

A REPORT
ON THE
First Three Generations
OF THE
SHELBY FAMILY
IN
THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA



To Miss Lucy Goodloe Shelby,
224 Walnut Street,
Lexington, Kentucky.

This is a preliminary report and outline sketch of the first two generations of the Shelby family in America with some mention of the third generation based on my findings among the numerous records in the state land offices and county court houses in Pennsylvania and Maryland. It is not a complete history of the family nor a copy of all those records. I have not been able to discover all that we want to know nor to clear up some of the present mysteries as to our ancestors; but I will give you several recorded facts we didn't have before and in addition will quote from a work called "Notable Southern Families" compiled by Zella Armstrong.* Some of the statements in that book are inaccurate and some contradict each other, so the account as a whole must be accepted with reservations pending proof; but since it gives some information I have been unable to obtain from any other source I quote it for what it is worth. I have also injected into this report my own conclusions and surmises; but these I will frankly present as theories of my own to be accepted or rejected as the reader wishes. At all events, some of the errors of tradition can now be dismissed as such. To aid in following the story I append a sketch map of the counties of Pennsylvania and Maryland along the boundary line between them, indicating thereon the different localities described in the text.

As you know, **EVAN SHELBY, SR.**, was the first of the family to come from Wales. He arrived with his wife Catherine, whose maiden name I am informed was Davies. I have uncovered no direct evidence proving that to be her surname and I think it was probably inferred from those two letters written in the eighteenth century to the Shelbys by two of the Davies family of Wales. We cannot tell now how many children Evan and Catherine brought with them to the colonies and how many if any were born on this side, as the year of birth of only one of them seems to be known with any certainty. The year of emigration is also a matter of doubt and has been stated as 1724, 1730 and 1735. From what I have recently discovered and will touch on below I am now inclined to think that the year 1735 or possibly the one before is the correct date. Certainly it was not later than that. He must have been at least forty-one years old when he came over. The earliest record I have been able to find of Evan Shelby, Sr., the immigrant, is in the "Blunston License Book" in the land office at the Capitol in Harrisburg, Penn'a., and as his migrations were not accidental, but were part of a general movement of peoples and therefore a part of history, we may as well pause to learn what was taking place around him and why. When William Penn started

*Published 1922 by the Lookout Publishing Co., of Chattanooga, Tennessee.

to colonize his newly acquired province some fifty years before Evan Shelby's arrival, or in 1682, although he had been given the territory outright by King Charles, he wisely decided not to settle on any of the land until he had purchased it of the Indians whom he considered the real owners. It was true he did not pay them much, but the Indians were satisfied and the result was a friendly feeling that existed between them and the early inhabitants of the province up to the time of the French and Indian War. The first settlements were in the southeastern corner, largely of English Quakers, followed by a big colony of Welsh Quakers to the westward in what is now Chester County just west of Philadelphia; the latter is still called "The Welsh Tract." Then came the Germans, Swiss and some French with a smattering of English who formed a ring to the north and west into the present counties of Berks, Bucks and Lancaster. This was followed by a wave of Scotch and Irish Protestants, all brought over by Penn's extensive advertising for settlers.

The Irish and Scotch immigration began about 1719 and kept increasing rapidly in numbers, shipload after shipload coming over and entering through the ports of Philadelphia, Chester and Lewes (Del.),* and the territory covered by what is now Lancaster and Dauphin Counties, then old Chester, began to fill up and in six years or so the population had reached the Susquehanna River, where John Harris, an Indian trader, had established his post which afterwards became the city of Harrisburg. By now the region was quite thickly populated and, owing to the inconvenience of having to go so far to Chester on the Delaware to transact their legal business, the county of Lancaster was formed in 1729 from the western part of Chester with Lancaster Town as the county seat. In the meantime Lord Baltimore claimed as the northern boundary of his province a line some fifteen miles north of the present boundary between the two states and this claim was naturally resisted by the Penns and boundary disputes and quarrels began.† By 1730 or '31 the Irish and Scotch and some Germans began crossing the river opposite the site of Harrisburg and settled on land between South Mountain and Kittochtinny Range (see map) in what was then called "North Valley", but now the Cumberland Valley.‡ These settlements were unauthorized by the provincial government because they were on land still owned by the Indians, the purchase of 1682 only going to the river; but they were made with the consent of the Indians with whom the Province was then negotiating a new treaty for purchase. The next year Maryland began granting lands in its own territory west of the South Mountain in what would now be Washington County** and in the same North Valley

*Baltimore did not exist then and was not a port of entry for a number of years later.

†The incident of the activities and arrest of Capt. Thomas Cresap of northern Maryland was one of them. These quarrels lasted for many years and until the Mason-Dixon line was finally run, 1763-7.

‡This continues down into Virginia as the Shenandoah Valley, the great colonizing pathway to the early "south-west".

**Then the center of Prince George's County.

and settlers were induced to go there to make good the claims of Baltimore to the disputed territory.

The Penns became aroused over this menace, and because of this and also because of the urge for providing land for the ever increasing crowd of immigrants, a tentative understanding was had with the Indians to allow for a more rapid settlement of the lands west of the Susquehanna and south of the Kittochtinny or Blue Mountain pending the ratification of the treaty.* The government could not give patents to the land which it did not own, but to legalize and control these settlements, Samuel Blunston, magistrate of Lancaster County, was authorized on January 11, 1733-4 to grant to applicants licenses to take up land on the west side of the great river and in the office of the Secretary of Internal Affairs (Land Department) at Harrisburg, is his original, or one of his original, license books, now nearly two hundred years old.† At the top of page 20 appears this item:

	Person's name	Qty of acres	Situation
[1735] July 4th	Evan Shelby assigned to Humphrey Jones part falls to ye South of Tperary Line	300	at a place (surrounded by Barrenst) called Black Walnut Point, on potow- mac Road** Between Neils's ffriend & Edward Nicholls

