

1 Squirrel Lane
East Greenwich, RI 02818
January 2, 1992

Baptist Records Department
Smith Reynolds Library
Winston Salem, North Carolina 27102

Gentlemen:

Since my mother's death in 1987, I have been trying to gather information about my family history, which is very sketchy at best. Since one of the documents I have obtained suggests that my grandfather was a minister, and since my mother and her two brothers were placed in the Thomasville Baptist Orphanage, I thought he may have been a Baptist minister, and there may be information in your records which could assist me in my search.

My grandfather was Noah Alexander Shelley, and it appears he was born, and spent most of his life, in North Carolina. I do not know his place or date of birth, but according to the U.S. Census of 1900, he was residing in Onslow County at that time.

My grandmother was Annie W. Hand and she apparently married Noah on March 25, 1896. Their three children (Naomi Sessoms Shelley--possibly spelled "Naima"--born June 28, 1897; John C. Shelley, born July 30, 1898; and Paul Shelley, born July 30, 1900) were placed in the Thomasville Baptist Orphanage on June 18, 1906. By that time, it appears that my grandmother and grandfather were divorced, and she had re-married, since she signed the application as "Mrs. Annie Shelley George".

I am enclosing a copy of pertinent documents which have been forwarded to the North Carolina State Archives, with a request for any assistance they may be able to provide. If there is any information you can provide, which you feel might assist me in finding any relatives which might still be living, or might just allow me to fill in some blanks in my family's history, I would be most appreciative. If there is a fee associated with this research, I would be glad to send the required payment.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Shelley Smith Beale

Shelley Smith Beale

1 Squirrel Lane
East Greenwich, RI 02818
January 2, 1992

North Carolina State Archives
109 East Jones Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

Re: Naomi Sessoms Shelley (Smith)
Date-of-birth: June 28, 1897

Gentlemen:

Since my mother's death in 1987, I have been trying, with little success, to learn something of her family's background, in order to determine if I have any surviving relatives. Being an only child, this is very important to me, and I intend to persist in my efforts until I have exhausted all potential avenues. I am enclosing copies of recent correspondence to and from the following sources:

1. Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, Inc. (formerly Thomasville Baptist Orphanage), including application for admission for my mother and her two brothers, and miscellaneous orphanage records.
2. Register of Deeds of New Hanover County, Wilmington, North Carolina.
3. Register of Deeds of Bladen County, Elizabethtown, North Carolina.
4. Bladen County Board of Education, Elizabethtown, North Carolina.
5. U.S. Census Schedule (1900) for Onslow County, North Carolina.
6. Register of Deeds of Onslow County, Jacksonville, North Carolina.

Based upon the above bits and pieces, I have been able to tentatively put together the following summary, the accuracy of which is in doubt:

1. My mother was born in North Carolina on June 28, 1897, and was named Naomi (possibly spelled "Naima") Sessoms Shelley.
2. Her father was Noah Alexander Shelley (date and place of birth unknown; date of death believed to be July 6, 1924). In 1906, he was apparently a minister.
3. Her mother was Annie W. Hand, and she is believed to have married Noah Alexander Shelley on March 25, 1896. By 1906, she had apparently divorced and re-married, her signature now reading Mrs. Annie Shelley George. Her date and place of birth and/or death are not known.
4. On June 18, 1906, Naomi was placed in the Thomasville Baptist Orphanage by her mother, along with my mother's

North Carolina State Archives
January 2, 1992
Page two

two brothers: John C. Shelley (date of birth believed to be July 30, 1898), and Paul Shelley (date of birth believed to be July 30, 1900).

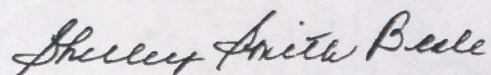
5. My mother was apparently discharged from the orphanage July 6, 1916; John was discharged on July or August 16, 1916; and Paul, on March 12, 1916.

My mother was never willing to talk about her family, and while I recall her mentioning a brother, I did not learn of the second brother until the orphanage records were sent to me in 1989. Her "brothers" and "sisters" in the family which raised her, following her departure from the orphanage, were apparently either too young to know the details of her life prior to 1916, or were unable to recollect the facts, due to their ages in 1987 and later.

