

## THE SHELTON FAMILY

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In August, 1927, I published a book containing the lineage of the Shelton and allied families, with all data that I had been able to secure after a research of more than ten years. I have since received letters from all parts of the country asking for information, and giving me many interesting facts. It is impossible to answer all fully, so I feel this article will be timely and its publication in the *William and Mary Quarterly* will assure its reaching those most interested.

The Shelton history has been apparently hopelessly tangled on account of the misspelling of the official records. As all of the family were highly educated it was many years before I even looked into records under other names. Three years ago in Richmond, Virginia, a genealogist of high standing assured me that all of the records in Middlesex County, Va., Christ Church Parish, under the name of **Chilton, Chelton, Skelton and Shelton** belonged to one family. On careful examination I found this to be correct and started to unravel the tangle. This I have only recently succeeded in doing.

The Virginia Historical Collection states that "Three Shelton brothers came to America from England in 1638; one built his home 'Rural Plains' in Hanover Co., Va., one went to Nelson Co., Va., and one went to Connecticut. John Shelton, the Hanover brother, married Eleanor Parks, daughter of Wm. Parks, first editor in Virginia and founder of the Virginia Gazette; and their daughter Sarah married Patrick Henry." Part of this is correct.

Two Sheltons did come to Virginia in 1638, according to Greer's "Early Immigrants;" a Fr., and a Richard Shelton; whether or not they were connections of the Hanover Co., Sheltons is not, as yet, known; but the early historians have not taken into account the generations in their statements.

It has always been conceded that the John Shelton of "Rural Plains" was descended from Sir John Shelton, of Shelton Hall, Norfolk, England, and his wife Anne Boleyn. As Lady Anne Shelton was a great aunt of Queen Elizabeth's, the English records are very complete, and are part of the history of England in her Doomsday Book.

After Elizabeth was crowned she sent for the family at Shelton Hall, who had given her shelter many times when she was so bitterly persecuted, and they lived at the Court for fifty years until the death of Elizabeth in 1603.

In looking up the history of the American Sheltons the connecting link seemed to be always missing. We could never connect the "Sir Ralph Shelton" and his "son, James Shelton, (misspelled Skelton in some of the records) Gentleman" who were members of the Second Virginia Company, with the Norfolk family, as none of the English historians whose work is accessible in America, told us that "Sir Thomas Shelton, Gentleman Porter of the Tower" under Queen Elizabeth, and who is buried in St. Peter's Church in the Tower, had a son **Ralph**. Thomas was a son of Sir Ralph Shelton by his first wife, **Mary Wodehouse**. (Record made by Eng. Gen. from Davy's Pedigrees).

This Ralph, son of Thomas Shelton and his wife Elizabeth Flowerdew, was knighted at Theobald's in 1607 as "Sir Ralph Shelton, of

Shelton .Hall, Norfolk, England." He was a member of Parliament and signed the petition circulated there by the London Company in 1610 and was a member of the Second and Third Virginia Companies. (Official Records of the London Company—Genesis of the U. S. by Alexander Brown, p. 544.)

There is nothing to indicate that Sir Ralph Shelton ever came to Virginia. If so, he returned to England; but his son, "James Shelton, Gentleman" came with Lord Delaware in June, 1610, remained and founded the Shelton family of America. (Eng. Rec.—Stith's Hist. of Va.—Smith's Hist. of Va.—Alexander Brown's Genesis of U. S.—and the Records of the London Company by Kingsbury.)

James was a resident of Jamestown in 1620, (Smith's Hist., vol. 2, p. 549), a member of the Court of June 7, 1624 (Genesis of U. S. by Brown—and Records of the Virginia Company, Vol. 2, P. 539) and is given in the "Partial List of Families in America entitled to bear arms; James Shelton, the immigrant (Plate he used). Reuben Shelton, Hanover County; (same). (William and Mary Quarterly, Vol. 1, Book 2, P. 59.) The illustration of the plate, however, is not given.\*

In the 1600's the Sheltons were living in Gloucester and York Counties, Va. They are listed with the resident families of Abingdon Parish, Gloucester Co., from 1677 to 1761. (Abingdon Ch. Colonial Reg. P. 192). In 1662 a John Shelton (a grown man) is on record in York Co., Va. (Tyler, vol. I., p. 273). This must have been a brother of James (2) as John, later of Rural Plains, was only a child then.