On page 21 is the following:

1736 Decem. 16th	Simon Evans	300	Between Edward Nicholls & Evan Shelby on a Spring that Sinking and Riseing again runs into Conegochege at the mouth of Muddy Run.
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and on page 24:

1737 July 25th	Evan Shelby	200	at Rockie Spring near the head of Muddy Run at the Big Meadow on Conegochege
	Thomas Caton	200	at peavine point on Conegochege Creek Joyning to the west side of Evan Shalbys

Just what brought Evan Shelby to this spot we may never know. Friends may have preceded him and written him about it, or the land agents of the province may have arranged for it before he left home or after his arrival on this side.§ My opinion is that he landed at Philadelphia or Chester early in 1735 and was directed to the newly opened territory and moved there with others seeking new homes, some of whom may have been friends or neighbors in the old country. At all events, his selection was a good one, for

*Not signed until 1736.
†Known in this office as Number 64.
‡History says that this valley was nearly treeless at that time; it is far from that now.
**This road was laid out between Harris's Ferry and the Potomac River in 1735.
§In Montgomery Township of Franklin County is a stream and a small settlement called "Welsh Run", three miles to the southeast of Mercersburg and about equal distance from Black Walnut Point. To this place came several Welsh families in the early part of the eighteenth century, forming a community similar to that on the "Welsh Tract" near Philadelphia, but Calvinistic in religion rather than Quaker. They were the Davises, Phillips, Evans, Jones, Williams, Prices, Bowens and others. Among the notes of your mother is an item to the effect that the Davies, Phillips, and Evans families came with Evan Shelby and were related to him in Wales; it would be interesting to find the source of her information—the coincidence is significant. The old Welsh church, ~~second~~ building, is still standing. It has an old cemetery with many unmarked graves.

this part of Pennsylvania together with the present Lancaster county are the two garden spots of the state and famous all over the land as fine farming country.

The land which he secured has had a history, and because of that I have been able to lay my finger right on it. By turning to the map you will note that the exact location is given. It lies at the junction of Muddy Run with Conococheague Creek, or a few hundred feet to the north of the Mercersburg-Waynesboro Turnpike and about a mile and a half west of Greencastle in the present township of Antrim, Franklin County.* It is five miles north of the Maryland (Mason-Dixon) line. The other piece of land, taken up in 1737, lay somewhat to the north and east of it, but I cannot locate it exactly.

Now in Book No. 1, page 121, of the Minutes of the Board of Property of Pennsylvania,† which was a sort of land court in those days, appears an entry of a caveat considered at a meeting of the board on Monday, February 29, 1768, being a claim of a certain William Dean against a certain James Roddy for land then occupied by Roddy. We are not concerned with these people and their dispute, but the minute starts out with the words "Upon hearing it appeared that in the year 1735 Evan Shelby obtained a License from Samuel Blunston, Esq'r deceased (who had then Authority to grant such Licenses) to appropriate & settle 300 A's of Land at a place called Black Walnut Point then in Lancaster now in Cumberland County and that place was afterwards taken in execution and sold by Samuel Smith Sheriff of Lancaster County to one Richard Philips for the Satisfaction of a Debt from the said Evan Shelby," etc., etc. I tried to find the date and account of the Sheriff's sale at Lancaster, but there is none in existence. This is not surprising, as they told me there that their records had been moved several times and no doubt some were lost or put away too carefully. This is not important in itself, but I wanted to see what bearing if any this foreclosure had on our Ancestor's next move. Whether that was due to his financial difficulties or to the restlessness which seemed to pervade the population and kept them moving, we can't of course know; at any rate, at the end of four years from the first settlement we find him over the line in Maryland.

*On April 29th last I was in Chambersburg, Pa., and being within ten miles of this place I decided to go down and take a look at it. In the meanwhile I was told that a Mr. Andrew Gregg McLanahan, Jr., a lawyer in Greencastle, was a man who might know about some of the old places and events of that locality. After talking to him for a while I learned that his father and uncle had been the owners of this very piece of land, having bought it from Mathew StClair Clarke who had purchased it from James Roddy mentioned herein; but what was more interesting was that his father had at one time sold it on mortgage to Sidney Rigdon and his Mormon colony who came east after the massacre of Joseph Smith in Illinois and Rigdon's split with Brigham Young, the latter going west toward Utah while Rigdon moved back east. This colony did not prosper and Mr. McLanahan, Sr., had to foreclose on them and got the property back, so that it is still in their family. While waiting for the train back from Greencastle I walked out and looked at the land. The farmhouse is partly a log building, brick cased, a hundred years old, but Mr. McLanahan told me that an older building had stood at the south-east corner of the present structure, the outlines of the foundation being still visible. I wonder if that might not have been our "first home" in this new world? Mr. O. A. Atherton is the tenant and he told me that the old Mormon graves can still be seen up in the woods along the pike across Muddy Run.

†This is also in print: "Penna. Archives", Third Series, Vol. I, page 215.

