

11 Feb 2003
5518 Revere Drive,
Salt Lake City, Utah, 84117

Scott Kirk
13902 Possum Tree Rd.
San Antonio, Tex., 78232

& Stephen Kirk
4414 W. 111th Terrace,
Lenwood, Kansas, 11211

Dear Scott & Stephen:

Since Scott was my original client and he authorized that Stephen and I could exchange data to work on the last ancestry off the Kirk's I am sharing therefore, the latest data and my conclusions about the matters with you both in a single report. To review all the materials that Stephen sent in his last two letters to me and then go to Scot's research notes and his letters and E-Mails to me took a couple of days, but didn't want to charge for a rehash of materials already on file. However, would appreciate the standard fee that Scott authorized me to work when he has me doing his research. (4 hours, at his going rate)

First of all Bute county was organized in 1764 and then was discontinued as a county in 1779 at which time it was then called Warren county which it is called today. Granville was organized as a county in 1746 from Edgecombe county. Halifax county was formed in 1754 from Edgecombe county. Orange county was formed in 1752 from counties of Granville, Bladen & Johnston. Chatham was formed in 1770 from Orange and Caswell was formed in 1777 from Orange. Vance county which on a map is between Warren and Granville wasn't organized as a county until 1881 from counties of Granville, Franklin & Warren. Granville and Warren counties border Virginia while Chatham is a mid central county with Orange county one of bordering counties to the north.

I cite this data from the Handybook for Genealogists, 6th edition by Everton Publishers to point out the vast area in North Carolina where early Kirk heads of families lived bought & sold land, were on tax lists, and in probate records largely. Earliest church record extant at library for Orange county is a quaker record and your Kirk's weren't mentioned there. The Presbyterian church has an archive at Monteat, North Carolina which could be checked for you if you wish. However, the problem in checking for their records is that you have to have the name of the church before they could make a locality search to see if your ancestors might have married, christened or died in their churches. I did search the counties histories of the main counties where your ancestors might have lived in Chatham, Caswell, Orange and Granville and didn't find record of a Presbyterian church early enough to zero in on vital stats for your Stephen.

If he were a Church of England(now called Episcopal church) member I have already checked what abstracts we have at the library and many of their original colonial records were not

kept, destroyed, or are missing. This has been very frustrating.

Therefore, first of all to see if any possible clues for you with the thought of a possible Kirk-Shearin/Sherrin connection I reviewed Stephen's good photocopies and then his thoughts about his middle name and what family members had told him.

I am enclosing for each of you photocopies from the 1790 census print by the U. S. Government Printing Office, FHL #975.6X2r, to show you where the names were most dominant at that time frame. If your Stephen was a child and living at home at that time he would not have been a head of family. 4 pgs. each photocopies, plus handwritten reference on back of last sheet referring to only Chatham county reference data. Pg. 86 Hillsborough Distr., Chatham shows Joseph above 16, 2 sons under 16 and 4 females(which could include his wife). In Halifax Distr., Halifax county note an Isaac Kirk with a large family including a son above 16, 2 sons under 16 and 5 females(one likely his wife).

In Warren county(formerly Bute county) in that 1790 census we have all the Shearin/Sharen names. Warren county at that time was bordering Halifax county and both of them bordered Virginia to the North. Twelve heads of families in Warren by that Sherin/Shearin surname. Final page of 1790 photocopying for your reference is Hillsborough Distr., Orange county, which doesn't give actual census data just the names of those in the county at that time, James, Wm., and Lewis Kirk. Orange county borders Chatham to the north.

I then did the statewide census Index for North Carolina 1800 by Accelerated Indexing, FHL # 975.6X2p, to see if the Joseph's were still in North Carolina and other Kirks as stated above. Ages are given as in original census. First columns males - 2 column females. Ages beginning with first columns, under 10,10/16;16/26;26/45; and 2nd column women same ages - final 3rd column refers to count of slaves, male and females but no ages cited for them. Note a Joseph Kirks in Chatham who is 45 up in 1800, or born abt 1755 or before. Wife 16/26, must be a 2nd wife. Children two males & two females 10/16(likely children of a first wife), 4 females under 10(likely children of 2nd wife) Others listed in Chatham county included George Kirk, he also 45 up and wife same age, no children at home, either married or died by then. Gideon & William Kirksey also in Chatham, possible spelling variants of surname Kirk. Note also Kirk's in Orange county(6 families) & one in Halifax county. Note John Sherrin in Warren county(formerly Bute)

For my other overview to compare areas where the Kirk's were in colonial and Rev. war time frame particularly I also did the statewide probate index by Thornton W. Mitchell called North Carolina Wills: A Testator Index, 1665-1900. Note enclosed photocopies for you both from Volume 2, K-Z, FHL # 975.6P22t. Since the counties in the index are listed by code and not by name I have taken the time to look up the county names and write them on the same line as the pertinent wills for your convenience in studying the photocopies, 3 pages each.

