



Sheldon Family Association Inc.
Quarterly



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Remember...

How our ancestors came to America?



Photo courtesy of editor

Table of Contents

Editor's Note	1352
President's Message	1353
Ellis Island and Beyond	1353
Save the Soldiers Home	1355
SFA Marketplace	1355
Sheldon DNA Project	1356
Am I Related to Thomas Rogers?	1359
Database Drawer	1359
Membership Musings	1360
Sheldon General Store	1360

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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 reunion and 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' submissions 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.

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A Note from the Editor

Welcome, cousins, to the first edition of 2019! The SFA is very glad that you have decided to read our Quarterly. We hope that you enjoy the vast knowledge of DNA information in this issue and the interesting research findings. Please feel free to contact any of the above email addresses in order to ask any questions or submit any information for future articles. We would like very much to hear from you!



Photos courtesy of the editor

Happy Anniversary Ellis Island!

Michelle Masson

These photos of Ellis Island were taken in 2011 during a family visit. It is amazing what they have accomplished there through the years! One can look online to find several photos of this very room in ruins, they speak louder than this photo does. The SFA President Betty Shelden Knopf mentioned the 127th anniversary of the opening of Ellis Island and we wanted to give them a cheer here in our Quarterly! How many of you have relatives who walked through this building? Send your stories to editor@sheldonfamily.org and we will be able to add them to our story.

President's Message

It is a New Year and time to make plans to attend the 2019 Sheldon Family Reunion. You have a new 2019 calendar so take out a pen, not a pencil, and write in SFA on September 18-22. The SFA Reunion will be in St Louis. It promises to be a huge event. St Louis has so many interesting resources and such a history.

This is an excerpt from our monthly email message, called "The President's Tidbits:"

Did you know that the first week of January 1892 saw the opening of the new U.S. immigration station on Ellis Island in New York Harbor? A 15-year old girl from Ireland named Annie Moore became the first immigrant to be processed there. Immigrants who crossed the Atlantic disembarked to be screened by doctors and immigration officers. If they were in good health and their papers in order, they were allowed into the United States. Over the years, 98 percent of all those examined at Ellis Island were admitted into the country. More than 40 percent of all U.S. citizens can trace their ancestry through those immigrants. Ellis Island closed as an immigration station in 1954. In 1990 it reopened as the Ellis Island Immigration Museum. (Source: The American Patriot's Almanac by Bennett and Cribb, 2010) *Copyright © 2019 Sheldon Family Association, all rights reserved.*

I suspect there are many SFA members who also have family members who came to the United States through Ellis Island. Please make time to write down the memories and share not only with your family but with other SFA members. Send your memories to our *Quarterly* Editor Michelle Masson.

We all are interested in our family histories, whether our families were financially rich or poor. Family stories, memories, and pictures are important. Let us share them this year.

Betty

Ellis Island and Beyond

Betty Shelden Knopf

Times were very tough in "the North" in the early 1900s. Northern Ireland was suffering continuing economic failure. Men were leaving their families and were going to England to find work. David Lundy left in 1904-1905 to go back to England for work and left his wife pregnant with a son who would never see his father. David Lundy disappeared and was never found even after private investigators were hired. Sarah Clarke Lundy was left with seven children. The family story is a bit fuzzy but somehow, my grandfather, John McCulla apparently sent money from America to the North. The money was intended for passage of Elizabeth Lundy to go to America. This would be one less mouth for her mother to feed.

My aunts speculated my grandparents "might" have known each other or at least their families would have known each other. What is known is that John McCulla was 16 years older than Elizabeth Lundy.

Listed as John McCullagh, my grandfather came to America on the *SS Teutonic* sailing from Liverpool on September 15, 1905 and arriving in the Port of New York on September 23, 1905. The ship's immigration records show he had paid his own passage and he had a [train] ticket to his final destination, San Francisco, California. There is no family information about his voyage or his Ellis Island experience.

Listed as Lizzie Lindsay, my grandmother Elizabeth (“Lizzie”) Lundy, came to America on the *SS Adriatic* sailing from Liverpool on May 3, 1907, and arriving in the Port of New York on May 18, 1907. My aunts speculated the person recording passenger names possibly did not understand Gaelic among many other possible reasons for the name error. The ship’s immigration records show her passage was paid by a “friend.” In addition, the records indicate she had a [train] ticket to her final destination of San Francisco, California, to join a friend, John McCulla.