The record of him there is very clear and definite, for the Maryland Land Office at Annapolis shows that on June 7, 1739, he had obtained warrants for twelve hundred acres of land, two hundred of which was through reassignment to him of a warrant issued first to Dr. Robert Stuart of Annapolis, the rest of it being issued in Evan Shelby's own name. The first tract called "Rich Lands" patented to him on August 6th, is vaguely described in the records as "near Harris's Waggon Road and the Hunting Creek on the South and East side of Connegocheago Creek about a mile and a half from said creek". The other one of one thousand acres, elongated and irregular of shape, was "Maiden's Choice", which began at the Provincial line and extended southwesterly parallel to the North Mountain* and not far from it, the southern end being about two and a half miles from the site of the village of Clear Spring. Maiden's Choice was patented August 7th. Evan Shelby kept adding to his holdings from time to time and finally possessed twenty-five hundred acres in eleven tracts, or about four square miles. The largest part of it lay along the mountain and north of the present Baltimore and Cumberland pike, or Old National Road, the rest of it in scattered parcels nearer the Potomac River except one tract, "Hunt's Cabin", which was on Licking Creek to the southwest of the Mountain. The bulk of his property therefore was in No. 4 or Clear Spring election district of the present county of Washington, about ten or twelve miles west of Hagerstown (not then in existence†). A description and history of all these lands would make a story in itself which I will leave until another time, merely saying now that Evan Shelby's house in Maryland was near the southern end of Maiden's Choice or nearly opposite the gap between Powell and Johnson Mountains from which Little Conococheague Creek issues. Here Evan Shelby lived for eleven years. By that time the valley had many inhabitants, some from eastern Maryland and some were his old neighbors from over the Pennsylvania line with a very large number of Germans from York County in the latter province. On May 19, 1750, he assigns a piece of land called "The Addition to Maiden's Choice" to his son John‡ and in the Testamentary Proceedings at Annapolis it is recorded that his wife Catherine and son Evan filed a bond on July 19th of that year as administrators of his estate, so he must have died between those

*The name "North Mountain" was used in contradistinction to South Mountain which bounded the eastern side of the valley. The latter is so called to this day. North Mountain was the southern end of Tuscarora Range running up and across Pennsylvania. It is really an offshooting ridge ending in Maryland in a group of very high hills now known by several names, such as Cove, Bear Pond, Powell, Johnson, Boyd and Fairview, the old term having entirely disappeared in the latter part of the last century, and is now scarcely known.

†At the time of Evan Shelby's arrival in Maryland this region was all part of Prince George's County, which then covered the entire western half of Maryland, the county seat being ninety miles or more away at Upper Marlboro. ~~Nine~~ years afterwards, or in 1748, it came under the jurisdiction of the newly formed Frederick County, with the seat at Frederick. Washington County with Hagerstown as its capitol was not formed from Frederick until after the Revolution started, 1776, or several years after the Shelys left the Province. Hagerstown was laid out by Jonathan Hager in 1761 and first named Elizabethtown for his wife.

‡The signature to the notation on the back of the certificate is his own, one of the two originals that I have run across.

two dates.* Letters of Administration as you know were issued to his widow and son on July 18, 1751. Sam Wilson says that he searched carefully at Frederick for an accounting by the Administrators, but they either neglected to file it or the record is lost, for he says that he was unable to find it at all. Since Evan Shelby, Sr., died intestate and no account of the distribution of the property seems to exist, we are thus deprived of a good source of information as to who all of his children were. However, there is left some record of some if not all of his sons, from which we learn that there were at least Evan, Jr., Moses, John, David, Rees and Thomas, six in all. I have found no court house or church records of any daughters and claims for them seem to be based entirely on family records or tradition. Coming then to the children of the immigrants, Evan, Sr., and Catherine, that is the second generation, we have

EVAN SHELBY, JR., who was born in Wales about 1720† and was consequently about fourteen or fifteen when his parents brought him over. When he was twenty-four or five years old he married Letitia, daughter of David and Susanna Cox, who lived on the Potomac River at the junction of Licking Creek. He acquired for himself, mostly by grants from the Proprietary, and some by inheritance, nearly twenty-four thousand acres of land, or about forty square miles. The largest piece was a tract known as the "Resurvey on the Mountain of Wales" lying to the east and south of Maiden's Choice and being an addition to the original "Mountain of Wales" tract of his father; but he also owned properties west of North Mountain. Where his dwelling house was located I am not sure. Scharf's "History of Western Maryland", (Vol. II, page 1292), referring to Indian Spring Dist., states that Evan Shelby's house was accidentally destroyed by fire in December, 1763, mentioning it as near Fort Frederick. This district of Washington County and old Fort Frederick are both west of the mountain, and if taken literally the dwelling was probably near that of his father-in-law, David Cox. On the other hand, in the testimony of a suit for debt instituted against him in 1765 it is brought out that Evan Shelby's house had burned down, but it is also shown that he was then living on land formerly belonging to his father just south of Maiden's Choice. Either Scharf's statement is misleading, or he moved to the last named locality instead of rebuilding on the site of the burned house. The land and chancery court records of him are voluminous, much more so than of any of his brothers. His part in the three wars, his public acts, and his life are quite fully set forth in printed books and pamphlets, so I will leave an account of his doings for another time, as this is not a biography, but merely an attempt at identification.

*Testamentary Proceedings, 1751-2, Book No. 35.

†The iron slab that marks his grave at Bristol, Tenn., reads, "General Evan Shelby, died Dec. 4, 1794, aged 74".

Of his children, his will, dated 1778, six years after his arrival in southwestern Virginia and sixteen years before his death in 1794, names in order his sons John, Isaac, James, Evan and Moses and daughter Catherine Shelby. It is well established that Isaac married Susannah Hart in Kentucky in 1783, and remained there until his death in 1826. Catherine married Capt. James Thompson. From different sources I learn that John married Elizabeth Pile; Evan married his first cousin Catherine Shelby, daughter of his uncle John; Moses married twice, Elizabeth Neal and _____ Renfro; James' wife I haven't found as yet.

From the same sources but unsupported by evidence I learn that there was a daughter Susannah, oldest child, who died young, also a daughter Rachel who married Michael Leggett and had children, a daughter Eleanor who married John Polk and another son James. The Zella Armstrong book suggests that Eleanor was probably the daughter of Isabella Elliott, Evan Shelby's second wife, and in your mother's notes, James, a half-brother of Isaac, is mentioned as having been killed by his horse in 1816. Also in your mother's notes is a quotation from a letter of Isabella Elliott-Shelby to her step-son Isaac in Kentucky written in 1796 saying "your little brother and sisters are at school", all of which would seem to fit the above mentioned Rachel, Eleanor and James.