Only early Kirk will for Chatham county George Kirk which I had looked up already for

Scott in a past report. Also earliest Orange county will for Lewis Kirk, I had already given in a previous report after looking up the wills. Sherrin/Shearin, etc. names almost all in Warren county. I have underlined other possible spelling variants in case name misspelled in index or in original will. Many of older folk at that time frame didn't read or write & signed with a mark, usually an X.

Also from previous checking by Stephen and myself I was aware of the Ancestral File and International Genealogy Index of names submissions from Family History Library. Nothing new to report there.

In Hancock county, Georgia records of Superior county deeds I had already discovered for Scott mention that the Heirs of Isaac Kirk dec'd were selling his property in Hancock county and they were living in Halifax county, North Carolina at time of settlement on 20 of Dec 1805, FHL film 222013, pgs. 541-543. I made out a work sheet for Scott on that family also. He had a large family according to early census but only three daughters were cited in the settlement in Hancock county, Georgia deeds. Therefore, disappointingly we don't know who the other children are. Deeds in Halifax could be checked if you wish to see if additional data might be net there since Halifax borders Warren(formerly Bute) where early Kirk's were also in residence.

In reviewing the E-Mails since Scott and I have been reading one another's E-Mails someone had been in touch with him called Max who stated that he felt the father of the older Joseph of Granville was a John, formerly of Culpeper county, Virginia and gave Scott his pedigree going back to Tidewater Virginia Kirk families.

The History called Southern Kirk and Carroll Families with copies both here and at the Raleigh state archive library shows that the researcher for that book felt the same Joseph was rather the son of a George Kirk and then nothing further in back of that ancestry. You will note there is not an early George Kirk will for the possible parent of Joseph.

I haven't been authorized by Scott as yet to go into the records of Tidewater Virginia counties and also Culpeper county, Virginia records to see about that discrepancy in the two researchers's findings. There is also an early will in Orange county on a Kirk, which border Culpeper county and so it goes following clues going backwards in time without early enough censuses, but tax lists here and there, few early church records going that early, mainly land and probate records.

Now on the review again into all my North Carolina notes and then the notebooks for notes on Arkansas, Alabama, Georgia, & finally notebook including North and South Carolina. Some parties in compiling had latched on to the Stephen Kirk with the estate in Chester county, South Carolina and who was in Lancaster county in 1790 census of South Carolina. This Stephen's probate Packet on film I have read completely & no son, Stephen. His heirs divide up the land and the children are clearly cited.

Some compilers have even assumed that the Stephen of 1790 in South Carolina with wife Susanna, is therefore, your Stephen, which isn't correct. Further the IGI reference Scott discerned well that it was inaccurate in stating that Young Kirk's parents were Stephen and Anna, rather, Stephen and Susanna. She is one of administrators in settling his estate in South Carolina.

That was a good piece of detective work on Stephen's part tracing back the name Shearin in old Bute county(now Warren), North Carolina court abstracts. It was during that time that I also had been following some of same trails because of finding for Scott in a report before Stephen & I had written to share materials for he and Scott some of same references.

Some of the missing clues to our problem appear to be in the large notebook of just Georgia notes. I read and reread the whole notebook several times and have pondered for two days just how all these various clues are lining up here.

A big problem I have had all along in Georgia is that our first actual census with returns to give us an idea as to approximate ages of members of families isn't until 1820 and your Stephen was gone by then. His wife, Anna's age, is given approximately and we are left to wonder if he was about same age or older. Other research had indicated in Hancock county the presence of a Stephen Kirk there whom other researchers had stated was married to an Elizabeth McClendon. This Stephen and the McClendons are witnessing deeds for one another on many deeds in Hancock county.

Since your Stephen in earliest deeds in Jasper and Jones states some of his earliest land was originally in Baldwin county before it was part of Jones, that would put either the same Stephen in area of Baldwin and bordering county of Hancock or two separate Stephen's in a close proximity to one another.

In reviewing all of those deeds in 7 counties I was interested to see in Hancock county Superior county deeds Bk. H, pgs. 193/4, film 222013, Stephen Kirk of Hancock sells to Robert Chambers 20-1806 tract of land 100 & 5 acres Fort Creek, witness to deed Collin Pope, Charles Womack and Thomas Parmer. (Charles Womack is name of one of siblings of Anna Womack Kirk.)