In 1681 Wm. Shelton had a grant of 150 acres in Gloucester Co., Va., and on December 10, 1698, he married Hannah Armistead, daughter of Capt. Anthony Armistead, who was born in Elizabeth City Co., in 1648. (Eliz. City Co. Rec.—Pittman's Americans of Gentle Birth.)

The name of James Shelton is in an old book at "Rural Plains" with date of 1663. John Shelton, of "Rural Plains" born in York County in 1650, was a Vestry man at St. Paul's Church, Hanover (?) Co., (Hanover Co. was not formed until 1720; probably this should be New Kent, Goochland, Henrico or York Co.) in 1705. He is mentioned in the records as "Son of James."

James (2) must have been living in York Co., as late as 1716 for in that year "James Shelton and Thomas Cole sued the wardens of Charles Parish, York Co., for a debt." (York County Records)

"James Shelton (3), Gentleman" was one of the commissioners in a court called for Goochland Co., the 25th of June, 1733. (Va. Mag. Vol. 1, P. 328, 330). He is on record as living in St. James Parish, Goochland Co., in 1735. In 1723-26, James Shelton had grants of land in Henrico Co., Va., of over 7,000 acres. (Va. Land Grants)

John Shelton, first of "Rural Plains" was the son of James (probably (2) as the first James would be an old man by this time, if still living). It was the third John of "Rural Plains" that married Eleanor Parks and their daughter Sarah, married Patrick Henry. (Records of Old Fork Church, in record book of St. Paul's Church, Hanover Co., contains the names of this Shelton family).

The histories speak of the first wife of Patrick Henry as, "A woman of low origin, daughter of a poor farmer and tavern keeper." The facts are that there is no finer lineage anywhere than that of John Shelton, father of Sarah Henry, and as to his being poor, besides his land in New Kent Co., York Co., etc., he owned thousands of acres in Westmoreland Co., Va., when Sarah married Patrick Henry. (Va. Land Grants)

\*For p. 59 read p. 119.

The "Inn," at Hanover Courthouse, was part of the inheritance of Eleanor Shelton, wife of John, from her father Wm. Parks. (Will of Wm. Parks date of 1750). Patrick Henry was only eighteen when he married not at "four o'clock in the morning when returning from a dance," as some historians state, but in the parlor at "Rural Plains" in a room in which the writer has slept, in a bed brought from England three hundred years ago by the Sheltons..

John Shelton closed his country home, "Rural Plains," moved to the tavern and supported the wife and children of Patrick Henry while the latter completed his education. If it had not been for his father-in-law, America would probably have never heard of the "Tongue of Virginia."

It was the son of this John Shelton (3) of "Rural Plains" and Eleanor Parks, Wm. Parks Shelton, who settled later in Nelson Co., Virginia. In 1749 this William owned land in King and Queen Co. and purchased land on Byrd Creek in Fluvanna Co. His first wife's name was Patience; by her he had Wm., Jr., Henry and Sarah who married Augustine Shepherd. His second wife was Eliz. Rogers, daughter of Robert Rogers, of Goochland Co. His children by this marriage were John, Gideon and Thomas. (Assembly Test of Albemarle Co., Va.—Will of Robert Rogers 11/18/1740). This John was John of "Red House," Louisa and Goochland Counties.

The third Shelton brother referred to in the Virginia Histories, Daniel, was born in York Co., Va., in 1668; he was a son of James (2) and a brother of the John who built "Rural Plains." In 1685 he was shipwrecked on the coast of Connecticut; he was cut off from his brothers in Virginia by the Indians and was given four hundred acres of land in Stamford, Conn., where he remained and founded the Connecticut branch of the Shelton family. In 1692 he married Eliz. Welles, granddaughter of Gov. Thomas Welles, of Conn. These Sheltons figured prominently in the social and civic life of Conn., and none of this branch ever returned to Virginia. (Conn., Official Rec.—Shelton Gen. by Jane de Forest Shelton—New Eng. Ency. of Hist. and Biog.)

After the death of Reuben Shelton of Hanover Co., (another brother of Daniel's) who died without issue, a suit was brought for the settlement of his estate by his brothers; as Daniel had disappeared and it was not known up to that time, whether he was living or dead.