JOHN SHELBY, son of Evan, Sr. and Catherine. I learn from some of his descendants that he was born in 1724, which, if correct, would mean that he was born in Wales. It is also stated that he married Louisa Looney in 1750.* On May 19th of that year, and just before his father's death, the latter assigned to him the "Addition to Maiden's Choice", as stated on page 5.† This might have been in order to start the young couple in their married life. Whether John and Louisa ever occupied this land or for how long, we don't know; but Dr. Charles Carroll of Annapolis filed a caveat against it, his claim being allowed, and it was patented to Carroll in 1753. After that John appears no more in the Maryland records. By Louisa he seems to have had at least

John, Jr., who married Elizabeth Brigham and had a daughter, Louisa (said by one to have had the middle name of "Looney"). He was living in Sullivan County, Tenn., as late as 1792.

*My authority for the name is from an old letter written by Mrs. Penelope (Brunson) Quarles to Mrs. Richard Clough Thompson stating that she was the daughter of Louisa Shelby, daughter of John Shelby, Jr., and Elizabeth Brigham and granddaughter of John Shelby, Sr., and Louisa Looney. Mrs. Quarles ought to know the name of her grandmother. She states, however, that John, Sr., and Louisa were married in 1768, which is not possible in view of what follows. The date 1750 given by another descendant is more probable. Mrs. Quarles gives John Sr.'s birth date at 1718, but no evidence.

†See endorsement on Surveyor's certificate, Envelope 1890, Land Office Annapolis, Md.

In 1760 the Rev. James Campbell, "late minister of the Gospel in Peters Township, Cumberland County, of the province of Penn'a now resident of Cape Fair in the province of North Carolina" sells to John Shelby, husbandman, of that township a tract of land therein. This land is just over the boundry between Maryland and Pennsylvania and but two or three miles from the northern end of Maiden's Choice. Peters township extended down that far then, but the land is now in Montgomery township of Franklin County. So we see that John had moved up into Pennsylvania to live. This is near or among the Welsh settlement mentioned above. In this settlement nearby and on Welsh Run lived a Welshman by the name of David Davis, son of John, whose wife Catherine was the daughter of Philip Davis, John and Philip being pioneers in the valley with Evan Shelby and possibly related to each other. David Davis made a will dated April 1, 1764 naming his only daughter Sarah Shelby and grandchildren Cathern and David Shelby, both then under age, and to the grandson he bequeathed his land at Welsh Run called "Dividend."* (David Davis died in 1766). In 1772 John Shelby and Robert Smith† obtained jointly a warrant to have their lands, which were contiguous, resurveyed and in the land records at Harrisburg, Pa., it is mentioned that part of the land had been formerly surveyed on a warrant granted to Jas. Campbell in 1754 and included improvements joining to David Davis. On Nov. 6, 1773 John and Sarah Shelby sell land in Montgomery township, from all of which it would appear that Louisa his first wife had died within ten or twelve years of their marriage, and sometime before 1764 he married Sarah Davis, daughter of his neighbor in Penn'a. This is clearly brought out in a deed‡ executed in 1792 whereby David Shelby of Sumner County, Tennessee, through John Shelby, Jr., of Sullivan County, Tennessee, acting as the former's power-of-attorney, sells "Dividend", which the deed says he had inherited from his grandfather, David Davis, by the latter's will dated April, 1764, to Martin Bringman of Hagerstown, Maryland. Now we know that John Shelby, Sr. had a son John, Jr. of Sullivan County, Tenn. and that another son David, moved to Sumner County, Tenn. with his father-in-law, Anthony Bledsoe. By Sarah, therefore, we are sure that John, Sr., had

David, said to have been born 1763, married Sarah, daughter of Col. Anthony and Mary (Ramsey) Bledsoe** and Catherine, who married her first cousin Evan Shelby, 3d. [This contradicts the assertion in the Armstrong book and elsewhere that David and Catherine were the children of Louisa Looney.]

*For which he had obtained a warrant in 1744.

†The original deed is now in possession of Mrs. Christian F. (Virginia Shannon) Fendrick of Mercersburg, granddaughter of William Angle who acquired "Dividend" through purchase and transfer.

**It is also significant that one of David's sons was named David Davies Shelby and another Philip Davies Shelby.

The Armstrong book gives these children also: Evan, Thomas, Isaac and Louisa by Louisa Looney. As the will of David Davis in 1764 does not name these grandchildren and that of his wife Catherine made in 1787* names grandchildren David and Sarah but not these four, the book is likely correct. One of the descendants of John, Sr., states that this daughter's full name was "Louisa Levine" and another that it was "Louisa Levicy"; also that she was born in 1767. If she was Louisa Looney's daughter the date is not correct, and vice versa. Louisa married William McCrab.

John Shelby, Sr., was commissioned a lieutenant in Col. Hugh Mercer's battalion of the Pennsylvania Regiment on May 12, 1759. The next we hear of him is in Washington County, Virginia, to which locality he migrated about 1772-3 when this was Fincastle County, living near his brother, Capt. Evan, Jr., who had moved there about the same time he did. John's plantation was near Abingdon, while Evan's was on the site of the future city of Bristol on the Tenn. side of the line. He took a prominent part in local affairs, was a captain in the military establishment of the county, active against the southern Indians and is mentioned in Summer's "Southwest Virginia", and earlier local histories.

MOSES SHELBY, son of Evan, Sr. and Catherine. The Armstrong book states that he was born in 1718, but the source of the information is not mentioned. When his father entered Maryland in 1739, one of his early selections of land was a tract just west of North Mountain called "Daugherty's Cabin" on Licking Creek, a tributary of the Potomac River. Part of this tract was called "Hunt's Cabin". Later on he gave up the possession of Daugherty's Cabin and returned the certificate to the land office; but Hunt's Cabin he assigned to his son Moses in 1744† with the request that the patent be issued in the latter's name, which was done on October 31st of that year. Probably, as in John's case, the father was giving his son a "wedding present". In his will his wife's name is given as Isabel, but her name appears in no Maryland records. In 1747 Evan Shelby, Sr. leases to Joseph Chapline and Moses Shelby 250 acres of Maiden's Choice and two years afterwards Moses enlarges Hunt's Cabin to three hundred and ten acres. The next we hear of him is on May 15, 1761, when he sells Hunt's Cabin to a David Brown of Frederick County, but the copy of the deed states that he is then of "..... County. South Carolina".‡ The Armstrong book is very positive in its

*This will, on file at Chambersburg, Pa., is witnessed by John Shelby, Jun. and to him were also granted letters of administration on her estate in 1791.

