



# Sheldon Family Association, Inc.

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Secretary  
Treasurer

Spring 1986

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Cousins, it seems the New Year is carrying us right along into our 47th year as a family organization dedicated to helping SHELDONS find their "roots"! As we look toward our meeting this summer, I hope you will "study up" on the Vermont SHELDONS so that you will know what to be looking for along the countryside. Also begin to plan your library research in Montpelier at the excellent genealogy collection there. (You might even read Connecticut's Revolutionary Cavalry--SHELDONS HORSE, led by one of "us" Capt. Elisha of this area.)

We are looking forward to seeing the "cousins" grouped in their progenitor groups making new connections with those of their own lines, or checking the files for more data--since--last--time, or visiting the various SHELDON displays, won't you begin planning now to come join the family?

The mailbag brought notice of a new genealogy book of interest to those with HANCHETT connections: The Descendants of Thomas Hanchett, by Keith M Seymour 810 Gonzales Dr. 2L, San Francisco, CA 94132.

Does anyone know how to get a start of the SHELDON Pear tree, or seeds?

Each of us are hoping for new discoveries concerning the England Ancestors in the current English Research project presently underway. (See Shirley Riders Report) Have you ever read of the England SHELDON'S in the library? Did you know they spread out leaving our name on places, buildings, monuments, etc., much as we have in America? Ever hear of The SHELDON MANOR, a place of distinctive dining where you may feast on food from the Victorian cookbook of the family? Or read of the Ancient English SHELDON tapestries in museums from of old? Or heard of the SHELDON tombs in the chapel at Beoley? Have you heard the

### Legend of the Sheldon Plate

"In the years which preceded England's Civil War, the owner of Beoley Hall was Ralph Sheldon. He had a son Edward, and a "nephew", Marmaduke, who also lived at the Hall. Marmaduke's tutor there was Father Byston, and the caretaker at the hall was Martin Woodfall. Ralph, it is said, would have liked to have made Marmaduke his heir, and therefore not un-naturally there was a great deal of jealousy between Edward and Marmaduke. To prevent another Cain and Abel tragedy, Marmaduke was sent to the Virginia Plantations. In order that no slight should come upon the family, Ralph made no provision for Marmaduke in his will, but instead accumulated a substantial hoard of silver plate and coin for him. In due course, on Ralph's death in 1613, this treasure passed into the hands of Father Byston, in trust for Marmaduke.

Edward, the new owner of Beoley Hall, gave permission for the house to be burnt down rather than let it pass into the Hands of Cromwell and Parliament. The only thing now for Father Byston to do with the treasure was to bury it, and he did, with the help of Martin Woodfall, they carried it to the ancient

entrenchment known as Lord Moon's Moat by night, a place across Marlfields renowned as an evil place and the haunt of ghosts. Father Byston decided to travel to Virginia to tell Marmaduke of his inheritance, but knowing the dangers of travels, appointed Woodfall and his heirs to be guardians of the treasure telling them in case either should die before Marmadukes claim was made, the survivor should communicate the secret to one of his relatives using the same oath; and also that on the anniversary of the hiding, one of the Woodfalls should visit the spot to keep the exact spot in mind. Since Marmaduke might send an agent, the password was agreed--the word "Demas."

Father Byston went to America, and got within 3 days journey of Beoley Grove--Marmadukes plantation, and fell into the hands of Indians. Fearing capture and death, he wrote the secret of the Treasure on a scrap of paper, and pressed it into his clay pipe, sealing it with beeswax. On the outside he wrote the password "Demas," and bribed an Indian to carry it to Marmaduke. But before this could be done, the tribe went on the war path. When the Indian returned, he discovered Father had died peacefully and the pipe was an amulet which had kept himself safe during the war and therefore kept the pipe, Marmaduke thus died in ignorance of his inheritance.

June 10, 1813, in "Aris Birmingham Gazette" the following notice appeared: "Demas--Lord Moon's Moat--Woodfall. If this should meet the eye of any descendant of the family of Woodfall, formerly of Beoley, Worchestershire; and if these words carry meaning to him requested to communicate with 'M.S.' at the office of this paper." The pipe had after many years come into the hands of Major Marmaduke SHELDON, descendant to the original heir, he returned to claim his treasure, not knowing the significance of the message. At Bidford lived one Martin Woodfall, descendant of the original guardian of the treasure and the surviving Trustee. Woodfall was said to be very wealthy, and his housekeeper--Miss Charlotte Catley wished to trap him into marriage and thus inherit his fortune and marry her lover, Herbert Delaney.

Mr. Woodfall, had confided the secret to his housekeeper and made her his co-trustee since he was the last living one of his family. He told her that the treasure was hidden in Hord Moon's Moat, and its exact location was written and stored under his bed. Waiting until he had gone to Church, she got the chest from under his bed and copied them, later she met with Herbert Delaney and went to dig up the treasure along with Jes Hodges the coachman. In the meantime, Martin had seen a copy of the gazette and had written to Sheldon who came to meet the guardian of his inheritance.

Learning that Marmaduke and Woodfall were going to Beoley to dig up the treasure the next day, Miss Catley obtained some white arsenic from Jes Hodges the coachman, and slipped it into the gentlemens dinner wine. The doctor came and pronounced that the men did not have long to live. In the night she slipped out to meet her lover in the light of the full moon. In the light of the lantern, the treasure was uncovered. The SHELDON treasure, Riches untold--antique cups, gold pieces and all were exposed. On the road a chaise was heard and in a moment all was confusion. Jes Hodges, the coachman had been faithful to his old master all along. He had given flour, not poison, to Miss Catley, and told his master all about the plot. The gentlemen had not been poisoned; the doctor was in on the plan to trap the thieves. As SHELDON and Woodfall arrived, Hodges closed with Delaney and layed him cold with a shovel. But for faithful Jes, the plot would have been successful as SHELDON and Woodfall had been delayed by a broken trace. After Jes had been rewarded handsomely, and the fortunes of Woodfall restored, Major SHELDON went about his business, a rich man bearing the fortune dedeed to his ancestor, and now at last restored to a SHELDON." (From the Pamphlet The Parish Church of St. Leonard in Beoley)...from the research of "cousin" Stephen Sheldon in England.

I will be touring with the "Festival of Peace and Understanding Choir" made up of members from various churches in the Fort Wayne area. We will be visiting "Shalom Congregations"--those studying Peace and Understanding this year, and if you happen to live in the midwest close by, I would love to see you and say "Hi Cousin". I am the second from the end on the front row. Following are the towns: March 2 Indianapolis, March 3 St. Louis-Afton Christian Church, March 4 St. Joseph, Mo., March 5 Marshalltown, Iowa, March 6 Eureka, Illinois, and March 7 Oak Park, Ill. We make beautiful music!...and besides that, you would then know someone when you come to the meeting next summer!

Until next time, keep sending in the new locations SHELDON that you come across for our SHELDON PLACES update and send Keith SHELDON your discoveries of Revolutionary soldiers for the SHELDON collection.

Sincerely,

Rose

MESSAGE FROM YOUR SECRETARY

Hello Cousins across these United States, Hawaii, England and Switzerland:

Yes, you read it right. We have a member in England and now Switzerland. In our Sheldon Achievers part of the program at the last meeting Keith reported on a family and now we have a member from that family. We have taken in twenty eight new members since our meeting.