My grandmother actually shared very little about coming to America. We do know she came in steerage class and had been extremely sick on the ship! She did say how she saw the Statue of Liberty but never talked about her Ellis Island experience. She also did not talk about the train trip to San Francisco. The Great San Francisco Earthquake occurred on April 18, 1906, so when she arrived the city continued to be dealing with the disaster. My grandparents went across the bay to be married. I have the large original Marriage License and Certificate issued in Brooklyn Township, Alameda County, California. John McCulla and Elizabeth Lundy were married on June 5, 1907. John and Annie Meekin were witnesses. Annie Meekin came on the same ship to America with Lizzie, and, according to family conversations, the two women remained life-long friends.

Nine months after their marriage, on March 1, 1908, the first of their nine children were born. While living in San Francisco, according to family conversations, John was a teamster driving a water wagon during and after the Great Earthquake. The McCullas joined other families originally from the same area in Northern Ireland and moved to Tomales, Marin County, California. This small hamlet looks like Ireland and has similar weather. Years of constant economic struggles followed for the McCulla family. Looking for jobs to provide the basics was an on-going challenge to the point where my three oldest uncles quit school after eighth-grade to find work. My grandmother had eight pregnancies and 9 children and became a midwife. She also cleaned public buildings and private homes, did babysitting, and provided nursing care for the ill and dying. Her being gone at night was a source of friction with my grandfather. My aunts did not talk about their father very often, but they all described him as being constantly suspicious about where Lizzie was and what she was doing, especially at night.

After years of strain and conflict, one night after a conflict, my grandmother moved out and took the youngest children with her to live across the street. My aunts stated that Lizzie had enough of his constant suspicions, she did not want any more children, and she wanted to become an American citizen. These were all points in their long-time conflicts.

Grandma Lizzie did not have any more children. Thanks to the tutoring of her youngest daughter, she did become an American citizen in 1939. Lizzie and John were never divorced but remained firmly separated! The only picture of them together is at the wedding of my parents in 1938. Grandma Lizzie did get her way in not being buried next to “the old goat” in the family plot. Buried between them is their youngest daughter, the one who had tutored her mother, who died at the age of 34.

The lasting memory my family has about Elizabeth Lundy McCulla’s life in America is that she never went to the ocean again. In spite of living about 5 miles from the Pacific Ocean, she never would go to the ocean, never!

Save the Soldiers Home

Wende Warren

Members of SFA are always welcome to submit information and/or articles for publication in the SFAQ. Wende Warren has done just that. She has written and put together this article regarding the Soldiers Home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I have found that the website is a great place to see the history of the area and understand more about the Soldiers Home within the grounds of the village.

"A month before his assassination, President Lincoln signed legislation to create a national system of homes for disabled veterans. Established in 1867, the Soldiers Home is one of the three original Soldiers Homes in the country, with some of the oldest buildings in the VA [Veterans Administration] system. It is the only Soldiers Home that retains the majority of its recuperative village and designed landscape. Milwaukee architects Edward Townsend Mix and Henry C. Koch designed several of the earliest and most prominent buildings, which are set amidst the picturesque grounds designed by landscape architect Thomas Budd Van Horn. The buildings and landscape were asylums – places of refuge and healing – aiding veterans' recuperation and easing their transition back into society. There are about 48 historic resources and 90-plus acres of designed landscape at the Milwaukee Soldiers Home. The district was designed to create the appearance and feeling of a village and includes a post office, library, recreation hall, theater, chapel and recreation areas. The Milwaukee Soldiers Home is beloved by veterans today who believe its recuperative powers remain."

Giles Sheldon (1829-1914) my 3rd Great Grandfather, who fought in the Civil War, stayed at the Milwaukee Soldiers Home between 1897 and 1904. The Soldiers Home is located on the Veterans Affairs grounds in Milwaukee County, Wisconsin; and is currently about to start renovations to restore it to its original state. Some of the buildings on this spacious campus have fallen to disrepair. The buildings will be put back into veteran's use – rehabilitation for veterans and to restore this national monument. "A coalition of organizations and volunteers dedicated to saving the Soldiers Home have launched a capital campaign to raise the private funds needed to restore historic buildings in the Soldiers Home Historic District to their original purpose - the service of veterans."

Find out more at <https://www.savethesoldiershome.com/> where these two quotes are located or on their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SavetheSoldiersHome/>.