†The assignment is on the surveyor's certificate (envel. No. 1130) over Evan Shelby's own signature.

‡The spelling of the county name is illegible; looks like "Cronavon", but there is no such county. Frederick, Md., Deed Book, G, pages 49-51.

statement that Moses Shelby moved to North Carolina about 1760 and settled on Caldwell's Creek in eastern Mecklenburg County (that part called Cabarrus). His will, dated Sep. 20, 1776, but date of probate not recorded, is on file at Charlotte, N. C. He may have gone to South Carolina first and later moved north to be near his relatives, or the deed mentioned above may have contained a clerical error. He is credited by Zella Armstrong with the following children.*

Thomas, married Sarah Helms; **Mary**, born 1746, married Oliver Wiley in N. C., 1768, died 1822; **Evan**, born 1748, married Susan Polk Alexander in 1769; **Moses, Jr.**, married _____; **Eleanor**, married _____ Carothers; **Margaret**, born 1772, married Oliver Harris, died 1838; **Rachel**; **William**; **John**; **Isabella**; **Catherine**.

THOMAS SHELBY, son of Evan, Sr. and Catherine. Sam Wilson and I failed to find him in any Maryland record, but your mother had a note that there is at Upper Marlboro the record of a bond in 1741 for £60 made by William Clark to Evan Shelby witnessed by Thomas Shelby. Zella Armstrong has it that he was born in 1725 and settled on Caldwell's Creek in the eastern part of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, in 1760. This same statement appears in Foote's "Sketches of Western North Carolina". The Armstrong statement may be copied from Foote. He is said to have died in North Carolina about 1776. Armstrong credits him with four sons, two of whose names are unknown and

Jacob, living, according to the U. S. Census of 1790 in Fayette District of Anson County; also **Thomas**, living in the same district—Foote mentions Thomas and says that he served in Capt. Charles Polk's company at the beginning of the Revolution.

REES SHELBY, son of Evan, Sr. and Catherine. At Upper Marlboro, Md., it is recorded that in 1745 Evan Shelby sells to Rees Shelby a tract of land called "part of the addition to Maiden's Choice". This is apparently the only account of him in Maryland. After that he moved up into Pennsylvania, for in 1750 he is found in the "Little Cove", a small triangular valley just north of the Maryland line where Tuscarora and Cove Mountains join, now known as Warren Township of Franklin County. This was territory that had been forbidden the settlers by the provincial government, as it was west of the temporary line dividing the land purchased from the Indians from that which had not been up to that time. The treaty line of 1736 ran along the top of Blue Mountain to Parnell's Knob and then along Cove Mountain. The settlers in this valley as well as all others west of the line had been warned to leave and some of their cabins were burned down to enforce the order.

*All named in the will.

A petition signed by twenty inhabitants of Little Cove, including Rees Shelby, was sent to Governor James Hamilton and considered at a meeting of the council at Philadelphia July 31, 1750.* The petition recites that the signers had seated themselves on their lands there "purely to defend it from the people of Maryland, and not in contempt of the Laws of the Province of Pennsylvania nor the Governor's Proclamation" and prayed that they might "be permitted to live on our respective Improvements at least until the Temporary Line be extended". The new treaty with the Six Nations permitting settlement west of the line was not signed until 1754. It is not recorded whether Rees Shelby and the others were actually expelled by force as was done in the "Great Cove" and "Path Valley", or remained there under sufferance; more than likely it was the latter, as this little valley was completely isolated from the rest of the Indian territory by the high Tuscarora Mountain and it would probably be thought that the Indians would hardly make any trouble over so small a piece of land so hard for them to reach. At all events, on June 1, 1759, five years after the Province takes over the territory, he secures a warrant from Pennsylvania for one hundred and fifty acres in this valley and 110½ acres were surveyed and returned on September 13th of the next year. On December 10, 1760, he and his wife Mary deed over this farm to their son Evan and no more is heard of them in Maryland or Pennsylvania. The gift of the home land to their son must have been preparatory to his departure for the south, for we find him in North Carolina in 1766 at Clear Creek in Mecklenburg County (the part that is now Cabarrus). Here he is recorded June 7 of that year as a foot soldier in the county militia commanded by Adam Alexander. In 1782 he purchased land in what is now Union County and five years later he went to Chesterfield County, South Carolina, where he died between 1800 and 1812. As the county court house there was burned in 1865, it is not known whether he left a will or not. Children of Rees:

Evan: in 1788 he bought a tract of land from Thomas Davis in the Little Cove called "Darriston". Then he moved to what is now Greene County in the extreme southwestern corner of Penn'a. near his uncle David, from which place he and his wife Mary dispose the next year (Mar. 20th) of the above mentioned land as well as of the farm given him in 1760 by his parents. In a deed on file at Washington, Pa., his wife is described as the widow of the late Adam Newland. It is a question as to whether she was Mary or a second wife. Edna Scroggin (Mrs. Andrew Logan) Anderson of Lincoln, Ill., a descendant of Rees, advises me that he had other sons: **Jonathan, Jacob and Rees, Jr.** and possibly **Thomas, Isaac and Eli.** The first

*Pennsylvania COLONIAL RECORDS, Vol. V, pages 453-4.

three migrated to Tennessee, then passed through Kentucky to Illinois about 1815, Jonathan settling in Edmond County and Jacob and Rees, Jr. in Pope.