Here we are half way through winter already. In West Suffield we have not had a bad winter. Little snow and only one cold snap with below zero temperature for a couple of days. Just average for here with temperature in the teens and twentys. Last September as I was getting ready to mail out the newsletter hurricane Gloria paid us a visit. Went right over Suffield but broke up about that time. It was beautiful to watch the "eye" of the storm come up. Angry looking clouds all around and a beautiful blue sky in the center. Then, as I watched and took pictures, it broke up and the storm was over. No damage at my place. Cousin Eleanor in Niantic had some trees down and a couple of windows blown in. She lives about two miles from the shore and was on the eastern side of the storm. More damage east of Suffield. Needless to say I did not go to her house to put the mailing together. So, having a sister nearby came in handy and we got it out on time, electricity or not.

Received a letter recently from a new member Ross A. Sheldon of Biloxi, Miss. He said they were finally moving back into their house after a five month repair of the Hurricane Elena damage. He recently received a package postmarked New Jersey enclosing several packets of flower seed from a company in England. He noticed the type of flower in one of the packets was "meconopsis X Sheldonii" He is wondering if any one in the Sheldon Association sent it to him. There wasn't any return address. If you know who might have sent it let him know. His address is 222 Connery Circle, Biloxi, MS 39531.

You will note I have put the newsletter together a different way this time. Saves stuffing envelopes. Also time in collating the sheets. Let me know how you like it, or don't like it. In trying to get as much news as possible to you we type our reports on a longer sheet of paper and "shrink" it of regular size. Is the print too small? The membership list once a year is small print but if we didn't do it that way we would have more pages and it would cost another stamp and the cost was already at 39¢.

I have received an inquiry from J. F. Whittemore S#2266x111 J, of 2400 Wilkes Drive, Bryan, Texas 77803. He was wondering if there are any members who have the Austin family in their lineage that includes the Austin that settled Texas. The family came from Suffield. He is from the John line #8 and is most interested in anyone in that line. My own grandmother (Paternal) was an Austin and Stephen Austin would have been a gr, gr etc uncle. But I am from the Isaac line. Another member, Rev. William Austin is from Godfrey line.

Have you read the Old Farmer's Almanac yet? There is an article on Charles M. Sheldon, late of Topeka, Kansas S#4767x2, on page 160.

Last fall we gave a gift of 25 copies of "The Story of Remembrance Sheldon" that we have for sale, to the Indian House Memorial. They will have them on sale at Deerfield and were very appreciative of our gift.

Alison C. Ogilvie Ainsworth sent me a page from the October Newsletter from Southeby's London. There is an article about the "fascinating collection of the late John Sheldon of Bentley & Co., the well known Bond Street Jewelers."

The collection included antique jewelry, works of art by Carl Faberge, silver and objects of vertu. It says "Perhaps the most outstanding aspect of the collection is the selection of antique jewelry, which included one of the most important groups of pieces by the Guiliano family ever to appear at auction." Three pieces are pictured. The article goes on to say Mr. Sheldon was of Russian descent.

Donald M. Sheldon S#3972x1321 I, of Monticello, Minn. reports they had a good summer but a cool fall.

Emily B. Sheldon S#7633x333 I, formerly of Rutland, Vermont and who spoke about her book she is writing at our 1982 meeting in Suffield is now living in Bloomfield, Conn. in a retirement complex. I had a nice visit with her this past week and had a tour of the complex. She says hello to all the Sheldon "cousins" and is getting adjusted to her new surroundings and is making new friends.

Stephen Sheldon Bloomer, S#8535x24 I, of Quebec, Canada, a member since 1982, sent word his granddaughter "wowed em" at school with her roots research.

ANNUAL MEETING - July 24-27th 1986

Sheldon MacLeod is in charge of making the arrangements. He did not have all the loose ends together to give me for this mailing. Instead he will be sending out a mailing in about two or three weeks with all the information, reservation forms etc. So--- be looking for it and hang on to it if you are the least bit interested. Lately we have sent them with the May Newsletter. We will be staying at the Holiday Inn in Burlington, Vermont. Sheldon will be taking the reservations for the Inn also. Board Members should be there Thursday early afternoon as the Board Meeting is being planned for Thursday afternoon. Trips to the Sheldon Museum in Middlebury and to the State capital Montpelier where one can do research if they wish are some of the things planned.

There has been some talk of a trip to England in the future. Are there any members who would be interested in going on such a trip? If so let me know. It is just talk at this point but if enough members showed an interest it could go further. Now that we have a member over there it makes it sound even more exciting.

Thank you for letting me know of births, deaths and marriages.

We rejoice with the following families over the birth of new little ones:

- Thomas Richard Saunders born July 8, 1985  
Great grandson of Mable S. Cary S#5988x524 G - Lake George, N.Y.
- Ethan Bruce Nelson S#9499x1243 I born May 29, 1985  
son of Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Nelson (Kim Bemis Nelson) of Brandon, Vt.
- Nathan Israel Sheldon S#4478x22 I, born October 21, 1985  
Great grandson of Mr. & Mrs. True Sheldon of Truro, Iowa
- Hannah Jane Abigail Ward born Nov. 22, 1985  
Daughter of J. Kent & Joy Ward, Lancaster, Pa. S#6173x2311W

We congratulate the following couples on their marriage:

- Helene Gernon and John Fenner, January 19, 1985  
Helene is the daughter of Dean & Rose C(S#6631x2141 W) Gernon
- Alison Chamberlain Ogilvie and George Ainsworth Jr. Oct. 30, 1985  
(S#4022x7521 I) They were married at St. James Church, New York City  
by Rev. John B. Coburn, Bishop of Massachusetts.

We bid a fond farewell to the following who have gone to their eternal home, and extend sympathy to their families:

- Suzanne Runzheimer Sheldon August 6, 1985  
Wife of Roger A. Sheldon S#6464x581 W of Bethesda, Md.  
and mother of members Bonnie Eaton, David Sheldon, Mark Sheldon,  
Patricia Sheldon and Paul Sheldon.
- Kenneth S. Sheldon Sr. S#9624X26 G October 15, 1985  
Husband of Lola V. Sheldon, Schenectady, N.Y. He had been a member since 1952
- Marietta Huron Sheldon May 1985  
Wife of John F. Sheldon M.D. S#9762x84 J of Stockton, Calif.
- Frances Sheldon Netick S#9760x73 J of Hotchkiss, Colo.  
Sister of Miriam S. Ryan our former Secretary and Ruth S. Phillips

Sincerely,

*Marylin*  
Secretary



# Sheldon Family Association, Inc.

## In Search of SHELDON Kin

WINTER 1986  
ISOK No. 19

- 19-1 Rose Sheldon Newton would like to find the descendants of S4478x3 Myron Sheldon, son of S4478 Marson R. & Christine Vanhosen Sheldon. Myron, originally from Winterset, IA is believed to have settled in the area of Seattle, Washington. Write to Rose Sheldon Newton or Shirley Rider if you can help with this one.

### IN SEARCH OF OUR ENGLISH KIN

- 19-2 FOR S-3 WILLIAM, S-4 GODFREY, S-5 ISAAC, S-8 JOHN AND S-13 JOHN. Since last fall the SFA has been working with a British genealogy firm, Achievements of Northgate in Canterbury, England in an effort to find the origin or origins in England of our Sheldon progenitors.

This investigation has made it necessary for the lineage representatives and your chairman to assemble all the presently known information about our New England Sheldons into one organized report for each progenitor in the hope that we will gain vital clues here that will eventually lead us to their English point(s) of origin. Accordingly, there exists a need to check original records in New England towns established before 1660. If we have in our membership any willing person or persons who could search original N.E. records, please contact the Genealogy Chairman for instructions.