Mr. Haw of "Dundee", Hanover Co., Va., in 1926, told me that John of Hanover, Reuben, Daniel, etc., had a brother Richard. I have never been able to **actually** connect **any** Richard with the Hanover Co. Sheltons, and will appreciate any information about this branch of the family. There was a Richard in Lexington Parish, Nelson Co., (with a William, Ralph and Edwin, all family names) in 1779. A Jane Shelton born 9/1/1747, married April 3, 1766, Josiah, son of Charles Ellis and Susanna Harding. She was a daughter of a Richard, but I cannot link him up with the main line. A **Colonel Richard Shelton** of Amherst Co., Va., had a daughter Nancy who married in Feb., 1767, John Rucker. These **appear** to be descendants of Wm. Parks Shelton, son of John and Eleanor of "Rural Plains," but I cannot link them up without further information and I find no trace of **Richard** in the three earlier generations. The Greensboro, North Carolina, Sheltons are descendants of a Richard Shelton and claim to be of the Hanover branch, but the connecting link is missing.

In the list of "Soldiers of Virginia in the Revolutionary War" the records on Page 619, 620 and 621, are those belonging to the "**Chilton**" family, as the affidavits accompanying them, which were made by people



who had known the family fifty years, prove. The wills of **George Chilton** and **Martha Chilton** are filed in Loudoun Co., Va. "Will of **George Chilton**, Loudoun Co., Va., filed April 9, 1771, wife Ann, son **Thomas Chilton**, and Sarah." "Chilton, Martha, Loudoun Co., Va., will filed October 1, 1777; sons **Thomas** and Mark, daughters Sarah and Nancy." (Loudoun Co., Rec.) These men have no connection with the **Shelton** family. The Charles who married Betty Blackwell 12/19/1760 was a **Chilton** not a **Shelton**.

Another error which has come down for generations and been published in at least five books (I have seen it in that number) is about the wife of Thomas Jefferson, and the husband of Jane Meriwether. These were both Sheltons; the first not by blood however; she was Martha Wales Shelton, the widow of **Bathurst Shelton** and married Thomas Jefferson at "The Forest", Charles City Co., Va., on January 1, 1772. (Record of marriage in St. James' Parish, Goochland Co., Va.) Ann Wales, sister of Martha, married Henry, son of Sir Wm. Skipwith. In several records it is stated that **Henry Skipwith** married **Bathurst Shelton's** widow.

Jane Meriwether was a daughter of Francis Meriwether and Mary Bathurst (who was a daughter of Launcelot and a niece of the wife of James Shelton, who was **Mary Bathurst**, daughter of **Sir Edward Bathurst**). Jane married Dr. James Shelton of Essex Co., Va., and their daughter Sarah, "Sally as she was called, married Col. Thomas Jones, (born in 1726), of the Naval and Military family of Washington, D. C. There is in existence somewhere, a Bible which belonged to Meriwether and Reuben Shelton of Hanover Co., Va. It has a wide double spread with the coat of arms of the Shelton family. This Bible is said to be in possession of the Jones family in Kentucky. I have written to all of those I know that belong to that family, but have never received a reply. I will greatly appreciate any information concerning this book.

*Disputed*

The mistake in the records of the Jones and Meriwether-books came from not verifying a poorly written record in the marriage of Thomas Meriwether, son of Nicolas (1) of Wales and Susanna Shelton, born in 1689; she was a daughter of Peter Shelton (son of James (2)) and Susanna Jaxon, of Middlesex Co., Va., and a sister of Ralph, born in 1685 who died in 1733 and is mentioned in the will of Thomas Meriwether (1708) as "My brother-in-law, Ralph Shelton." Ralph Shel-

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ton, son of Peter Shelton (1) and Susanna Jaxon, was born in 1685. In 1706 (about) he married Mary ----- Their children were—  
Thomas b.—1707; had Reuben, b.—5-6-1733; Micajah, b. 6-20-1742; Mary, b. 2-21-17 37/38, and Thomas, b. 5-2-1740. Thomas, d.—1742, March 24; he married Mary Probert, Jan. 14, 1730.  
Ralph—b. 1709; Mar. Mary Daniel June 10, 1731. Living in Amelia Co. in 1758. (Va. Hist. records).  
Elizabeth—b. 1711; Mar. Wm. Davis, Oct. 29, 1728.  
Crispin—b. 1713; Mar. Letitia and had a son Wm., b. 3/4/1735 and ten other children.  
Reuben—b. 1715, April; died Oct. 8, 1715.  
Mary—b. 1-21-1716—d. July 18, 1719.  
Catherine—b. 1719; mar. George Blakey, 12-31-1743. Died before 1750, leaving child Patience Catesby Blakey.  
John—b. 1722. Living when his mother died in 1750.  
Benjamin—b. 1724. Living when his mother died in 1750.  
James—b. 1726. Living when his mother died in 1750.  
Daniel—b. 1729, mentioned in mother's will as son and heir.