In 1796, Enoch Williams, a Welshman living near where Rees lived in Penn'a., makes a will probated in 1805, naming his daughter, Mary Shelby. I am not clear from this and the dates of several deeds whether she was Mary the wife of Rees or Mary the wife of his son Evan.

DAVID SHELBY, son of Evan, Sr. and Catherine. He is first heard of in 1764 when he was a private soldier in Col. Henry Bouquet's punitive expedition into the Ohio country against the Mingoe, Delaware and Shawnee Indians. On May 20, 1765 he buys from his brother, Capt. Evan, 100 acres, part of the "Resurvey on the Mountain of Wales". The next year Evan assigns to him a warrant he had secured for thirty-six acres along the provincial boundary called "Green Spring" and this was patented to David on November 21st. In 1769 he sells two parcels totalling 62 acres. His wife, if he was then married, is not mentioned in the deeds. In 1770 he sells Green Spring to his brother Evan, his wife Elizabeth consenting.

The next account of him is in the Hagerstown land records, 1781, where he is named as "of Westmoreland County, State of Pennsylvania, farmer" and sells to Jacob Seibert of Washington County, Md., blacksmith, part of the Resurvey on the Mountain of Wales, 100 acres, wife not mentioned. Indications are that David was then living at the site of Perryopolis in the northern part of the present county of Fayette. In 1789 he and his son Jonathan are granted by the state two tracts of land of about three hundred acres each on Dunkard's Creek in Dunkard township of the present Greene County. This land is near the west bank of the Monongahela within a few miles of the West Virginia boundary. The farms were called "Cross Keys" and "Validolid". In May 1795 he disposes of much of this land and there is a deed at Waynesburg made by Jonathan as attorney-in-fact for his father conveying still more of these farms, David being mentioned in the indenture as "of New Madrid" (but name of state not given), so David must have migrated still further west in his old age, but to what state we are not now sure. The records at New Madrid, Mo., disclose nothing on this score and no other state in the middle west seems to have a town of that name at the present time. Some of his descendants now living in western Indiana say that their grandfather, Isaac, grandson of David, came to Indiana from Pickaway County, Ohio. New Madrid may have been here; that is a matter for future search. In the 1795 deeds his wife's name appears as Catherine, so he evidently married twice. All of his children are not known, but there is record of at least three:

Jonathan, who seems to have managed the farms with his father. He is thought to have been unmarried, or at least without issue. He died intestate about 1798 and his brother **James** was appointed administrator of his estate. James was born in 1772 and married Hannah Ross in 1796. They had ten children, some of whom migrated westward and some remained in Pennsylvania and have descendants living in that locality today. **David, Jr.**, was a third son. His wife was Mary and they lived nearby on a farm called "Laurel Point" which he sells in 1796. The great-grandfather of the Indiana family was David, son of David, and the indications are that David of Laurel Point went west with his father.*

MARY SHELBY, daughter of Evan, Sr. and Catherine. I find no record of any daughters whom Evan and Catherine may have had, but the Armstrong book states that there was Mary, born 1734, who married Adam Alexander (b. Penn'a. 1728 and d. in Mecklenburg Co., N. C., 1798). He was one of the promoters of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. It appears as though they also were of the colony who left the Cumberland Valley for the Cape Fear or Rocky River district, North Carolina, about 1760. Mary died in 1813. One of her descendants states that her name was Sarah, thus bringing on another controversy. Her children were:

Evan Shelby A., graduate of Princeton College in 1787, lawyer and member of Congress from the Salisbury district, N. C., died 1809, **Isaac A.**, **Charles Taylor A.**, **Sarah A.** and **Mary A.**

RACHEL SHELBY also is presented as a daughter of Evan, Sr. by Maude M. (Mrs. R. A.) Lough, of Morgantown, West Virginia, but she has no supporting evidence. She claims descent from Rachel and says that she married first Capt. John McFarland of Philadelphia, a sea captain, and secondly, Capt. Phillip Pindall (an army title), her descent being from the Pindall marriage.

The Armstrong book, and I have also seen it elsewhere printed, mentions another daughter, not named, as having married Joseph Chapline. Chapline lived near the present town of Sharpesburg and he and Evan Shelby, Jr., were intimately acquainted; but according to Mrs. Fendrick of Mercersburg, Pa., Joseph Chapline married Ruhama Williams, daughter of William Williams, and the will of the latter on file at Frederick, Md., dated 1759, names a granddaughter Ahatamah Chapline and appoints his son-in-law, Joseph Chapline as one of his executors. I have run across nothing to prove or even indicate that Joseph' Chapline also married a Shelby.

*The PENNSYLVANIA ARCHIVES record Eli, Joshua and Michael Shelby of this locality and period. I feel that they are probably sons or grandsons of David, Sr., or possibly sons of Rees's son Evan.

This item appears among your mother's notes: "On the back of a note Eleanor paid six shillings, 1756." The date would indicate either a daughter or a daughter-in-law of Evan Shelby, Sr., though I have not met with her in the records. Some publications have attempted to name her as a daughter and married to a Polk, but the Polk data given rather indicates that the Eleanor referred to was of a later generation.

Also among your mother's papers is a note mentioning Joseph Shelby, a surveyor and a bachelor, as a possible son of Evan, Sr. and Catherine and in addition she had a letter from a Daniel B. Seibert of Clear Spring, Maryland, written in 1897, who stated that he was then nearly seventy-two years old, that his people had lived for nearly a hundred and fifty years on land next to that of the Masons above Clear Spring and that there was a traditional story among the people around there as to the existence of this Joseph. According to the story Joseph lived with the Masons and died there and was buried on the land, but the grave had become obliterated. The Mason land was then in possession of Freeland Ankeny. It could well be that there was such a son, but since no written evidence has turned up to prove him and it would be strange that a surveyor would not have left some record, considering the importance of that occupation in those days, and as Evan, Sr., lived and died and was no doubt buried where Mr. Seibert indicates the grave of Joseph to have been, I am more inclined to think that it was our first ancestor himself with the name changed that has become of local tradition; or it might be that Joseph, if he did exist, was a grandson. It is a fact that the Mason lands were originally Evan Shelby's. The Seibert and Ankeny families were part of the German migration from Pennsylvania. Their graves are in the yard of old St. Paul's Lutheran Church on the National Highway some two miles east of Clear Spring. This land was originally the southern part of the Resurvey on the Mountain of Wales, belonging to Evan Shelby, Jr.