Although several factors operate against the success of this search, i.e., loss of records both here and in England, the relatively young age at which most of the progenitors came to N.E., greatly limits the number and kind of records that might otherwise have existed for them in England and so adversely affects the outcome. For example, S-4 Godfrey, the only Sheldon whose English origins are definitely known was approximately 60 years old when he appeared in records at Scarborough, ME. Accordingly, in Bakewell, Derbyshire, it was possible to find his marriage record, as well as baptism dates for several of his children. For the others, the two Johns and Isaac, who were apparently in their early 20's when they first appeared in colonial records, unless mentioned in a will, there would not be much more than a baptismal record for them in England. For chances of such a record still existing, I quote from Achievements' letter of 10 June 1985: "Of Dorchester's three parishes, only one has records dating from before 1653. Thus, if Isaac were baptised at All Saint's or St. Peter, Dorchester all record of that event has been lost and so we will never be able to identify his parents. If Isaac was born in Dorchester, the odds of finding his baptism are just one in three. We may have to extend our search into neighbouring parishes but I can see that many of these do not have registers dating back into the 1630's."

Notwithstanding, it is our feeling that a search should be made to see what information the English records which still exist may yield for our Sheldons. One cannot count on a record's continued existence, for as is stated in Achievements' brochure - the records of a parish that were needed on another search were burned by vandals in the past year.

For the several reasons outlined in my previous letter, our search has so far centered on the southern English counties of Devon, Dorset, Somerset, Wiltshire and Hampshire. To date, researchers at Achievements have examined a large collection of testamentary material from several Probate Courts for the period 1625-1670. Unfortunately, no records were found for Sheldons. Records examined were:

Consistory Court of Bristol (Dorset Division)

Archdeaconry Court of Dorset

Court Administrations

The Peculiar Courts of Wimborne Minster, Great Canford, Poole, Sturminster Marshall, Corfe Castle, Milton Abbas, Chardstock

Salisbury

Exeter

The Prebendal Court of Fordington

The Royal Peculiar of Gillingham

The Prebendal Court of Lyme Regis, Netherbury in Ecclesia, Yetminster

The Consistory Court of Sarum

The Peculiar Court of the Dean & Chapter of Sarum

The Archbishop of Canterbury's Court at Lambeth

The Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral of Bristol

Administrations at Taunton

The inquiry is now moving into records from the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, where for the period 1620-1675 there are more than fifty wills and other depositions in the surname Sheldon and to Oxfordshire where Sheldon wills of the appropriate time period have been located. We also plan an investigation in Derby to see what, if any, connection we may be able to establish between S-4 Godfrey and the other Sheldons.

We will have on the genealogy table at the Burlington meeting two notebooks for members' inspection: (1) The English Research notebook containing full records from not only the current search but showing what was done in past years, plus maps, pictures from Devon & Derbyshire, brochures descriptive of Sheldon Manor in Wiltshire, and for the Sheldons of Warwickshire. (2) Our New England progenitors' notebook which pulls together all that is now known about our early New England Sheldons. We have a very good picture of Archbishop Gilbert Sheldon to display.

I WOULD HAVE TIME FOR: \_\_\_\_\_ Original research in New England

\_\_\_\_\_ The Victoria History of England

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please reply to: Ms. Shirley Rider, Genealogy Chairman.

First, welcome to all our new members. We appreciate your lineage information and the consequent extension and documentation of our various Sheldon lines. When, in addition, we receive data that completes some of our early lines or whenever some biographical information is provided, our Sheldon records are greatly enhanced.

It appears that the SFA has become an international association this year. As you already know from our newsletters last fall, we have S-4298x511 Steven M. Sheldon, who with his family moved from Los Angeles to Torquay, Devon, England, where he owns and operates "Highfield Holiday Flats", self-catering apartments for vacationing travellers. Highfield, at 14 Burrige Road, Chelston, Torquay, Devon, England TQ 2 6HG is just a short distance from Torquay Town Center and Torre Abbey Sands. Not only are there two ancient villages named Sheldon in Devon, there is much to see of interest plus excellent connections to other parts of Great Britain and the continent. Devon, with its slower rate of urban growth, Steven tells us, is an excellent area in which to pick up a sense of the daily village life in England's earlier centuries. Any Sheldons visiting England will receive a warm welcome from Steven, who is a very capable liaison between the SFA and Achievements of Northgate, the British genealogy firm which is handling our English research.

Keith Sheldon has reported that one of his most recent applications for membership reached him from Caslano, Switzerland. The applicant, Francis Henry Coventry, is descended in the John of Providence line from Edwin Holmes Sheldon (see p. 128 of the Sheldon Magazine). Although born in England, Mr. Coventry has lived in Switzerland for the past 25 years. Not only is Mr. Coventry our first member from Switzerland, his membership check was no. 001, the first ever drawn from his Montreal, Canada checking account. (Banks in Switzerland do not have checking accounts.) Welcome, Francis, to the SFA.

Another new member on the international scene this year is S4819x521 Joan Bauer Olsen, who with her husband, Dr. Vigo B. Olsen, serves as missionaries in Bangladesh. Mrs. Olsen reported that their four year terms of service in Bangladesh are followed by one year furloughs to their home base in California. Word of the SFA reached this couple from Mrs. Olsen's sister, S4819x523 Carol Morrison, who was the first in her family to join our membership.

Adding to our membership in Hawaii is S153x39292365 Rev. William F. Austin of Hilo who has expressed a very active interest in gathering all the information possible about his New England founding Sheldon, S-4 Godfrey.

Not international, but of interest to Ohioans is news that Karen Lako, the daughter of S-10500x42 Charlotte M. Lako, a new member in the Isaac line, is married to Ohio State Senator Paul E. Gillmor.

Of interest to Sheldons is news that on September 27, 1986, Berea, Ohio, will hold its sesquicentennial celebration in honor of the date on which S5124 Rev. Henry O. Sheldon tossed a coin in 1836, thus deciding the community's name. News of this coming event was sent in by S9753x322 Mildred Hoffman (Mrs. L.L.).

Debra Sheldon, lineage representative for our Godfrey line, saw the following sign on Rt. 10N in Bernardston, MA which commemorates S-112 Lt. Ebenezer Sheldon (S35 John, S5 Isaac). During the French & Indian wars, Lt. Ebenezer was known as a famous Indian fighter.

1670 - 1930

Lt. Ebenezer Sheldon's Fort

Built in 1740 on this site. The first proprietor's meeting in Fall Town was held here in 1741. The Lieutenant's son, Eliakim, was shot by Indians in 1747 while working west of the fort walls.

Massachusetts Bay Colony  
Tercentenary Committee

One of our Sheldons, S4445 Rev. Sheldon Jackson (1834-1909) was mentioned on Cleveland, Ohio television 28 December 1985 when the moderator of TV-5's Academic Challenge asked the following question: "Sheldon Jackson, a missionary to Alaska introduced what animal to help feed the starving Eskimos? (Ans.: Reindeer) In Sitka, Alaska is located the Sheldon Jackson Museum, founded in 1888 by Rev. Jackson, which houses a comprehensive collection of artifacts from the Eskimo culture. Sheldon Jackson College, the only two-year residential college in Alaska, with its 349 acre campus overlooking the Pacific Ocean, is also situated in Sitka, Alaska's first capital and site of the transfer of Alaska from Russia to the United States. S-4445 Rev. Sheldon Jackson (S1747 Delia, S595 Dr. Alexander, S205 Phineas, S46 Jonathan, S-5 Isaac.)

