chief port of the U.S. The increased flow of commerce and settlers resulted in constant expansion efforts covering the years 1834-1862. The Erie Canal contributed to the wealth and importance of New York City and New York State. Its impact went much further, increasing trade throughout the nation by opening eastern and overseas markets to Midwestern farm products and by enabling migration to the West. New ethnic Irish communities formed in some towns along its route after completion, as Irish immigrants were a large portion of labor force involved in its construction.

Because so many immigrants traveled on the canal, many genealogists would like to find copies of canal passenger lists. Unfortunately, apart from the years 1827-1829, canal boat operators were not required to record or report passenger names to the government, which in this case was the State of New York. Those 1827-1829 passenger lists survive today in the New York State Archives.

The Erie Canal proved to be the key that unlocked an enormous series of social and economic changes in the young nation. The Canal spurred the first great westward movement of American settlers, gave access to the rich land and resources west of the Appalachians and made New York the preeminent commercial city in the United States.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, the Allegheny Mountains were the Western Frontier. The Northwest Territories that would later become Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio were rich in timber, minerals, and fertile land for farming.

BLM5/29/2008

REUNION SCHEDULE-FORT WAYNE INDIANA

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, AFTERNOON

Registration: Irene Wolff & Rose Sheldon Newton

Meet Greet as people arrive

Board Meeting 4:00 - 6:00 break for dinner and back if needed

Dinner on own or with group, all welcome

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8

Breakfast, on your own, to be ready to depart for:

8:30 sharp depart for De Brand Chocolate Tour- on Shuttle

10:30 At Return- Researchers leave for Allen Co. Public Library

Be sure to let us know if you need Shuttle to Library or will drive

Display Room open

4:00 Jeanne Round Tables Lineage

Meet and Greet: New arrivals and Returnees from Library

Georgia Newman: James Sheldon House, Remsen, NY

Judy Sheldon: Richard Sheldon - first known Sheldon to live in Iosco County, MI

Display Room Open

6:30 Gather for dinner at 7:00

Dinner: Italian catered by famous Casa Ristoranti Italiano

Speakers:

Delia Cothrun Bourne, Librarian :Using the Genealogy Center of ACPL

Marvin Parsons SFA Data base update

Char Bacchus SFA Testimony

Display Room Open - before and after meeting

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

Breakfast, on your own, to be ready for

9:00 sharp: Tamuari Tea Tasting at Hotel

Researchers Depart for Allen County Public Library.

Be sure to let us know if you need Shuttle to Library or will drive

Display Room open

4:00 Jeanne Round Tables Lineage Talks continued:

Robert Sheldon Ward will display LULU Publishing

Jeanne Jeffries: Looking for Sheldons in Canada

Display Room Open

6:30 Gather for dinner at 7:00

Dnnner: Catered by Halls Fine Restaurants

Speaker: Curt Witcher Manager Genealogy Dept. Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne.

Annual Meeting:

Time of Remembrance:

Sheldons in military since USA Began. List

Special Presentation: Robert Knox

Sheldon Family Association Members Deceased this year- Barbara Gomez

Closing Circle. - Blest Be The Tie

Display Room Open, Members pick up your displays- Rose Pack boxes

SUNDAY AUGUST 10

Sunday Breakfast Good Byes

Reunion Committee meet with Alberta

Sheldon Family Association, Inc.

Editor: James Russell

4529 Smoke Rise Road

Casper WY 82604-9278

Please Check Label

If dues are not current

Please Pay Dues

Dues Run

Aug1-July 31

Celebrating 75 Years

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

PO Box 131462

Ann Arbor, MI 48113

New Member Genealogy Group Sheets to:

Genealogist listed on front page & inside cover



S.F.A. Reunion

August 7-9, 2014

Comfort Inn & Suites

5775 Coventry Lane

Fort Wayne, Indiana