Commenting on the other notes of your mother, those I saw in Lexington and the ones repeated to me in your letter of February 20th last, I would say that she was in the main correct in much of her information, but was naturally handicapped in her interpretation of some of it by unfamiliarity with local history and geography. I recognized much of this data as I came across it. I think too that some persons must have sent her several statements without proof and have given her merely their surmises in the place of facts, a natural tendency. For instance, she has a statement to the effect that the Shelbys came to Pennsylvania before 1728. That could be correct, but it would be interesting to learn what her informant had based that conclusion on. It is true that traces of them are found in Franklin and Cumberland Counties, but not in the present

Lancaster or in Dauphin or York Counties, and those that are found refer to the first Evan and some of his descendants and not to any prior generation. This applies particularly to the names found in The Pennsylvania Archives.

I can find no account in these two states of a Wiley or a Campbell marrying daughters of Evan, Sr.; but the will of his son Moses in North Carolina, describing land bequeathed to the latter's son, Thomas, says that it begins near Oliver Wylie run and farther along Moses makes a bequest to "his beloved daughter Mary Wylie" and names Oliver Wylie as one of his executors. It is thus seen that Wylie married a granddaughter, not a daughter of Evan Shelby, Sr. The Armstrong book states that Mary and Oliver were married in 1768 and that Mary had been born in 1746. The Bond from Aaron Riley of Cumberland Co., Pa., to Evan Shelby of Frederick Co., Md., was merely routine business and has no genealogical significance.

"Members of the Cox family named Warford living in Bethel Township". We know from the will of David Cox, father-in-law of Capt. Evan Shelby, Jr., that his daughter Mary married a Warford and among the land records at Bedford, Pa., I ran across many Warford deeds, all of whom were mentioned as of Bethel Township, which has since become part of the newer Fulton County* and lies along the Mason-Dixon line but two miles north of Hancock, Md. (the narrowest part of that state). There is a town in that township now called Warfordsburg.

"The Welsh Presbyterians in Chester County, 1710." I find no historical reference to such, though as stated above there was a large colony of Welsh Friends or Quakers in that county, nor do the county records contain the name of Shelby. I am wondering if your mother's reference would not better fit the small community of Welsh Presbyterians in southern Cumberland (Franklin) County which I mentioned above. W. H. Egle's "Pennsylvania Genealogies" I am familiar with; there is nothing of interest to us there. Harris & Johnson's "Reports of Maryland" and Petherbridge's "Maryland Colonial Wills" I have been unsuccessful in locating.

At Hagerstown, Md., is recorded the will of Andrew Blair, a neighbor of the Shelbys, who died in 1796 at the age of 107. In this will he mentions a daughter "Mary Shilvy" whom some of his descendants say married John Shelby. I am not ready to accept that statement; there is too much against it.

Shelby Coat-of-Arms. An inquiry which I made of the Herald's College at London, England, brought the very positive reply that there are no arms registered there for this name. As this is the official bureau created by the English government in 1483 for

*Carved out of Bedford County in 1850.

granting and recording family arms and no family in the British Empire may bear arms without its sanction or confirmation, its statement must be accepted as final. It has been thought by some in America, and a family in Wales by the name of Shelby have such a tradition, that we are an offshoot of the English family of Selby, one of whose members entered Wales many years ago, his descendants intermarrying with their Welsh neighbors and the name finally becoming corrupted by the native tongue into the present form. This seems likely and there is some indication of it; but it still remains to be proven, and even if found to be true, we would still have to prove that our first Welsh ancestor was of the line of that particular Selby to whom arms had been granted or confirmed before we could lay claim to those Selby arms.

There is strong reason to believe that the early Shelbys were not members of the established church, but were non-conformists and very probably Presbyterians. Claim has been made by some members of the family and even put in print that our line were Cromwellites, that their lands were confiscated by reason of opposition to the party of restoration and that that led to the emigration of Evan Shelby to America. Now I have found nothing to either prove or disprove this statement; but it naturally brings up the point that no one now living in America could have such knowledge unless based on some document or written evidence handed down from that time, and having that, he must also know who the persons were that were involved and the circumstances. So far I can find no one owning to the authorship of the statement or able to produce such evidence, and I am more inclined to think that it is an opinion based on the present day popular conception that all those Protestants who settled in the Shenandoah Valley, especially those that came over with the big emigration from Scotland and Ulster, were persecuted Covenanters who fled from home for religion's sake. Many of them did just this at certain periods; but it is a mistake to think that all did or that that was the sole reason for coming.

Another but somewhat contradictory statement coming apparently from the same source is that Evan Shelby was possessed of considerable wealth when he arrived. What that is based on I do not know. No record today discloses it; but if it is thought to have been so because he owned so much land in Maryland, we can safely say that that alone is no evidence. In the first place, the three hundred acres he obtained license for in Pennsylvania were no more or less than that allotted to most of the others who settled in that Valley with him and who had come in answer to Penn's advertisements; while the grants in Maryland, large as they were, could be obtained for a comparatively small fee, Lord Baltimore being desirous of populating his colony and offering land for nominal fees to bring this about. Baltimore's hope of great income lay more in the annual quit rents or land tax he received from

going plantations rather than from the sale of the land. The Annapolis records show many settlers each securing very large acreage of uncultivated land in central and western Maryland and at very little cost. Payments were made in many cases in goods, tobacco and other produce and not much in cash. What the immigrants seemed to need then more than wealth was a willingness to live in the wilderness, to endure great hardships and even dangers and be satisfied to work hard to make their lands pay. That Evan Shelby had sufficient means to pay for his passage, move many miles inland and pay his fees and that he and his family prospered on their farms is evident; but that they did or did not "come with great wealth" nobody today can say.