S5720x21 Drusilla Sheldon (Mrs. James R. III) reported that there is a Jane Sheldon DAR Chapter in Florida. Does anyone have more information about this chapter? Please write the Genealogy Chairman.

An updated Sheldon Magazine Extension is in progress for descendants of S7913 Edgar & Mathilda (Baker) Sheldon. S7913x251 Victor L. Sheldon and Mrs. Sheldon have been diligently at work on a new edition of the original extension which was published in 1957. Of the eight children born to Edgar & Mathilda, all but 7913x4 Julian married and had families. Victor Sheldon has current addresses for descendants of x1 Newell, x2 Marion L., x3 Henry Clay and x7 Simeon Baker. If any member can assist Mr. Sheldon in contacting descendants of x5 Otis Edgar and x6 Frank Ernest, it will be appreciated. For those descendants who have been contacted, we ask that you respond promptly to Mr. Sheldon's letters. Please give him your assistance in completing this worthy project by forwarding your family information to: Mr. Victor L. Sheldon, 125 North Sequoia Boulevard, Florence, AL 35630. Before closing this segment, I should compliment Mrs. Sheldon for her work on the extension while her husband was in the Cameroons for two months.

Any member interested in obtaining a copy of In His Steps, the best seller, written by S4767x2 Rev. Charles Monroe Sheldon (1857-1946) of Topeka, KS can order a copy through their local Christian bookstore. This book, the most popular religious novel of all time, is still in print. S4767x2 Rev. Charles M. Sheldon (S4767 Rev. Stewart, 1863 Horace, 619 Eleazer, 208 Asa, 46 Jonathan, 5 Isaac).

S-3413 Lorenda Sheldon (1797-1874) of Clarence Hollow, Erie Co., NY, who married Rodolphus Derrick, is featured in a new publication, Derthicks and Related Derricks. Dr. Jack T. Spencer, the senior co-author and Professor Emeritus of Shippensburg Univ., has devoted more than 30 pages to Lorenda's family, to recollections of her pioneer home in Spring Grove, Green Co., WI and to the journal kept by Lorenda's husband during his journey through New York, Ohio and Illinois prior to the family's eventual emigration to Wisconsin. S3413 Lorenda (1228 William, 456 William, 174 Benjamin, 40 Joseph, 5 Isaac).

Another Sheldon mentioned in the Derthick book is S1911 Gershom of Aurora and his salt buying trip to Cleveland with Daniel Bidlake c. 1820's. They went on horseback following a blazed trail. S1911 Gershom Sheldon (627 Ebenezer, 46 Jonathan, 5 Isaac).

Derthicks and Related Derricks, pub. 1986 by Gateway Press (626 p. gold stamped hard cover) which Gateway calls the cream of the crop can be ordered from Dr. Jack T. Spencer, 1303 Azalea Lane, DeKalb, IL 60115. \$25.00 postpaid.

Keith Sheldon learned recently that his 975 pp. genealogy, John Sheldon of Providence (And Records of his Descendants) was reviewed in the N.E. H. & G.R. This recognition is indeed a plus. Congratulations, Keith.

We have warned members several times in the past about Beatrice Bayley and her spurious family histories. From Betty Sheldon came the good news that Beatrice Bayley Schneider and her son Kurt Schneider were fined \$1500.00 by a Wisconsin court and were ordered not to advertise their so-called family histories in the state of Wisconsin except under guidelines set down by the court. "Under cross examination, she testified that the family heritage books are identical except for the names listed in each book, that those names are assembled from auto license registrations, telephone books, social security lists and city directories, and that the lists do not include deceased family members or female family members who have married." (NGS Newsletter)

Several Sheldons can be found in the Diary of Samuel Pepys. Those mentioned are Archbishop Gilbert Sheldon, Sir Joseph Sheldon, Lord Mayor of London, Daniel Sheldon and Mrs. Barbara (Sheldon) Wood, dau. of William Sheldon. In 1665 when the plague was rapidly spreading in London, Mrs. Pepys went to stay in Woolwich with the family of Daniel Sheldon. Then in 1667 there is an account of a fire at the home of Sir Joseph Sheldon, Alderman of Farringdon Without, Sheriff in 1666-67 and Lord Mayor 1675-76. The fire was set by "rogues" reported Pepys. Although the relationship between any of these Sheldons and ours in N.E. is probably non-existent, the diaries provide an almost unparalleled insight into 17th century English life.

English Origins of New England Families, pub. 1984 by Genealogical Pub. Co., Baltimore with a foreword by Gary Boyd Roberts. This work, pub. in two volumes, contains articles excerpted from the N.E. H. & G.R., and so contains J. Gardner Bartlett's work on the Derbyshire Sheldons. Nothing new for Sheldons here. Perhaps a sobering forewarning on our English research is Roberts' statement in the foreword: "of the 25,000 or so immigrants to N.E. between 1620 and 1650 the English origins of approximately one-fifth - 5,000 or more - are known or have been reasonably hypothesized."

Steven M. Sheldon of Torquay, Devon, is at work on his Gazetteer of Sheldon Towns in England. When completed it will be a companion work for Rose Sheldon Newton's fine work, Sheldon Towns America Study. Steven is truly a tireless worker on our behalf.

The association has been offered copies of the biography of Archbishop Gilbert Sheldon by Victor D. Sutch, pub. 1973, by Martinus Nijhoff, The Hague (184pp. soft cover). We would need to order in quantity, 50 to 100 copies, and could offer copies to members for approximately \$15.00. The profits will be used to keep our English research fund healthy. If interested in ordering a copy, please send a postcard to your genealogy chairman by March 31, 1986. If enough orders are received, we will contact the publisher and go ahead with this project.

Do we have a very ambitious member who lives near or who could get to either the Newberry Library in Chicago or to the library in Boston of the N.E.H. & G.R. Society S6464x Mrs. Marjorie Schunke reports that these libraries have the Victoria History of England, pub. c.1912 which gives a history of land ownership and people, county by county. Please let us know if we have a member with this much time.

Respectfully submitted,

*Shirley Rider*

Shirley Rider  
S9309x322



NEW

NEW

NEW

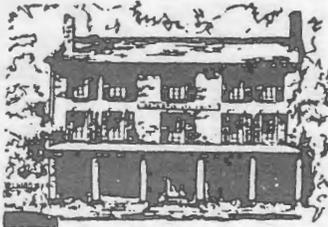
10. THE FAMILY OF THOMAS WOODFORD
11. THE FAMILY OF ROBERT BLOTT
12. CHARLES & LYDIA (TAFT) SHELDON - A Colonial Couple was written this past summer by a descendant, Frances Sheldon St. Clair Russell of Burbank, California. This is the story of Charles Burt Sheldon - #7295, his wife and their families, where they came from and where they went. It includes a bibliography and portrait of "C.B." Manuscript, 7 pages.
13. SHELDON PLACES - A Compilation of locations named SHELDON and Persons for whom they were named, prepared for The Annual Meeting of the Sheldon Family Association 1985 by Rose Sheldon Newton, our current President. Fifteen pages of Sheldon towns, villages and crossroads, and Miscellany, even cemeteries.
14. The WILL of S#5 - Isaac SHELDON
15. The WILL of S#46 - Jonathan SHELDON
16. WILLS of both Isaac & Jonathan SHELDON
17. PORTRAITS & PICTURES

Shirley Rider, Genealogical Chairman, has saved you time and money by digging up this information from Various Ancestral Lines of James Goodwin & Lucy (Morgan) Goodwin by Frank Farnsworth Starr, pub. 1915. If you descend from Isaac #5 and his first wife, you'll want these.