SFA Marketplace



Our attractive SFA lapel pin is approximately 3/4-inch-wide and 1 inch long. The background is teal-blue. Show off your heritage and wear this pin with pride!

The cost of this pin is \$10.00 (including postage).

Click [here](#) to order.

SHELDON Family Tree DNA Project

Kelly Wheaton

If you are of any SHELDON relation, you may be wondering, should I take a DNA test?

Reasons include proving that your paper trail reflects your genetic information. You may test to prove which SHELDON line you belong to or to help others in refining their lines. The more people that test with family tree DNA (ftDNA) in the Sheldon project; the more information is gathered to prove how others are connected. If you have any aversion to finding out something other than the truth, then I advise not taking a DNA test. DNA testing only reports your DNA as it resides in you and it can be full of surprises, and sometimes they may be unwelcome ones.

From my website: DNA Testing Realities

- **Y-DNA can predict a man's likely surname, but not necessarily who his father is**
- **atDNA can lead to recent relatives but for some they remain elusive with few close matches especially those with recent migrations**
- **The predictions for relationship are ranges, and may vary (this is not a problem with the companies' algorithms it is just a statistical reality)**
- **The ancestral origins portions of DNA testing is approximate and may yield broad categories as in "Africa" or "Northern European" but not specify tribe or countries**
- **DNA testing for genealogy can be expensive and time-consuming**
- **DNA testing can be very rewarding-- as in verifying your paper tree reflects your DNA**
- **For adoptees, learning more about your ancestry or discovering relatives which "might" lead to closer family cannot be underestimated**
- **DNA testing may reveal unknown ancestry or ancestors, including inaccuracies in the paper records**

If you are a SHELDON woman or female descendant, you will be limited to doing an atDNA test and/or recruiting a male SHELDON relative for YDNA testing. If you are a SHELDON of unknown or uncertain lineage, you would be well advised to start with a Y37 DNA test at Family Tree DNA. If you are relatively certain of your descent from one of our FIVE colonial Sheldons: Godfrey (4), John (8), Richard (22) all of DNA Group A; Isaac (5) and John (13) of Group B then you are done.

In our search for SHELDON origins SFA has subsidized the testing of SHELDONS with recent English ancestry. Geoffrey SHELDON proved a match to Group A SHELDONS and cemented the relationship between Godfrey (4), John (8), Richard (22) and the Bakewell, Derbyshire SHELDONS. This is one of our most favorite breakthroughs, as we have been searching for each Sheldon line and their heritage from across the pond.

Four other testers did not match any of our existing groups but did match each other. Group C and Group D. I asked Craig and Ken of Group D for permission to share their results here and I think this is a good example of the unexpected result. Craig tracks back through South Africa to Walsall Wood, Staffordshire England. Ken to Aston Juxta, Birmingham, Warwickshire England. Ken has tested to 111 markers, which is the largest STR marker test. Of his 37 marker, smaller test, matches 83 of 132 are surnamed MONTGOMERY. According to his 111 marker test the matches are 19 of 28. This means, there is a very

real likelihood that back in the 1600's there was an NPE or Not Parentage Expected also referred to as a Non-Paternal Event where a SHELDON was the father of record, but the actual father was a MONTGOMERY. I asked for comment and in quoting Ken:

"I would say regarding the DNA testing that although the results were unexpected, they were definitely interesting. This is my DNA and part of who I am, and it's exciting to see where it takes me, Sheldon or Montgomery."

In comparing Y-DNA 37 marker results, the probability that Mr. Montgomery and Mr. Craig Sheldon shared a common ancestor within the last...

COMPARISON CHART

Generations	Percentage
4	83.49%
8	97.28%
12	99.55%
16	99.93%
20	99.99%
24	100%

So, by the time we are back about 300 years the likelihood of a common ancestor is 99.55%.

Let us contrast this with the Likelihood that Group A and Group B SHELDON have a common ancestor. In comparing Y-DNA 111 marker results, the probability that Mr. Sheldon from group A and Mr. Sheldon from group B shared a common ancestor within the last...

COMPARISON CHART

Generations	Percentage
4	0.00%
8	0.00%
12	0.00%
16	0.00%
20	0.00%
24	0.00%

The Sheldon Family Association Quarterly

Or about 600 years which, because they are different Haplogroups, is at least 10,000 years back before they might share a common ancestor on the direct patrilineal line (father's father's father's and so forth). Haplogroups are the large group of men that share a SNP (single-nucleotide polymorphism) or slight change in a single position in the human genome.