The purpose of this letter is to seek advice as to what course of action would be most likely to produce information about any of my mother's relatives, particularly those who might still be living. I recognize that, more than likely, both of my uncles are deceased by now, but they may have surviving children who would be my first cousins, and such a discovery would be very fulfilling.

Since it would appear that many of the negative responses received from cities and towns in North Carolina, may have been due to the fact that they may not have records which go back to, or before, the turn-of-the-century, I thought you might be able to suggest a procedure for researching the Archives. I understand that there will likely be a fee for obtaining this information, and I also recognize that there may be no alternative for me but to seek the assistance of a Licensed Genealogist. Your suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,



Shelley Smith Beale



BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES OF NORTH CAROLINA, INC.

Michael C. Blackwell, President

September 14, 1989

Mrs. Lloyd L. Beale
1 Squirrel Lane
E. Greenwich, Rhode Island 02818

Dear Mrs. Beale:

At the request of Mrs. Elizabeth Barnette, I am enclosing with this letter copies of documents from the Shelley microfiche file. I wish more information were available, but most records going back as far as this one are very sketchy at best. Even so, perhaps there will be a few bits of information that will be enlightening to you.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Stump, ACSW
Coordinator of Social Work

RRS:mew

Enclosures

cc: Mrs. Elizabeth Barnette

Form for mat. ins.

988

PAD COPY

APPLICATION FOR ADOPTION

Thomasville Baptist Orphanage

1. Give the full name, date of birth, month and day, each orphan.
Naoma Jerome Shelley, John C. Shelley
Paul Shelley, June 25, 1912, July
20, 1914, July 20, 1900

2. Give the father's name and date of death.
Rev. Mark Alex Shelley, died July 1900

3. Give the mother's name and date of death.
Annie Shelley

4. When were the parents married? Mar 25, 1886

5. How much property do the orphans own, or will inherit? About
\$7000 in House

6. Are the orphans sound in body? Yes

7. Are they sound in mind? Yes

8. Have the orphans been exposed to any contagious disease? No

9. Are they addicted to eating dirt, or to any scandalous vice? No

10. Does the person having present control of the orphans honestly promise not to annoy the Orphanage in any way, and not to encourage said orphans to leave until they are 16 years old? Yes

11. What is their present address? Hillsborough N.C.

12. What is their nearest railroad depot? Hillsborough

13. About the day or date the orphans will be ready to start

14. Give a reference two prominent citizens in the community, not related to the orphans.

(Sign here) Mrs Annie Shelley George
Witness J. A. McLaughlin

Date July 29, 1906

NOTE - Railroad pass children under six years of age free and under twelve
our half fare. We can secure one-cent-a-mile rates, but we have to make special
application in each case, and to cash road over which they travel

File Number.....90.....

Name of Child.....Naomi Sessions Shelley.....

Notes Relative to Child

Naomi Sheely entered the Orphanage June 8, 1906 with her brothers, John and Paul.

After completing the tenth grade she went July 6, 1916 to live in the home of Rev. G.T. Lumpkin, Suffolk, Va. After completing the high school in Suffolk she entered Hospital for training and completed the course. After completing the course she held an important position in the same hospital.

In May, 1923 at the opening of the new Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem she accepted position there.

Surname Shelley		Woman Annie		Man Noah Alex		Key No. 468 ✓	
Birthplace		Born	Social Status	Occupation		Date First Appli.	
M							
F							
Cross Reference				Applicat			
Children		Birthplace	Born	Entered	Discharged	Ind No.	
Naomi Sessoms		468-A	6-28-17	6-18-06	7-6-16	988	
John C.		468-B	7-30-28	6-18-06	7-16-16	989	
Paul		468-C	7-30-30	6-18-06	3-12-16	990	
Address		Date	Address		Date		
New Hanover Co.							



BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES OF NORTH CAROLINA, INC.