These two Wills have been photo-copied, full-size, and transcribed by Shirley Rider. Inventories of each are listed as well.

Save the postage of separate mailings when ordering both.

To date, Shirley has composed pictures of 16 SHELDONS found in biographical & historical books and our files. Requires a business size self-addressed stamped envelope.



Plan to visit the Sheldon Museum while attending our Annual Meeting and Reunion in Burlington, 1986!

SHELDON FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC.  
Marjorie S. Phelon, Secretary  
2032 Oak St.  
West Suffield, Conn 06093



Address Correction Requested



# Sheldon Family Association, Inc.

June 1981

President  
1st Vice President  
2nd Vice President  
  
Secretary  
Treasurer

ROSE SHELDON NEWTON, 4409 Bridgetown Run, Fort Wayne, IN 46804  
WARREN NELSON, 3628 N. Fremont Street, Chicago, IL 60613  
SHIRLEY S. RIDER, 2413 Second Street, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221  
(Chairman Genealogical Committee)  
MRS. R. T. PHELON, 2032 Oak Street, West Suffield, CT 06093  
MRS. L. HAZARD KNOWLES, 118 Post Road, Warwick, RI 02888  
Shirley Rider, 2413 Second Street, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221 (for S#5 Isaac)  
Mrs. Debra Sheldon, Athol Road, Templeton, MA 01468 (for S#4 Godfrey)  
Mrs. N. F. Sheldon, 178 West Street, Paxton, MA 01812 (for S#13 John)  
Keith M. Sheldon, 23918 Wolf Road, Bay Village, OH 44140 (for S#8 John)

## GENEALOGICAL COMMITTEE

Dear Cousins:

We are looking forward to a bright and busy summer crowned by our meeting in Burlington Vermont July 24-27. The schedule promises to be interesting also informative and fun, so..why not plan to join us as we meet and learn even more about --those interesting SHELDONS ?

There is always plenty to see in the Genealogy Room! Along with the card files for your further research, there will be back issues of Allen County Indiana Genealogical Society's publication: Allen County LINES. This always carries --in the back, a list of the New Acquisitions in the Department--December's issue was 17 pages of list--shrunk to fit the page! If you see a book in BOOKS IN PRINT, chances are --it is in the collection --or soon will be.

Also in the Genealogy room will be my photographic copy stand, and instructions for building one in your wood shop.

Monday, I received a gift of the SHELDON Family Photograph collection from the family of Adams Bromley Sheldon and Mary Francis Sheldon late of Lincoln Neb. Mr SHELDON was of the Vermont - Rupert area, a fact I discovered in the "Places" research last year. The curator of SHELDON MEMORIAL ART GALLERY endowed by his widow Olga in memory of her husband and sister, has a painting of the Vt. home--which I wanted to photograph for the files. Since there was no issue in this line Olga's sister offered the photographs to me and I accepted with gratitude. You may inspect these at the meeting in the two Albums I have placed them. If you have collateral line and wish a negative --I shall be glad to make it for you. Quite a few are unidentified--if you recognize anyone --that will help too.

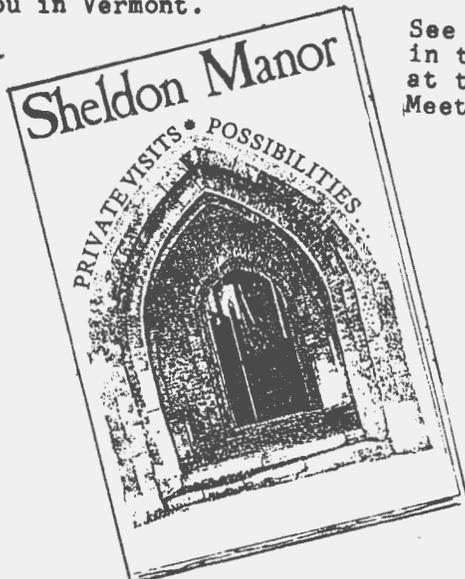
The English Progenitors research is progressing very well under the able direction of our Genealogical Chairman and Stephen Sheldon. The firm Achievements of Northgate under the direction of Mr. C.R. Humphrey-Smith, I.H.G.S., are scrutinizing the ancient records with a 'fine tooth comb', mindful of our desire to discover any familial connections of our early American SHELDONS.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF NORTHGATE LTD. is the oldest established professional company in the field of genealogy and heraldry. Being non-profit, it provides the most economical and efficient research service. It is backed by an experienced and well qualified team of record searchers covering Great Britain and Europe.

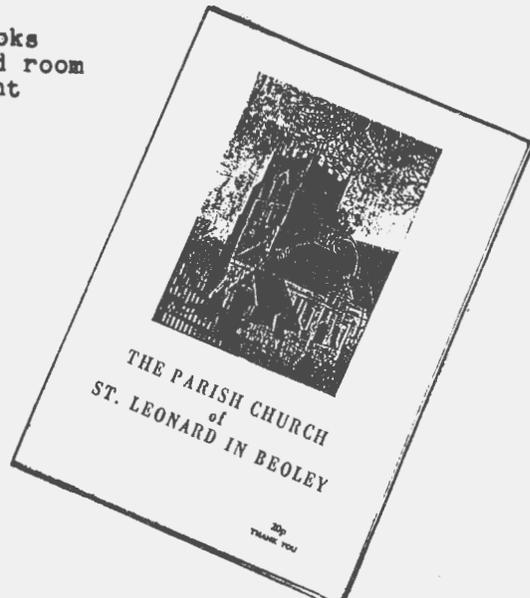
Cecil Humphrey-Smith, was appointed director of the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies in Canterbury, Kent, in 1961 and is now Principal. He is an Academician, a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, of the Society of Genealogists, and of the Heraldry Society. He was the instigating founder of the Kent Family Society and of the Federation of Family History Societies in 1974 and specialises in records of London and the South Eastern counties, manorial records and enjoys challenging and difficult problems.

See you in Vermont.

Rose



See these books in the record room at the Vermont Meeting.



From your Secretary - May 1986

Spring has come and is almost gone here in the northeast. It was and is a beautiful season. The flowering shrubs really out did themselves in my yard. Forsythias were golden from top to bottom, the Quince, full of red blossoms, the almond bush, many years old was dainty pink, white lilacs, purple lilacs, azaleas, apple trees, and of course tulips, daffodils, and narcissus had their time. As I was home most of April trying to get over bronchitis I could really enjoy all that beauty in my yard. I am sure you all had beautiful flowers in your area too.

I don't know how many dairy farmers we have in the membership but I am sure all of you have heard of the plight of the dairy farmers and other types of farmers across this land. All have been much in the news this year. My brother Bob and his son Tom were one of the farms chosen in the first section of the Dairy Herd Buy Out Program and about a month ago the cows were shipped for slaughter. It was a sad day for the members of the family. Those of you who were here in Suffield in 1982 saw many of the animals grazing in the fields. Getting help that was dependable was almost impossible and it had ended up with just Bob and Tom to milk 130 cows and feed them plus all the young stock each day. So--the hard decision was made to go out of the dairy business and concentrate on the Agway Store business and continue to raise corn and hay.