We have identified a few SNPs that can stand in lieu of a full Y37 test; until the end of January, they are on sale at YSEQ.net for \$15 + \$5 for kit = \$20.

For SHELDON Group A

test BY7402 https://www.yseq.net/product_info.php?products_id=81572

For SHELDON Group B

test FGC62076 https://www.yseq.net/product_info.php?products_id=60234

We also have two identifying SNPs

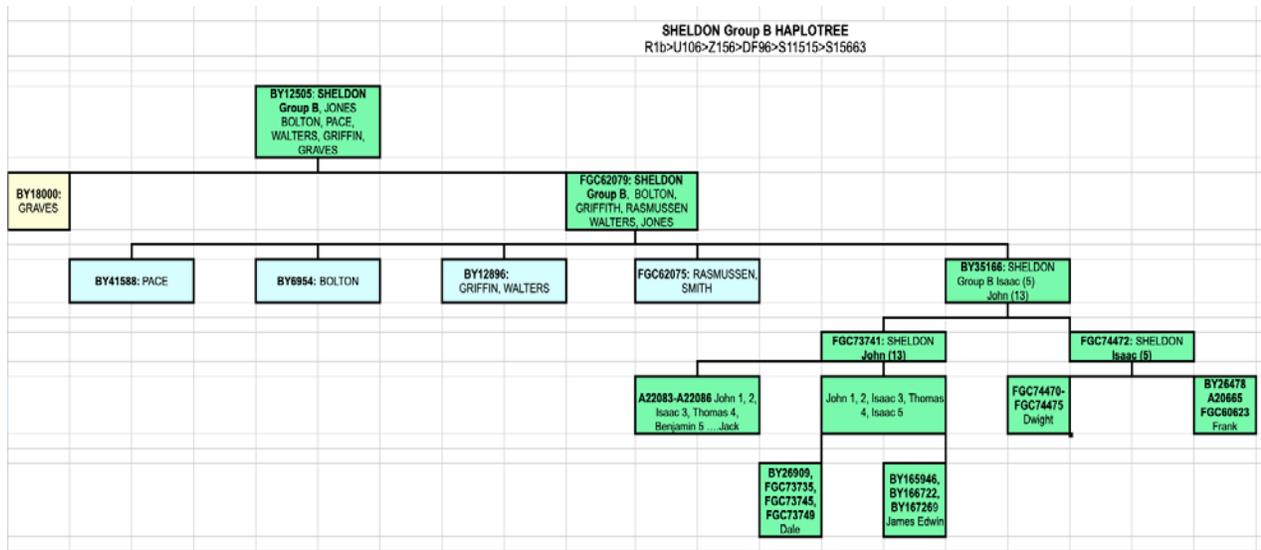
SHELDON Group B1 Isaac 5 descendants

test FGC74472 https://www.yseq.net/product_info.php?products_id=61993

SHELDON Group B2 John 13 descendants

test FGC73741 https://www.yseq.net/product_info.php?products_id=61991

This is what the current tree looks like:



If anyone has any questions regarding anything mentioned in this article, please send them to genealogy@sheldonfamily.org. We would be more than delighted to help you understand further what DNA is all about and point you in the right direction to find the answers you are seeking.

Am I Related to Thomas Rogers, Mayflower Passenger?

Michelle Masson

According to my research, and listed in ancestry.com, Thomas Rogers is my fifth great grandfather of the wife of my second cousin, seven times removed. Some would understand that explanation, however, there are many who would not. I would like to explain it here.

The bloodline of Thomas Rogers flows directly to Sally French, he is her fifth great grandfather. Sally French married Hezekiah Sheldon (1796), he is my second cousin, seven times removed. Hezekiah's great grandfather Isaac Sheldon (1687) was my ninth great grandfather. He was born in South Kingstown, RI. Isaac Sheldon (1687) was the father of both Hezekiah Sheldon's (1796) grandfather and Thomas Sheldon (1709); both were born in Kingstown, RI. Thomas was my eighth great grandfather. So, the question is answered, Thomas Rogers and I are not blood related, but connected, by marriage, through branches of our tree. Any descendants of Hezekiah and Sally or Joseph and Hannah would have the bloodline of Thomas Rogers.

There is another twist to this story, Hannah French, who was Sally French's sister, married Joseph Sheldon (1792), and Joseph was a brother of Hezekiah. Joseph was born in Oswego, NY. I am still researching the timeline of all these men and their families, to see when and even why they moved from RI to NY.