Michael C. Blackwell, President

August 8, 1991

Mrs. Lloyd L. Beale
1 Squirrel Lane
E. Greenwich, Rhode Island 02818

Dear Mrs. Beale:

We have taken another look at the microfiche file of the Shelley family. Our findings agree with September 14 and 21, 1989, correspondence to you, which indicated that you were sent all the information we have about your mother and her family.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Stump, ACSW
Coordinator of Social Work

RRS:mew

Paul Shelley, July 20, 1991

1 Squirrel Lane
East Greenwich, RI 02818
June 29, 1991

Office of the City Clerk
City of Wilmington
Wilmington, North Carolina 28401

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am attempting to find some information about my mother, who died in 1987, and her family, including two brothers whom I did not know she had. Would you please send copies of the following information?

1. Long Form Marriage Record

Noah A. Shelley to Annie W. Hand (March 25, 1896)

2. Long Form Death Record

Noah A. Shelley (July 6, 1924)

3. Long Form Birth Records

Naomi Sessoms Shelley (June 28, 1897)

John C. Shelley (July 30, 1898)

Paul Shelley (July 30, 1900)

I am enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope, assuming that total weight of the information will not exceed 2 ounces. I will send you a check, by return mail, upon receipt of the amount due. If you cannot process this request without advance payment, I would appreciate your letting me know the total amount due, and I will send you a check immediately.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Shelley S. Beale

Shelley S. Beale

**Register Of Deeds Of New Hanover County
Wilmington, N. C. 28401-4087**

MRS. REBECCA P. TUCKER
REGISTRAR

July 10, 1991

Shelley S. Beale
1 Squirrel Lane
East Greenwich, RI 02818

Dear Ms. Beale:

We are in receipt of your request for a copy of the marriage license for Noah A. Shelley and Annie W. Hand, a copy of the death certificate for Noah A. Shelley, and copies of the birth certificates for Naomi Sessoms Shelley, John C. Shelley and Paul Shelley.

We have searched our records and are unable to locate any of the above mentioned certificates.

If you would like to contact one or more of the below mentioned people, one of them may be able to help you.

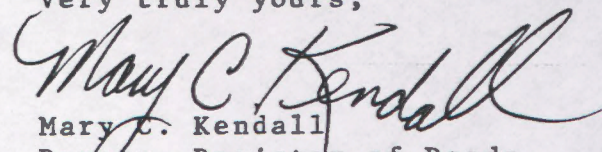
Mrs. Judy Thompson
6104 Murrayville Road
Wilmington, NC 28405
Phone: 919-791-1747 or 919-392-7219

Jane B. Bailey
341-11 S. College Road, Suite 191
Wilmington, NC 28403-1617
Phone: 919-686-4312 or 919-452-0711

Beverly Tetteron
New Hanover County Library
Local History/Genealogy
Phone: 919-341-4394

If we can be of further assistance, do not hesitate to write or call.

Very truly yours,


Mary C. Kendall
Deputy, Register of Deeds

/mck

1 Squirrel Lane
East Greenwich, RI 02818
July 15, 1991

Register of Deeds of Bladen County
City of Elizabethtown
Elizabethtown, NC 28337

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am attempting to find some information about my mother, who died in 1987, and her family, including two brothers whom I did not know she had. Would you please send copies of the following information?

1. Long Form Marriage Record

Noah A. Shelley to Annie W. Hand (March 25, 1896)

2. Long Form Death Record

Noah A. Shelley (July 6, 1924)

3. Long Form Birth Records

Naomi Sessoms Shelley (June 28, 1897)
John C. Shelley (July 30, 1898)
Paul Shelley (July 30, 1900)

I am enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope, assuming that total weight of the information will not exceed two ounces. I will send you a check, by return mail, upon receipt of the amount due. If you cannot process this request without advance payment, I would appreciate your letting me know the total amount due, and I will send you a check immediately.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Shelley S. Beale
Shelley S. Beale

Memorandum

From the office of Ava H. Edwards, Register of Deeds, Bladen County, Elizabethtown, N.C. 28337

Shelley, I have checked our births, deaths and marriage records and we do not have any of these in Bladen County. Sorry I cannot be of any help to you at this time.

Our Aim == The Best Possible Service

AVA H. EDWARDS, REGISTER

Ava H. Edwards

Children: Naomi, George, Shelley, Mary, etc.