Jones county, Georgia deed book L, film 470016, item 2, pg. 13 William Hunt sells to Stephen Kirk land in county 11 & 7/10's acres, wit: Charles Womack, 26 April 1811 and recorded 6 Nov 1819.

Jones county, Georgia, film 470017, Deed book M, pg. 43 John Kirk and William Kirk, administrators and Anna Kirk, Administratrix of estate of Stephen Kirk, dec'd to William Whatley, land 10th district of Baldwin county originally, now of Jones county.

Stephen Kirk even earlier in Georgia county of Wilkes, Early Records of Georgia, Wilkes county, volume one, FHL #975.817N24, pg. 17 Eliza Kirk of Penn. Has 3 sons from 16 to 9, 250

acres south side little River on path to Hardin's creek, 22 Aug. Nov 1773. Pg. 113 Elizabeth Kirk, widow of Yorktown, York, Penn to her son, Caleb Kirk, merchant, sells 250 acres Reedy Creek, Wilkes, deed of gift.

Pg. 290 same book - Arthur Smith to Joel McClendon, both side Fishing Creek, 23 Feb 1788, wit: John O'Neal and S. Kirk. Pg. 291 John Todd & Arthur Smith to Joel McClendon on Fishing Creek, 12 March 1788, wit: S. Kirk and Benj. McClendon.

Wilkes county, Georgia Deed book A-VV, FHL #975.8172R2fm, pg. 120, Arthur Smith to Joel McClendon, two deeds in Feb 1788, both proved by Stephen Kirk. Pg. 367 Abraham Womack and Martha, his wife, of Greene county, Georgia sell land in Wilkes county, 1793.

This is very interesting in view of the fact that your Abraham came later and was in Hancock county, Georgia at the same time that this Abraham with wife, Martha Mitchell was and he died in Hancock county, while your Abraham died in Monroe county. Since they both came from North Carolina and have same names they cannot be brothers but wonder if they could be 1st cousins?

Since Charles Womack is witnessing a deed in Hancock for Stephen Kirk there, I am beginning to think your Stephen was much older than his wife, Anna. He could have married the Elizabeth McClendon first, hence witnessing deeds for his father in law and wife's brothers and had no children by her. There is just not one shred of proof of children by Elizabeth. With Charles witnessing a deed in Hancock this certainly shows the Stephen of Hancock knew your Charles.

Further with the constant naming patterns in early Kirk probates in North Carolina & Georgia areas where your man lived being so similar, I still favor the idea that Stephen's father could be a Lewis, Levi or William as well as a Joseph. I have located in previous reports early wills North Carolina for a George and Lewis in North Carolina and sent Scott work sheets on those families.

The Stephen of North Carolina early deeds in same area as Isaac, Lewis, Levi & William is the one that moved to South Carolina and died there, leaving a large a packet of estate settling by his heirs, wife and children.

Stephen's thoughts showing the map (thank you, also got same map from Billye Job and another of early North Carolina Chatham county) and pointing out very well where the Joseph was in relation to the Minter's etc. He has a good case to work out in more deeds originals since the printed books have been thoroughly checked either by myself or him on the Kirk.

Additional work could be done in Warren county, North Carolina records in original probates and deeds to see if anything more would help you in making the connection more sure. As well as in Halifax county original will indexes and original deeds.

The index to North Carolina marriages available at the archive in Raleigh has been input into the International Genealogy Index for North Carolina at the Family History Library. I have checked that reference on fiche and didn't get anymore clues on the Shearin/Sherrin, etc. families. Since traveling was uncertain in early days the Sherrins could have been friends in the Halifax/Bute/Warren county areas and came to Chatham as Stephen suggests together. Or wills and deeds might show some of the families did marry one another.

The discrepancy as to whose father we would have for last known earliest Joseph in North Carolina would need to be solved, if possible. It would be good if Scott could get from Max the probate data that he referred to in Culpeper to see if the will there does refer to a Joseph living in North Carolina, etc? Right now we have two differing ideas about Joseph's origin, if he is your next direct ancestor, either George or John and Frances.

It is a pleasure working with you kind gentlemen and I wish you both a good new year ahead. I shall await your further wishes and thoughts in these matters which I have covered as Stephen requested in the materials that he sent me to review.

The photocopies give you a good overview as to earliest Kirk's in statewide 1790 check for the target counties cited in Stephen's materials and also the Shearin/Sherran, etc. names. I shall await your further instructions. Please remember our flaw with this computer because of anti-viral program does not allow us to bring up attachments anymore. You both have done good work in bringing up additional materials on your families.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Lola Sorensen/AG

encl/ for both Stephen and Scott, photocopies, 1790 census returns in target counties, 4 pgs. each, Index 1800 census North Carolina 3 pgs. each, North Carolina Will index, 3 pgs. each.