Ralph, Sr., father of these children, died in 1733; his widow, Mary, married a man named Clock, in Amelia Co., Va., where Ralph (b. 1709—husband of **Mary Daniel**), owned 400 acres in 1745.

Mrs. Clock died June 30, 1750. Her children mentioned in her will, were Ralph, John, Crispin, Benjamin and James **Shelton**, and a grandson **Reuben Shelton**, and granddaughter Patience Catesby Blakey and daughter of Elizabeth Davis' (son of Thos. and Mary Probert—born May 6, 1733). Evidently Thomas and Catherine (besides Reuben—who died the year he was born, and Mary who died in 1719, July 18th), had died before their mother's death in 1750, as they were not mentioned in the will. Peter Shelton (1) by his second wife Abigail (?) had Thomas—born Sept. 20, 1693, Henry, born Sept. 20, 1691, and Zebulon, born Aug. 4, 1700. Both Peter (1) and his son Peter (2) died within a year of each other; one Dec. 17, 1717, the other Oct. 1, 1718. Zebulon married Mary Goar Feb. 20, 1720. Henry died Dec. 28, 1716. I cannot place Thomas born 1693. Zebulon was in the Westmoreland Co. Militia in 1733.

Peter (2) born in 1687, was also a son of Peter (1) (son of James (2)) and Susanna Jaxon. He married in 1708 Eliz. Downing. Besides Eliz., Peter (2) and Eliz. had Susannah, b. 8-20-1710, d. Apr. 29, 1733. Thos.—b. 12-24-1714; mar. Dorothy who died 4-25-1741 when her daughter Mary was born Apr. 12, 1741.

The third child of Peter and Susanna was Susanna, who married Thomas Meriwether. She was born in 1689 and her mother died at her birth or soon after, as in 1691 Peter Shelton married Abigail (?). After the death of Peter, Sr., in 1717 or 1718, **Abigail Shelton, his widow**, married Robert Holderness. Several Shelton lines in this article have been worked out and cleared up since the publication of my book last August, by the facts furnished me by different branches of the family. Abigail Holderness died Oct. 17, 1729. Her children by Peter (1) Shelton were Henry (b. 1691; died 1716), Thos., b. 1693 and Zebulon who married **Mary Goar**.

The first record in the Meriwether book is written thus: "Thomas Meriwether married Susanna (Skelton ?) showing that the name was not clear on the records. From an error of this kind all the generations of this branch since have come down with the name **Skelton** when they are entitled to the wonderful history of the **Shelton** family in England and America.

I never could understand why I could find no official record of the Revolutionary service of my immediate ancestors. I knew my great grandfather and his father and grandfather were in the Revolutionary War from the beginning. Only recently I have found them masquerading under the name of "**Chilton**" in the official records. This has been taken up with the War Department and Mr. Dwight Davis, Secretary of War, has personally assured me that the explanation will be attached to the official record, so as to assist all future inquirers. John Shelton, Sr., of "Rural Plains" (Capt. of the Third Virginia Regiment, misspelled **Chilton** in the list of Revolutionary soldiers—Va. Co., Rec. Vol. 6, p. 243), husband of Eleanor Parks fell at Brandywine in 1777. His son, Capt. John Shelton, afterwards Colonel, (who marched to Williamsburg with his brother-in-law Patrick Henry, to demand satisfaction when the Governor removed the powder from the magazine) was his heir, and the government grants were issued to him. This Capt. John was president of a Regimental Court Martial Sept. 1 and 12, 1779 (Va. Historical Magazine, Vol. 18, Pages 315 and 430); his brother