1 Squirrel Lane
East Greenwich, RI 02818
July 29, 1991

Bladen County Board of Education
Elizabethtown, North Carolina 28337

Gentlemen:

In attempting to learn more of my mother's family (she died in 1987 without divulging much about her background), I have discovered that she and her two brothers were placed in the Thomasville Baptist Orphanage in Thomasville, North Carolina on June 8, 1906, where they resided until 1916, when they were discharged on three different dates.

On my birth certificate, my mother listed her place of birth as Bladenborough, North Carolina. However, the Bladen County Register of Deeds has no record of the births, deaths or marriage I requested from her. I thought possibly my mother may have been born in another county and moved to Bladen County at a very young age, attending school there until she was placed in the orphanage, just prior to her ninth birthday.

Would you please research your records and send me any information you might have about my mother, her two brothers and their parents? Their names and dates of birth are as follows:

Parents: Noah Alexander Shelley (dob unknown)
Annie Williams Hand (dob unknown)

Children: Naomi Sessoms Shelley (June 28, 1897)-my Mother
John C. Shelley (July 30, 1898)
Paul Shelley (July 30, 1900)

I am enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope for your use. If there is a fee for this service, I will send it to you by return mail, once you let me know the amount. If you cannot return the information without advance payment, please let me know the amount at your earliest convenience, and I will immediately send you payment.

Sincerely,

Shelley S Beale
Shelley S. Beale

Sorry we are unable to help you. We have no records available on anyone dating back that far. If we can be of further assistance please do not hesitate to let us hear from you.

Bladen County Schools
Elizabethtown, NC 28337

[illegible]

1 Squirrel Lane
East Greenwich, RI 02818
December 14, 1991

Register of Deeds of Onslow County
Jacksonville, NC 28540

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am attempting to find some information about my mother, who died in 1987, and her family, including two brothers whom I did not know she had. Would you please send copies of the following information?

1. Long Form Marriage Record *don't have any record.*
Noah A. Shelley to Annie W. Hand (March 25, 1896)
2. Long Form Death Record
Noah A. Shelley (July 6, 1924) *don't have this one.*
3. Long Form Birth Records
Naomi Sessoms Shelley (June 28, 1897) } *We do not have*
John C. Shelley (July 30, 1898) } *any record of*
Paul Shelley (July 30, 1900) } *birth prior to 1911.*

I had previously been led to believe that my mother had been born in Bladen County, but information received from the Census Bureau indicated that she resided in Onslow County in 1900, and it appears that her first name may have been spelled "Naima".

I am enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope, assuming that the weight of the information will not exceed two ounces. I will send you a check, by return mail, upon receipt of the amount due. If you cannot process this request without advance payment, I would appreciate your letting me know the total amount due, and I will send you a check immediately.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Shelley S. Beale

Shelley Smith Beale

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

"At our last Association your committee called Bro. N. A. Shelly to serve the churches at Hallsville, Sharon, Cedar Fork, and Maple Hill. Faithfully did he present the message till the Master in His wisdom, called him to final reward, on July the 6th, 1904."

EASTERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION MINUTES, 1904, page: 6

206.9756/M66ea

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON
OBITUARIES

ELDER N. A. SHELLEY, a faithful missionary in the Eastern Association. He died at his post on July 6, 1904.

N. C. Baptist State Convention Annual, 1904, page: 76

206.9756/M66

SHELLEY, NOAH ALEXANDER, Catherine Lake, N. C.---Born,
Marion Co., S. C.; Stud. Marion, S. C.; H. Sch., Burgaw,
N. C.; Lic. 1893, Friendship Ch.; Ord. Oct. 24, '95,
Olivet Ch., S. C.; P. Olivet, Haw Bluff, Bethlehem,
Bethel, Jacksonville, Berea, Emmaus Chapel, Catherine
Lake, Rose Hill, Maple Hill, Bear Branch.

BAPTIST MINISTERIAL DIRECTORY, page 658
Geo. W. Lasher, Ed.

920/L33

NAME

Els. N. A. Shiley

b.
d.

1904

Ancestry

Married

b.

d.

Ancestry

Record

Burgaw

1900

See

Wilmington Assoc. Minutes - 1904

Wilmington Baptist Association Minutes, 1904

File No.

(Over)