

Recently, I tested a hypothesis about parents of my great great grandfather Ira Ellis Shelton.

This began with contact from Stan Shelton, 2C 1R who had done Y-111 test with FTDNA that confirmed he (and hence all descendants of Ira Ellis Shelton) is a descendent of Ralph Shelton Sr of Middlesex & Pittsylvania Virginia who died about 1734.

Ira's first wife, Elizabeth Ann T Goodman, and two of their children are buried in Lawrence County, Missouri. Findagrave has 76 Sheltons as buried in Lawrence County, and the 1860 census had over twenty people named Shelton. Two of those had birth dates near Ira's and were also born in Virginia.

To test for DNA matches on Ancestry.com, I *assumed* those two, Moses Hurt Shelton and Henry B Shelton, as brothers with Ira Ellis. This trial quickly gave many DNA matches, multiple ThruLine suggestions, and many more hints about the Shelton family of colonial Pittsylvania County, Virginia than I could have expected.

DNA matches seem to confirm Ira is in this family. And while I suspect that Ira is a son of Charles Coleman Shelton 1775-1855 and Elizabeth Shelton (who were first cousins), *I cannot confirm they were the parents of Ira Ellis Shelton.*

Decendents with DNA matching AFB

Shelton Ancestor	Relation to AFB	Relation to Ira	other relation to Ira	# Matches	# matching children
Ira 1812-1895	GG GF	-	2C 4R	25	8
CC 1775-1855	3G GF	Father	1C 1R	26	7
Elizabeth 1770-1850	3G GM	Mother	1C 1R	42	8
Bev 1744-1825	4G GF	GF	G Uncle	21	4
Gabriel 1739-1805	4G GF	GF	G Uncle	75	11?
Crispen 1713-1794	5G GF	G GF	-	77	10
Ralph d abt 1734	6G GF	GG GF	-		
Elizabeth A T 1819-1862	1C 3R, 3C 3R	wife #1	niece, 2C 1R		

While I'm convinced that we are in the right group of families, the lineage and relationships are very confused because (1) this Shelton family used same or similar names over several generations, (2) the limited paper trail, especially back to colonial times, and (3) *a lot of intermarriage* over several generations from early 1700 and as late as 1881.

Pittsylvania marriage records have about 32 Shelton with Shelton marriages from 1769 to 1875, including:

Ira's parents: Charles Coleman and Elizabeth, daughter of Gabriel Shelton married 1797

Uncle Beverly Smith Shelton Jr and Henrietta, daughter of Armistead married 1803

Uncle Richard Shelton and Nancy Shelton married 1792

Aunt Lettice Weeks Shelton and Lemuel, son of Gabriel Shelton married 1796

Ira Ellis Shelton and Elizabeth Ann T Goodman, daughter of Ira's oldest sister Patsy Shelton Goodman were married in 1841 in Todd County, Kentucky

Ira's Siblings:

Chaney Elizabeth married in 1837 Pittsylvania, Virginia with Matthew Clay, son of Tunstall Shelton Sr

Lettice Beverly married in 1835 Pittsylvania, Virginia with William Preston, also son of Tunstall Shelton Sr

Moses Hurt married in 1828 Pittsylvania, Virginia with Nancy Clark Shelton

Ira's daughter:

Penelope Adeline married in 1881 Lawrence County, Missouri with her first cousin Gideon Thompson, son of Moses Hurt Shelton

Ira and Elizabeth A. T. had twin girls born 24 April 1853. Their son William Henry Shelton and Roxy had twin girls born 18 Feb 1888. Apparently, Ira's grandfather Beverly Shelton 1744-1825 had a twin sister Jane 1744-1821.

One valuable source for beginning to understanding the Shelton family that I have found so far is ***“Shelton County, A Genealogy of Pittsylvania County’s Largest Family”*** by April Miller, 1994. Published and Printed on demand by Higginson Book Company, Salem, Massachusetts www.HigginsonBooks.com The book is a through, documented study of the records that include Shelton family members in the Pittsylvania County Courthouse in Chatham, Virginia.

Is the abundance of DNA matches a result of large families? or because of intermarriages? I haven't tried to follow all of the descent of Ralph that d 1734, do those lines also have matching DNA that I just haven't connected?

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FamilyTreeDNA Learning Center

How does it affect my results if some of my ancestors married their relatives?

If your ancestors married their relatives, you may appear more closely related to your matches than you actually are. This is not uncommon. If you are part of an endogamous population, such as Ashkenazi Jews, you will likely be more related. Endogamous means that a group intermarried either due to geography or society more often with one another than with other groups. The impact of this on Family Finder results varies. *It depends on how closely related the family members were, the frequency of marriages between your ancestors, and how recently the marriages occurred.*

There are two factors in sharing between genetic cousins with multiple lines of descent from a common ancestor or multiple common ancestral lines. *The first one is increased overall sharing.*

The amount of increased average sharing is additive. It is calculated by adding together the amounts of expected sharing for each known relationship.

Relationship	Expected Sharing
4th Cousin	0.195%
4th Cousin Once Removed	0.098%
7th Cousin	0.003%

Thus, if you share two lines of descent with a cousin at the 4th cousin level, one line at the 4th cousin once removed level, and one line at the 7th cousin level, your expected sharing would be $0.195\% + 0.195\% + 0.098\% + 0.003\% = 0.491\%$ rather than the 0.195% of a 4th cousin who is related in only one way. Keep in mind that the expected percentages are averaged. Any one relationship could have significantly more or less sharing.

The second factor when more than one line of descent in common is many smaller common identical by descent segments rather than the expected levels of some large, medium, and small segments. Over time and depending on the degree of intermarriage in the population. These blocks may become common to a significant percentage of the population group.

Dealing with Endogamy, Part I: Exploring Amounts of Shared DNA

<https://www.legacytree.com/blog/dealing-endogamy-part-exploring-amounts-shared-dna>

Autosomal DNA testing is a valuable resource for genealogists

Endogamy is the custom of marrying only within the limits of a local community, clan, or tribe over the course of many generations.....

Migration - Ira and relatives

Year	Ira Ellis Shelton 1812-1895	Henry Banks Shelton 1806-1861 brother	Moses Hurt Shelton 1804-1869 brother	M.P. Goodman 1789-1854 b in law, f in law	Charles Coleman Shelton 1775-1855 father	Charles Coleman Shelton 1815-1900 1C and 2C	W.S. Taylor 1792-1847 2 father in law
	born East Va	b- Pittsylvania, VA	b- Pittsylvania, VA	b- Pittsylvania, VA	b- Pittsylvania, VA	b- Pittsylvania, VA	Lawrence Cty, MO died 1847
1840	Todd, KY marriage 1841	Todd, KY	Todd, KY	Todd, KY wife died 1836	Todd, KY with son Henry B	Todd, KY marriage 1838	
1850	Livingston Cty, KY	Livingston Cty, KY	Lawrence Cty, MO	Livingston Cty, KY died 1854	died Todd Cty, KY 1855	Clay Cty, MO	Lawrence Cty, MO dau marriage 1854
1860	Lawrence Cty, MO marriage 1863	Lawrence Cty, MO died 1861	Lawrence Cty, MO died 1869			Clay Cty, MO	Lawrence Cty, MO dau marriage 1863
1870	Clay Cty, MO		Lawrence Cty, MO 5 sons & 1 Dau			Clay Cty, MO	
1880	Lonoke Cty, Ark died 1895		Lawrence Cty, MO 5 sons & 1 Dau			Clay Cty, MO	
1900	Lonoke Cty, Ark Rachel & 5 children					Clay Cty, MO died 1900	