The SFA would like to remind everyone about the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower landing each issue until the festivities begin. We would like to share a research story each issue this year, send us your information please. Beginning with the commemorative float in the Rose Parade on January 1, 2020 and going through Thanksgiving of 2019, the schedule is available on the Mayflower Society website.

<https://www.themayflowersociety.org>

Database Drawer

Sue Sheldon

At our Salt Lake reunion this year, we had some exciting discussions about the SFA database. It was unanimous that we want to make it available to SFA members! This has been a dream for many years and we are now very close to making it a reality.

Currently, the tree is uploaded to Ancestry and a few members have been invited to it as a trial run (or in computer-speak: A Beta test). They have been given editing rights to the tree, so they can update their own family information. So far, it has been a rewarding experience for nearly all the Beta testers. When fully implemented, this change will save a ton of data entry time for me, and with members updating their own immediate family and their descendant's information by themselves, the tree will be much more accurate and current. I would then be able to synchronize the tree with the master file on my computer, and we would both be happy with the results!

If you would like more information about this project, or would like to discuss it, please contact me at database@sheldonfamily.org. The Board will be discussing this exciting change at its March Board meeting; and we should have an update for you in the next SFAQ!

Membership Musings

Sue Sheldon

Membership renewals have been coming in steadily, and I want to say a special "thank you" to all who have paid their annual dues! If you haven't done that yet, you can go online [here](#) or send a check to SFA at PO Box 1575, Shelton WA 98584. On February 1, lapsed members will stop receiving SFA emails or newsletters.

Since becoming Membership Chair for SFA, I've discovered it brings with it lots of duties -- and I could sure use some help with them! They include: welcoming new members; thanking renewing members; updating the MailChimp distribution list; and updating the Membership database. If any of these sound interesting, or even exciting to you, please contact me at membership@sheldonfamily.org.

Also, another reminder about the paper copy of the SFA Quarterly: if you want to receive it by mail, there will be a \$5 annual mailing fee.

Sheldon General Store and Community Center

Frank Sheldon

In Rupert, VT there is an old General Store being refurbished and below is a quote from a thank you letter to one of the donators of that cause, SFA member Frank Sheldon. Frank submitted this note in order to raise awareness of the project in Vermont. I have looked over the website and the photos are amazing, it is a very well-crafted building. The Sheldon Store has been a landmark in the area since the late 1800's. They are trying to preserve its existence and make it into an historical site and meeting place for the community.

"THANKS TO ALL OF YOU who have donated to Rupert Village Trust for the Sheldon Store Project! With your donations we have been able to cover the expenses of studying the feasibility of this endeavor, including setting up a non-profit organization, having the Sheldon Store inspected by an architect and by a structural engineer, doing some community outreach, and much more.

We've submitted a proposal for some major funding, which we hope will get us close to being able to purchase the property. If we get a commitment for this funding, then we plan to raise additional funds from the community to make the purchase. The purchase, and all the work we've done leading up to it, constitute **Phase 1** of the whole project. Further phases are as follows:

- **Phase 2** is the major renovations of the Sheldon Store building.
- **Phase 3** is the installation of the café, including a commercial kitchen, café fixtures, and a wastewater system.
- **Phase 3a** (or 3.5) is "accessibility and exterior", which includes installing a lift in the Sheldon Store, building a parking lot, and tree work and landscaping of the property.
- **Phase 4** is the renovation of the green house on the property, making it into offices or small studios for rent.

We have outlined a budget and expected income sources for each phase of this project. Though we will qualify for some major grants and tax credits, we will also rely on donations from the community throughout the project."

Sheldon Family Association, Inc.

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Celebrating 79 Years!

Sheldon Family Association

Dues Renewal/Membership Form

Indicate Category:

Annual Membership \$15.00

Life Membership \$300.00 once

Sheldon No.: (if known) S# _____

Email _____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Membership term renews in August each year

Send Dues and Address Changes to:

Sue Sheldon, PO Box 1575

Shelton, WA 98584

New Members please access Sheldon Family

Association at: <https://sheldonfamily.org/>

Five Colonial Sheldons

**S0004 Godfrey Sheldon
Scarborough, ME**

**S0005 Isaac Sheldon
Windsor, CT**

**S0008 John Sheldon
Providence, RI**

**S0013 John Sheldon
South Kingstown, RI**

**S0022 Richard Sheldon,
NJ & NY City**