I walked out through the empty barn the next day and it was heart rendering and memories came flooding back of years as a child and a herd of only 30 cows. It was a stanchion barn then of course and was a cozy place to be on a cold winter day. The hay mow with the big thick rope to swing down from the hay mow on. No bales in those days either. And of course in the summer getting all that sweet smelling hay up into the mow. My job was to lead or ride the horse back and forth pulling each forkfull of hay up into the top of the barn and along on the track to where it was dumped off. When that place had been reached there would come a loud "Whoa" from the inerds of the barn and I would stop the horse and walk him back to the starting point. To you "city folk members" you probably don't have the faintest idea of what I am talking about but I bet there are some of you out there that do. Well, enough of rambling on about farm life half a century ago.

Our membership continues to grow with 19 new members since February, but the total doesn't go up overall too much as there are some that have been dropped for non payment of dues, after having been notified they owed from 1984. In this mailing I am enclosing a renewal form for anyone that is not paid to July 31, 1987. You see quite a few are already paid for this year.

June 7 and 8 will be a time for Rupert, Vermont. I hope some of you will be able to go there and help the members of Rupert Congregational Church celebrate their 200th birthday. Remember the meeting in Bennington and the bus ride to the Rupert Church? It would be nice to have a report on the celebration at our meeting in July from someone that goes.

Betty Sheldon sent me a copy of the annual report for 1961. Here are a few tidbits from it: Names on the mailing list totaled 524, we had gained 97 new members that year, but had lost 141, mostly from lack of interest. The meeting that year was held in the Middlebury Inn in Vermont with a cost of \$231.00 for lunches. Cost of a room for the speaker was \$6.18!!!!!!! Our total bank balance Aug. 1, 1961 was \$824.35. The cost of membership then was Active \$2.00, Contributing \$5.00, Sustaining \$10.00.

Do you realize that we have only raised our dues \$1.00, on the Active level only, in all that time!!!!!! The cost of rooms have risen tenfold and meals about the same I would imagine. We are getting a bargain on dues don't you think? Something to think about.

JULY 24 - 26, 1986 - ANNUAL MEETING--HAVE YOU SENT YOUR RESERVATIONS IN TO SHELDON MACLEOD YET? IF NOT, DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. TIME HAS A HABIT OF SLIPPING RIGHT ALONG AND IT WILL SOON BE JULY. We have some new members coming from the state of Washington and from Mississippi. It sounds like a terrific program with much to interest everyone.

Rose Sheldon Newton is doing a great job as president and keeps busy spreading the news of the Association where ever she goes. Shirley Rider must spend every spare moment on association work to manage to write all the letters and research she does. And of course Keith, Betty, and Debra keep up their end of the genealogy committee. What would we do without volunteers who spend so many hours making our association such an active one. Must not forget Mark and his computer. He keeps that humming too, as well as talking up our association where ever he goes. Then there is Sheldon Mac Leod and all the time he has spent in arranging this year's meeting.

I am sorry to report that Debra Sheldon has handed in her resignation. She and her family are moving to Arizona this summer and she will be unable to continue as representative for the Godfrey #4 line. She has turned all her files over to Betty Sheldon(Mrs. N.F.) 178 West St., Paxton, Mass 01612, who will be handling that line as well as #13 John. Debra has done good work for the association, handled her correspondence promptly, retyped her lineage cards and took on some research assignments. We wish them much happiness in their new home.

On May 18th the Aurora, Ohio Landmark Commission and the Auroro Historical Society celebrated Preservation Day with an awards ceremony plus other activties. They gave a special award to Frank S#9494x32 and Mary Ellen Buell for their efforts to mark the site of the first cabin in Aurora, built by Ebenzer Sheldon. I wish I had been able to attend. Shirley Rider did go and will tell us about it at the July meeting. Another reason to come to Burlington in July.

I have received word of two new arrivals in our member families:

Christopher Jordan Mallard, born Dec. 21, 1985 Pt St. Lucie, Fla.  
Great Grandson of Frances L. Keller S#5988x523 G

Andrew Ian Howe, Jan 24, 1986  
Son of Ronald & Carol Wilson Howe of Candia, N. H.  
Grandson of Wm. & Margaret Sheldon Wilson S#3917x412 I

The following members have entered into eternal rest:

Vera Tobiska of Newell, S.D. died in 1985

Lona E. Anderson S#7539x6 Feb. 2, 1986, West Brookfield, Mass.

Leila Rose Jefferies, Oct. 2, 1985 age 18  
Daughter of Raymond & Leona Lovejoy Jefferies S#9576x559 G, Rogers, Ark

Beverley G. Fonda S#10281x72, March 20, 1986, Silver Spring, Md.  
He leaves his wife Lucile. They last attended a meeting in 1984

This all for this time. Don't forget to get your reservations in for the meeting. I am looking forward to seeing you then.

Until then,  
*Mayo*



# Sheldon Family Association, Inc.

President	ROSE SHELDON NEWTON, 4409 Bridgetown Run, Fort Wayne, IN 46804
1st Vice President	WARREN NELSON, 3628 N. Fremont Street, Chicago, IL 60613
2nd Vice President	SHIRLEY S. RIDER, 2413 Second Street, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221 (Chairman Genealogical Committee)
Secretary	MRS. R. T. PHELON, 2032 Oak Street, West Suffield, CT 06093
Treasurer	MRS. L. HAZARD KNOWLES, 118 Post Road, Warwick, RI 02888

S#4 Godfrey; #14; #151; #151x7; #151x71; #151x711; #151x7115; #151x71151; #151x711514; #151x7115141 Ella R. (CASEY) EMMONS.

Mrs Ella (CASEY) EMMONS of Knoxville, Iowa recently celebrated her 100th birthday on Easter Sunday, March 30, 1986. Present at a picnic in her honor were about 50 of her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren. Also in attendance was her sister, Maude (CASEY) EVANS.

Ella was born on March 30, 1886 in Cawker City, Kansas, which was considered "No Man's Land"- a strip of land between Kansas and Oklahoma, that neither state claimed. It was Indian territory at that time. Her father, George T. CASEY (1862-1930) was a mason, and so the family travelled in covered wagon to where ever work could be found, mostly throughout the South and West. The CASEYs moved to Iowa when Ella was around seven years old.

Ella's mother, Alice (SHELDON) CASEY (1862/3-1959), kept house and raised six children, which, as Ella said, gave her plenty to do. Ella was the oldest and her only brother, George, whom everyone called Bud, was next-born. She also had four younger sisters; Mayme, Grace, Maude and Bessie. Ella remembers how fascinated the Indians were whenever her mother bathed little Bud. "They would all stand around and watch", she said. "They thought it was so strange to give a baby a bath."

Ella has always worked hard, but found time for entertainment. The CASEY Orchestra performed at many area dances over the years. The orchestra included Ella, her father, Maude, Bessie and a friend of the family. Ella's father was also a music instructor and could play any type of instrument. Ella played the piano for the band most of the time, but also played the bass violin. They would play for eight to ten hours an evening and usually receive \$25 for the night. They played together until the mid-1920's.

Ella married Jesse W. EMMONS in 1902 when she was 16 years old. "I had had a good time and it was time to settle down," Ella said. Jesse was a barber when they first married, but after learning the skills of masonry from Ella's father, he began working as a contractor. They had three children: Georgia, Alice and Jess. Ella earned her L.P.N. licensed practical nursing degree, when she was in her early fifties. Her husband died in 1953.

Ella said longevity runs in the SHELDONs, her mother's side of the family. Her mother lived to be 94, and her grandmother also lived to be in her 90's.

The above info from our member Stephen D. COX, S#151x7115141111.