Thomas of Lancaster Co., Va., was Corp. then Capt. in Captain Taylor's Company, Second Virginia Regiment (Official Rec. and Saunders Early Settlers of Alabama—P. 458 and Family Records) and "in 1777 Capt. Thomas Chilton (Shelton) Gentleman, of Taylor's Company was recommended for Lieut.-Col."; this was confirmed by the Gov. at the Court in the Spring of 1778 and Col. Thos. Shelton served throughout the war (P. 1460, Washington Manuscript; Westmoreland Co., Militia.) There was also a Thomas Shelton from Pittsylvania Co., and a Thomas Shelton in the 14th Virginia Regiment, probably the Thos. from Louisa Co., Va., in the Revolutionary War, but on account of this error in spelling, the service of Col. Thos. Shelton of Lancaster Co., Va., and that of his father and brother has been lost to posterity. His son, Jesse Shelton, of Lancaster Co., Va., (Corp. then Serg't) also served in Taylor's Company, Second Virginia Regiment (War Department Rec.) The wills of John (1) and John (2) of "Rural Plains" and his son Thomas, were filed in Westmoreland Co., Va., (Hanover Co. was not then formed) where they owned thousands of acres of land. These, too, are filed as **Chilton**. The records of the third John of "Rural Plains" were destroyed when Hanover and Richmond Court-houses were burned, and the graves in Hanover Co., entirely demolished by the Northern troops during the War Between the States. The swords and helmets worn by the Shelton men are preserved with great care at "Rural Plains." The Sheltons have been among the first to **volunteer** their service in every war America has engaged in, since its founding; one of the St. Louis branch, Grayson Shelton enlisted at eighteen and served all through the World War with the Machine Gun Company of the Fifth Marines, which was part of the famous Second Division. He was killed at the battle of Mont Blanc, October 4, 1918, and lies buried in France.

The title of **Knight** is not hereditary in England but is conferred for **service**; a Shelton (and sometimes several) of **every** generation was knighted from the first Ralph de Shelton, who served with the King's own Company, at the Battle of Crecy, in 1346, and was knighted for saving the life of the Black Prince, down to the Sir Ralph, knighted at Theobald's in 1607, father of our American James. (Davy's Eng. Ped.)

This is indeed a record of which to be proud.

Thomas Shelton of Lancaster Co., son of John of "Rural Plains" and Eleanor Parks married Sally Hord; (Family Rec. and Hord Gen.) Their son Jesse Shelton married Miss Gilmour, a sister of the John Gilmour who married Cordelia Ball, daughter of the sixth Wm. Ball, and heiress of "Millenbeck." John Gilmour and his sister were children of "John of Scotland" Gilmour, "a man of great wealth and influence." (Ball Gen. and Family Record.)

The son of Jesse Shelton and Miss Gilmour, John Gilmour Shelton was born in Lancaster Co., Va., March 1, 1802 (Bible Rec.); he was brought up by his aunt, Mrs. Gilmour, both of his parents having died while he was an infant in arms. When Mrs. Gilmour married, in 1814, Mr. Wm. Raleigh Ball of "Belle Isle," John went to a Mr. Grayson in Fredericksburg, Va., an old friend of his father's. Here he remained until 1826 when he went to Lynchburg and married there a daughter of Wm. Byrd (5) (son of Thomas Taylor Byrd and Mary Armistead).

Thomas Taylor Byrd was the son of Col. Wm. Byrd (3) and Eliz. Hill Carter) and Mary FitzGerald of the "Leinster" FitzGerald, of



Amelia Co., Va. His first wife died in St. Louis, Mo. (where both the Byrds and the Sheltons had moved from Lynchburg, Va., in 1832) and Mr. Shelton married her sister Mary Walker Byrd in St. Louis, in 1835.

Genevieve Shelton, daughter of John Gilmour Shelton and Mary Walker Byrd was born in St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 26, 1844, and died there July 2, 1913. In 1869 she married Rev. C. D. N. Campbell, D. D. (son of Benjamin Tillinghast Campbell and Eunice Noble, and a lineal descendant of John Campbell, first Earl of Breadalbane and his second wife).

Their daughter, Mildred Genevieve Campbell, born in St. Louis, is the author of the "Shelton Genealogy." She married March 10, 1904, in Washington, D. C., Alexander Whitaker, of St. Louis, Mo.

They have one child, a daughter, Dorothy, born Feb. 16, 1907, in St. Louis, Mo.

The Shelton home "Rural Plains" built by the first John in 1670 and never remodeled, is still in a wonderful state of preservation and is thought to be the oldest house in America still occupied by the direct male descendants; it has never been out of the possession of the family.