Now we might look over the events that were transpiring in the British Isles at this particular period of their history so as to have a basis of fact and not fancy on which to form our opinions as to the reason for Evan Shelby's coming to this new land. In the first place, it was some seventy-five years before his leaving Wales, or when Cromwell died and Charles II gained the throne in 1660, that the Roman Catholic element of the population got back their power and began to revenge themselves on the Cromwellites or Puritans. As dates go, that member of the family who would then be in active adult life and the one to have incurred the hatred of the new rulers if he did anything to bring it on, would likely have been Evan Shelby's great-grandfather, so that the effect of anything that might have occurred to him in the way of punishment would likely have worn off by 1735, especially in view of the events that followed. It is true that the laws of King Charles II and King James II during the next twenty-five years discriminated greatly against the Irish Protestants, handicapping their trade and impoverishing the northern Irish or Ulstermen and this drove many to America to gain freedom from such persecution and to keep from starving; but the so called Revolution which drove out the Stewarts and placed William and Mary of Orange on the throne put a stop to all that. From then on, while differences of opinion on religious questions continued to exist and bitterness of feeling would flare up between factions, the people were beginning to show an aversion to theological strife and there even followed a period of revolt against religion and a general indifference to all questions of religious speculation and religious life. This state of affairs continued up to the time of the great revival brought on by the Methodists in the middle of the next century and would hardly be conducive to a persecution that would drive anyone from home for that cause alone. In 1721, Robert Walpole, the first of England's great peace ministers, came into full power and under his guidance there sprung up a great commercial prosperity throughout the kingdom such as England had never seen before. This was shared by the colonies and trade and population increased accordingly. This was the beginning of the manufacturing era.

Such was the situation in 1735 when Evan Shelby decided to "go out" to the colonies. He may have been a theological enthusiast who desired to go with others to a place where there was no established church and his particular form of belief was in the ascendancy; but it is certain that at that time it wasn't because of the prevalence of religious intolerance or land seizures, as that had not existed since his grandfather's day. He may have been under economic pressure; but if so, that would be more likely from some personal cause rather than from a general financial depression. It would seem more likely that he came because the colonies had by that time become a great land of promise for material betterment and he, like many others, felt simply that they could better their fortunes and satisfy their ambitions by making this move. Ambition, not pressure, has been the main-spring of many such movements since that time.

The term "Evan Dhu Shelby". I have searched in vain both for the authority for and the author of this designation which has been given to the immigrant ancestor. I meet with it in my correspondence, but no one who passes it on seems to know how it originated. I can say positively that it does not appear in any public record in the states of Maryland or Pennsylvania and the two original signatures of Evan Shelby in the Maryland Land Office are without the "dhu". That is an old Gaelic term meaning "black" which was used long ago in some Welsh and Scotch names and I am afraid some one's imagination has applied it to our first Evan. It is unfortunate that it has been set forth in print; sounds romantic, I suppose.

There is just one more point and then I will close this report. Cousin Sue seems to have found a Lewis Shelby in Virginia in 1728, leaving descendants, and the will of a John Shelby of Queen Anne's County, Maryland (Eastern Shore) who died in 1754 leaving a wife Elizabeth and children John, Moses, Rebeckah and Ann. I cannot connect either of these two with the Shelbys of Frederick County, Md. If their male descendants continue to survive, then there would seem to be three different lines of the name in this country today.

CASS K. SHELBY.

Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania,
December 10, 1927.

EVAN S.
(1. Letitia Cox)
(2. Isabella Elliott)

--(1) SUSANNAH
--(1) JOHN=Eliz. Pile
--(1) ISAAC=Susanna Hart
--(1) JAMES
--(1) EVAN=Cath. Shelby
--(1) MOSES=1. Eliz. Neal
2. _____ Renfro
--(1) CATHERINE=Jas. Thompson
--(2?) JAMES
--(2?) RACHEL=Michael Leggett
--(2?) ELEANOR=John Polk

JOHN S.
(1. Louisa Looney)
(2. Sarah Davis)

--(1) JOHN=Eliz. Brigham
--(2) DAVID=Sarah Bledsoe
--(2) CATHERINE=Evan Shelby
--() EVAN
--() THOMAS
--() ISAAC
--() LOUISA=Wm. McCrab

MOSES S.
(Isabella _____)

--THOMAS=Sarah Helms
--MARY=Oliver Wylie
--EVAN=Sue Polk Alexander
--MOSES=_____
--ELEANOR=_____ Carothers
--MARGARET=Oliver Harris
--RACHEL
--WILLIAM
--JOHN
--ISABELLA
--CATHERINE

REES S.
(Mary _____)

--EVAN=Mary _____
--JONATHAN
--JACOB=
--REES
--THOMAS (?)
--ISAAC (?)
--ELI (?)

THOMAS S.
(_____)

--JACOB=_____
--THOMAS=_____
--A SON
--A SON

DAVID S.
(1. Elizabeth _____)
(2. Catherine _____)
(~~3. Mary~~ *Marris*)

--() JONATHAN
--() JAMES=Hannah Ross
--() DAVID=Mary Williams

MARY S.
(Adam Alexander)

--EVAN SHELBY A.
--ISAAC A.
--CHAS. TAYLOR A.
--SARAH A.
--MARY A.

RACHEL S. (?)
(1. John McFarland)
(2. Philip Pindall)

ELEANOR S. (?)

(This chart accompanies report of
C. K. Shelby to Lucy G. Shelby of
December 10 1927.)