Debra Sheldon 1986

Dear Members,

It is with pleasure that I once again write our members with news and, I hope, helpful information. Our annual reunion is coming up fast! This year's display in the genealogy room at Burlington will include:

- Pictures of Sheldon Tapestries ) - sent in to us by Steven Sheldon
- Pictures of Sheldon, Devon )
- The English research notebook - a full record of our search this year
- Our Sheldon progenitor's notebook
- Views of St. Leonard's Church in Beoley with pictures of the magnificent Sheldon renaissance tombs
- Pictures of Sheldon Manor in Wiltshire
- Complete Survey of Towns and Places in England named Sheldon by S4298x511 Steven M. Sheldon
- The license issued in 1650/1 to Ralph Sheldon to pass over the seas
- Two English wills from the 1600's complete with transcription:
  - One for Henry Sheldon of Monyash, Derby
  - One for Daniel Sheldon of Woolwich, Kent
- Biographical information and picture of Archbishop Gilbert Sheldon including views of the Sheldonian Theatre and Lambeth Palace
- Biographical sheet for S-4298 Eli Sheldon and others
- The Derthick/Derrick Genealogy containing much data for S-3413 Lorenda Sheldon Derrick and her descendants

#### JANE SHELDON DAR CHAPTER

Two members wrote in with information on the Jane Sheldon DAR Chapter in New Smyrna Beach, FL. This chapter was named in honor of Jane Sheldon, wife of S-7376 John Dwight Sheldon (1797-1861) in honor of her Civil War service and other community service. As I also discovered for myself this information can be found on p. 155r of the Sheldon Magazine.

SOME NOTED SHELDONS FROM VERMONT - capsule summaries. Not too surprisingly these Sheldons all trace their ancestry back to S-5 Isaac, thus following the settlement pattern of VT, namely, most Vermont people came in from western Massachusetts and Connecticut.

S-426 Col. Elisha Sheldon (1740-1805) who commanded the Second Regiment, Light Dragoons during the Revolutionary War. A guest at the Sheldon home, then in Salisbury, CT, was General Washington. Following the war, Col. Elisha removed to Vermont where he purchased 23,000 acres in Franklin Co. Subsequently, the name of the town, originally Hungerford, was changed to Sheldon. (S-124 Elisha, S-36 Thomas, S-5 Isaac.)

S-1121 Judge David Sheldon (1756-1832) of Rupert, VT. David Sheldon was a soldier of the Revolution giving service at Bunker Hill. He was also with Arnold at Quebec. Judge David served over 30 years in the Vermont legislature and was a long-term county Judge. (S-398 Dea. John, 117 Thomas, 36 Thomas, 5 Isaac.)

S-3822 Henry L. Sheldon (1820-1907), founder of the Sheldon Art Museum in Middlebury, VT. In addition to founding the museum, Henry was a musician of local fame. For many years he was the organist at St. Stephen's Church, and played other instruments, including the piano, flute, bagpipes and flageolet. The first purchase in Henry's wide-ranging collection was a Roman coin. A later acquisition was an Egyptian mummy, that of Amun-Her-Khepeshef. For many years this was housed at the museum, but when a museum curator in 1945 found the decaying and leaking remains, he gave Amun a Christian burial in the Middlebury cemetery.

S-4298 Eli Sheldon (1837-1903). During the Civil War, Eli served as a cavalryman in the Vermont Militia, and was listed on his Honorable Discharge as a Blacksmith, First Class. Sometime after the war, Eli removed to Ellis, KS where he opened a general store, later "read law," and was admitted to the bar. (S-1697 Carlos, 588 Phineas, 205 Phineas, 46 Jonathan, 5 Isaac.)

S-9159x1 Adams Bromley Sheldon (1887- ) who with his sister, Frances, willed \$3,000,000.00 to found the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE. This magnificent building, designed by the architect Philip Johnson of New York City, was dedicated 16 May 1963. (S9159 George, 4138 Joel, 1665 David, 577 Joel (204 Daniel, 46 Jonathan, 5 Isaac) & 1108 Mary Hanchett Sheldon, 392 Mary, 117 Thomas, 36 Thomas, 5 Isaac.)

#### A FEW HINTS ON VERMONT RESEARCH

The VERMONT STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Pavilion Bldg., Montpelier has a good collection of family histories, a complete set plus index of the DAR lineage books, an extensive map collection, Bible records, cemetery inscriptions, and census indexes for all the New England states and New York. THE VITAL RECORDS OFFICE in Montpelier has vital records (births, marriages, deaths) prior to 1954. After that the records are stored in Burlington. THE SUPREME COURT BUILDING in Montpelier houses the VT census records and has a good collection of Vermont newspapers dating from the later 1700's and early 1800's. THE BURLINGTON TOWN LIBRARY in Burlington, VT has a complete copy of the New England Historic and Genealogical Record - some 136 volumes plus index. THE BAILEY-HOWE LIBRARY, UVM Campus, Burlington in its Special Collections Room has town histories, Vermont census indexes, and manuscript records. The reference area contains a copy of Abby Hemenway's Gazetteer of Vermont, 5 volumes, index to some of the Burlington Free Press Newspapers and general genealogical works. LAND AND PROBATE RECORDS from the earliest period to about 1850 can be found on microfilm in Montpelier at the Vermont Division of Public Records.

#### FOR SHELDONS OF RHODE ISLAND DESCENT

This year Rhode Island celebrates its 350th birthday. Many events are planned. In the April 1986 issue of Yankee Magazine there is a complete guide to Rhode Island landmarks. Did you know that the little state of Rhode Island contains 20 percent of all our national landmarks? There is much to see. A copy of the magazine will be available at the meeting.

FOR MEMBERS WITH WRIGHT ANCESTRY

S-1205x22 Hester Wright Slack. From our member S1205x229231 Dorothy J. Turner, we obtained proof that Hester Wright, who married Samuel Slack was a dau. of S-1205x2 William Boltwood Wright and Freelove Chilson. Mrs. Turner obtained from the Public Archives of Canada, the following record taken from Upper Canada Land Petitions: "The petition of Hester Slack of the Township of Yonge humbly sheweth that your petitioner is the dau. of William B. Wright of Elizabethtown District, a U.E. Loyalist, that she is married to Samuel Slack, and has never received any land or order for land from the Crown..." Petition dated 9 July 1817. Further from the same petition comes the date of death for William Boltwood Wright, viz., the 18th day of January 1809. Congratulations, Dorothy, for commendable persistence in guiding your research through to a successful conclusion.

READING AND INTERPRETATION OF COLONIAL RECORDS - at the request of Betty Sheldon.

Caution, please, in the reading and interpretation of colonial handwriting. A few lines from the will of S-36 Thomas Sheldon are here reproduced in order to illustrate the interpretation of the "y" symbol sometimes met with in older documents.

*In Primis Principally and First of all I Give & Bequeath  
My Soul into the hands of God who gave it, and my Body unto the  
Earth to be decently entered att the discretion of my Executors  
hereafter mentioned, and there to rest in the Grave until the Gen<sup>l</sup>  
Resurrection when I hope & Believe for a Blessed Reunion of Soul & Body  
and for ever to Praise the Lord upon the account of the Mediation of Christ  
Jesus my Redeemer.*

Imprimis: Principally and First of all I give and bequeath my Soul into the hands of God who gave it, and my Body unto the Earth to be decently entered att the discretion of my executors, hereafter mentioned, and there to rest in the Grave until the General Resurrection when I hope & Believe for a Blessed Reunion of Soul and Body and for ever to Praise the Lord upon the account of the mediation of Christ Jesus, my Redeemer.