I have spent ten years of hard work in **digging out** the facts, but I shall feel repaid, if it keeps others of the family out of the labyrinth in which I found myself when I started to clear the record of the Shelton family that a correct history might be handed down to posterity.

## SHELTON NOTES

Since preparing the above article, many facts have come to my knowledge; lack of space will prevent my giving copies of documents, but I will be glad to give any information to all who are interested.

I have copy of will of "Sir Thomas Shelton, Gentleman Porter of Her Majesty's Tower." He died without issue in 1595 and his brother Ralph Shelton succeeded him. This Ralph was knighted in 1607; he married Dorothy Jermyn and was killed at the Isle of Rhe in 1628, not 1602 as stated by "Rye" and "Davy." This Sir Ralph was "minister to Spain and Sec'y to the Prince of Wales," and it was his son James who came to Jamestown June, 1610. Many different spellings of the Shelton name have come to light; for the sake of clarity I will use the correct name in every case.

The Sir Charles Shelton, who commanded the "Coronation" and who went down with his ship in 1691, and his brother Henry, Major Gen'l of His Majesty's Forces, who followed James II to Paris and died there, are registered at Cambridge as "sons of Maurice Shelton, of Norfolk," but they appear in the official records as "Skelton." The coat-of-arms used by the Sheltons in Virginia is given by Burk, in his "Encyclopedia of Heraldry." The earliest records in America are spelled: Shelton, Skelton, Sheldon, Shenton, Sealton, Shersone, Charlton, Chilton, Chelton, and even Yelton (Stafford Co.) Twelve years ago, when I started my work, I could not have believed these to be one family, but they are. I was in error in stating that the Blackwell connections were not in the Shelton family. All descendants of "John Chilton—Miss Ball" who had John and Capt. Thomas who married Jemina Cook are Sheltons; John had no other children by either wife. It was this John (d. 1726) who bought the "Curriomon" estate; the first deed 1704 reads John, Jr., the second 1709, reads John. He left

the Westmoreland estate to Capt. Thos. and to his "elder son John, land in Stafford Co." This John and his wife Ann sued his brother Thos. in 1747 for recovery of part of the land; the record reads "John of Caroline Co. and Ann hjs wife."

Another correction is about Wm. brother of John of "Rural Plains"; this Wm. married Katherine Metting; there was no issue; Wm. died 1727 and his widow married Robert Armistead, son of Capt. Anthony. It was William, eldest son of John of "Rural Plains" who married Hannah Armistead; besides John who inherited "Rural Plains" they had four sons and one daughter. I have never been able to get the official record of the marriage of James (1) and birth of his children, but the descent is indisputable. James may have gone back to England and died there; there is a record in England of a "Mr. James Shelton, Gentleman, aged 29" who died in London about that time. The Sheltons owned ships and were constantly back and forth, but are on record here in Virginia from 1610 to date.

A death of "James Shelton, Gentleman" in Richmond, is given as April 7th, 1735, this was probably the father of John (1) of "Rural Plains." The Daniel Shelton of York Co., Va., referred to as "possibly the son of the Archbishop of Canterbury," was no doubt the Daniel Shelton, born in York Co., Va., in 1668, and who founded the Connecticut family. I have been able to place the "Col. Richard" of Amherst Co., Samuel of Albemarle and Col. Joseph but space prevents my giving data here. I do not know who was the father of the "John Shelton g.son of Sir Ralph" who married Anne, daughter of Peyton Randolph, according to the "Buford Genealogy." The Ball and Lee connections I have found hanging on the Chilton family tree. There is a large Shelton connection in Maryland. The first Skelton to come to Virginia was Josiah, son of Judge Joseph Skelton of Princeton, New Jersey. He died in 1821 in Powhatan Co., his daughter was Mrs. John Williams of Richmond, Va., her son, Mr. Edmund Randolph Williams of Richmond states that he has the Skelton Genealogy and no mention is made of any connection with the Jefferson family, and he has never heard of it.

All of the Skeltons in England and America are entitled to the Shelton history. Nicholas de Shelton of the Norfolk house married in 1215 and bought an estate in Cumberland Co., he was one of the rebeling barons against King John. Only 16 of the Magna Carta barons left descendants, and the Sheltons have direct descent from 14 of these.