The ancient Anglo-Saxon language included the letter, Thorn, which in appearance was similar to "Y" but which had the TH sound.

Thus, y<sup>e</sup>, y<sup>en</sup>, y<sup>ere</sup>, y<sup>is</sup>, and y<sup>t</sup> translate easily and correctly into the, then, there, this and that. Probably, historical novels and well-meaning but misinterpreted family histories and genealogies are the leading perpetrators of the misuse of "ye" for "the." Sources providing a guide to the handwriting of colonial records include:

The Researchers Guide to American Genealogy by Val D. Greenwood, p. 15-29. A very good guide which treats the above problem with depth and clarity, elucidates the confusion of "u" and "v" and "I" and "J", plus other often encountered problems.

The Handwriting of American Records by E. Kay Kirkham, available from Everton Publishing, Logan, UT. A well-illustrated book, but unaccountably gives a too brief explanation on p.24 for the all-too frequent "y" confusion and misses as well other unfamiliar terms often met with in colonial records.

Understanding Colonial Handwriting by Harriett Stryker-Rodda. A new guide, 26 p., soft-cover and reasonably priced at \$3.50 +\$1.25 postage and handling. This is available from Genealogical Publishing Co., 1001 N. Calvert Street, Baltimore, MD 21202.

BUDDING AUTHORS BEWARE

A word of warning to those who contemplate the publication of a genealogical or family history text. A quality, hard-cover edition, figuring the cost of research, travel, preliminary copies toward the production of a final proof copy, plus a minimum press run of 100 to 200 books can scarcely be accomplished for much under \$10,000.00. Yet, in a recent issue of a genealogical magazine of wide circulation, I counted no less than eight advertisements from firms soliciting texts for publication. These or similar ads are run in every edition of the magazine, which, in my opinion, gives the impression that there is a ready market for publications in this field. However, very few families are so extensive as to be able to absorb this number of books, so one naturally looks to libraries as a ready outlet. But be aware that almost without exception libraries have a universal policy prohibiting the purchase of genealogical and/or family history texts. While no author launches such a publishing venture in the hope of huge financial gain, one does rightly expect to recover the cost. The solution might be to reverse the natural order of things a bit and to first gather firm orders, then proceed with the printing and production phase.

Respectfully submitted,

*Shirley Rider*

Shirley Rider  
Genealogy Chairman



# Sheldon Family Association, Inc.

In Search of SHELDON Kin

Spring 1986  
ISOK No. 20

IN SEARCH OF OUR ENGLISH KIN

20-1 We have by now forwarded to Achievements all that is known regarding our founding New England Sheldons, Godfrey, Isaac, John of Providence and John of South Kingstown. Largely on the basis of long-extant family traditions, we had searches made first in the south of England. However, since in the counties of Devon, Somerset, Wiltshire, Hampshire and Dorset, no records for Sheldons were found, Achievements has now extracted entries from the indexes of marriages, pre-1660 for the names John, William, Godfrey, Isaac and Geoffrey Sheldon and Shelton. From this effort some localization for the Sheldon surname has been gained. From this pre-1660 list we learned that the Christian names Isaac, Geoffrey and Godfrey occur hardly at all. The only Isaac was found at Manchester, and the one Godfrey appears significant to Mr. Humphrey-Smith as an indication leading to the best area for further search.

At this point the firm "wishes to avoid speculation and to investigate testamentary depositions in the areas of localization (see below) with a view to finding some mention of the migrant, for without such there is no true identification at all and we continue to have theories." Quoted from Mr. C. R. Humphrey-Smith's letter of 26 March 1986. The firm now plans to concentrate its research in the counties of Derby- and Staffordshire and will move at a later time into other counties. Initially two entries from this list appear of particular interest to us, i.e., one seen immediately by Keith Sheldon, for a William Sheldon, son of Tymothie Sheldon of Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, and the second, an entry in 1656 for the marriage of an Isaac Sheldon and Mary Venables of Manchester, Lancashire. This extensive search of marriage registers revealed only one Godfrey, being the same as our Godfrey of Scarborough, ME. According to the indexes, Sheldons with the above Christian surnames were in the 1600's living in the following eleven counties of England: Buckinghamshire, Derby, Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent, Lancashire, Oxford, Staffordshire, Sussex, Warwickshire and Worcestershire. We will keep you posted.

20-2 Information is needed regarding the parents of SARAH JANE CREASEY who married S151x71151 WILLIAM FRANCIS SHELDON. Sarah Jane was b. ca. 1831 in St. Patrick, N.B., Canada, father b. ME and mother b. RI. They had six children born in Maine: William, b. ca. 1856; Malissa, b. ca. 1858; Alice F., b. 1863; Richard b. ca. 1865; Mary, b. ca. 1866; Francis R., b. 1869 and two children born in Iowa, Elmer, b. ca. 1873 and Clarence b. ca. 1875. Sarah Jane's older brother, Richard B. Creasey, who was b. in 1830 in St. Patrick, N.B., Canada, was killed during the Civil War at the Battle of Petersburg, VA. Apparently the Creasey's moved to New Brunswick in the 1820's and then returned to Maine in the 1850's or earlier, after the Maine-New Brunswick border dispute.

Inquiry is made for our new member, S151x711514111 Stephen Cox, 2810 Belcourt Avenue, Nashville, TN 37212. If you can help with this one, write either Stephen or Debra Sheldon.

20-3 FOUND. We now have the ancestry of Don Sheldon, the Charter air pilot from Talkeetna, AK. Don, the son of Edward and Myrtle (Ingersoll) Sheldon, has Sheldon number S6566x723. This identification was accomplished by forwarding the scant family information provided in Don's biography, Wager With the Wind, to Sharon Lass-Field, a very capable researcher in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Sharon has already placed the results of this search on file in the Wyoming State Archives. We have word that Don's aunt, Helen Reed of Cody, Wyoming, plans to have a display at our Vermont meeting.

20-4 LOOKING FOR additional information for the families of MARTHA SHELDON and THOMAS VINCENT who married 8 April 1750 in Glocester, RI. Parents of both these persons are unknown. Please reply to Debra Sheldon.



10

Last minute news from Shirley Rider

S-4767x2 Rev. Charles Monroe Sheldon is featured on pages 160 to 162 of the 1986 Farmer's Almanac. If you can no longer find a copy on the newstand this late in the year, write the Old Farmer's Almanac, Dublin, N.H. 03444. Cost if \$1.95.

For S-35 John descendants and other interested Sheldons. True Stories of New England Captives Carried to Canada During the Old French and Indian Wars by C. Alice Baker has been reprinted (420pp., illus. & indexed) and is available from Heritage Books, Inc., 3602 Maureen, Suite 111, Bowie, MD 20715. Cost is \$25.00 + \$2.00 postage. News of the reprint was sent in by S#5720x21 Dru Sheldon.

A Reminder from your Secretary

Sheldon Achievers - don't forget to send me any news you might have on the doings of Sheldon's. We mention them at the July meeting.

Thanks for keeping me posted on births, deaths and marriages and other happenings in your family. I, and in turn, the whole association rejoice with you in the happy events and are sorrowful and offer prayers to you in times of sadness.

Thanks also for keeping me up to date on address changes. It is unbelievable how many people move each year.

SHELDON FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC.  
Marjorie S. Phelon, Secretary  
2032 Oak St.  
West Suffield, Conn. 06093



Forwarding & Address  
Correction Requested