

# Martin S. Shults DNA Research Report

RLP with DNA 4 - Spring 2022

by Diana Elder

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## Objective

Using DNA analysis and documentary research, test the hypothesis that Martin S. Shults was the father of Hickman Monroe Shults. Martin was born about 1800 in Sevier County, Tennessee, and died in 1854 in Johnson County, Texas. He married Sarah T. Rowden on 24 December 1814 in Rhea County, Tennessee. Hickman was born on 13 June 1821 in Alabama and died on 12 May 1899 in Falls County, Texas. He married Rachel Cox on 4 July 1848 in Navarro County, Texas.

## Limitations

- Although Y-DNA could be used in the future, no candidate has yet been discovered. Many of the lines have “daughters out.”
- The test-takers are 3-4 generations removed from Martin Shults and inherited smaller amounts of DNA from him.
- This project will use only autosomal DNA suggested from Ancestry DNA ThruLines. The principal test-taker, Lucretia Becker, has 151 matches to Martin through seven of his children with a range of 10 to 31 cM. These are primarily smaller matches and will need to be verified by evaluating key matches against other Shults test-takers.
- Because this is a southern U.S. line, it likely has pedigree collapse, and the possibility of multiple common ancestors for a match exists.
- AncestryDNA ThruLines suggest relationships based on user trees which are likely to have significant errors. Each generational link will need to be verified with documentary research.
- The research was limited to online searches and available materials at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

- The project was limited to 20 hours of research and writing.

## Results Summary

- Reviewed online trees for clues to Hickman Monroe Shults's birth. Noted the proximity of proposed Shults relatives in the 1850 census of Navarro County, Texas.
- Created a timeline for Hickman Monroe Shults, starting with his 1848 marriage in Navarro County, Texas.
- Identified autosomal DNA test-takers who descend from Hickman Monroe Shults and can be used to verify Hickmans' hypothesized relationship to Martin Shults.
- Reviewed the timeline for Hickman Monroe Shults and analyzed four land patents issued by Texas.
- Found that Hickman receive two patents for Navarro County land and then transferred that land to other men in 1850.
- Analyzed the two patents for neighboring Tarrant and Parker counties that Hickman purchased in 1856 and 1850.
- Followed the records for Hickman Monroe Shults until his death in 1899 in Falls County, Texas.
- Created a timeline for Martin S. Shults and analyzed Texas land records signed by the heirs of Martin Shults.
- Mapped the land for the heirs and Hickman Monroe Shults. Reasoned that proximity of land adds to evidence of a family connection.
- Reviewed the 1830 census of New Madrid County, Missouri, and the 1840 census of Pulaski County, Arkansas, for Martin Shults and found a male of the appropriate age to be Hickman in both households.
- Searched tax records for Martin in Pulaski County, Arkansas, and found evidence of Martin's residence there until 1843. Noted that Hickman Monroe Shults was not listed as paying a poll tax, so he may have moved to Texas by then.
- Summarized the history of land in Texas and the Mercer Colony, which was instrumental in the Shults family's move to Texas by 1850.

- Searched records for Martin Shults in early Bibb County, Alabama, to establish his residence and a place of birth for Hickman Monroe Shults in 1821. Found mention of Martin in several court records.
- Identified DNA matches for key tester Lucretia Becker Neill, prioritizing the highest match for each sibling of Hickman Monroe Shults suggested by Ancestry ThruLines.
- Verified or built descendancy trees from Martin Shults to each DNA match and found the generational links accurate.
- Created a matrix of other test-takers who descended from Martin Shults and compared DNA matches.

## Genealogical Background Information

Online trees connect Hickman Monroe Shults to parents Martin S. Shults and Sarah T. Rowden.<sup>1</sup> In 1850, Hickman's household lived next to Sarah's, but Martin was not present, suggesting she was a widow or Martin was living elsewhere.<sup>2</sup> No record has yet been discovered showing Hickman as a child of this couple, but the census proximity adds weight to the argument. Both Hickman and the "heirs of Martin S. Shults" received Texas land patents as part of the Mercer Colony.<sup>3</sup>

Although several Texas records named Hickman Monroe Shults, none included his parents. The records did reveal a timeline from his first Texas appearance in Navarro County, Texas, to his death in Falls County, Texas.<sup>4</sup> What was not known were the reasons for his move

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<sup>1</sup> FamilySearch Family Tree, Details for Hickman Monroe Shultz 1820-1899, ID # 2MKF-ZDD, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/2MKF-ZDD> : accessed 6 February 2022). See also "Public Member Trees," database, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 16 May 2022), search for Hickman Monroe Shults (1821-1899).

<sup>2</sup> 1850 U.S. Census, Navarro County, Texas, population schedule, Navarro District, p. 103b, dwelling 7, family 7, H. M. Schultz; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 18 January 2022); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 913.

<sup>3</sup> Texas Land Grant, H. M. Shults patentee, Robert W White grantee, 1852, Navarro County, Robertson District 3rd Class, Abstract 745, File Number 0001044, *The Texas General Land Office* (<https://s3.glo.texas.gov/glo/history/archives/land-grants/LandGrantsWorklist.cfm> : accessed 23 January 2022).

Texas Land Grant, heirs of Martin Shults decd, Mercer Colony certificate granted 17 April 1850, Johnson County, Robertson 3rd Class, Abstract 767, File Number 000536, *Texas General Land Office* ([https://s3.glo.texas.gov/ncu/SCANDOCS/archives\\_webfiles/arcmaps/webfiles/landgrants/PDFs/3/3/9/339490.pdf](https://s3.glo.texas.gov/ncu/SCANDOCS/archives_webfiles/arcmaps/webfiles/landgrants/PDFs/3/3/9/339490.pdf) : accessed 14 March 2022).

<sup>4</sup> Navarro County, Texas, "Marriage Records Vol A 1-3 1846-1880," pp. 9-10, Shults-Cox marriage, 1848; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 2 April 2019); digitized film number 007255691, images 14- 15 of 801.

*Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/23392097/hickman-monroe-shultz> : accessed 18 January 2022), memorial page for Hickman Monroe "Houston" Shultz (13 Jun 1821–12 May 1899), Find a Grave Memorial ID 23392097, citing

to Texas. When did he move? From where did he move? With a birthdate of 1821, he would have been about 27 years old at his marriage in 1848. Since southern families generally moved together, he likely came as part of the Shults family group. Reviewing the timeline for Hickman and his hypothesized father, Martin S. Shults, could provide insight and connections. With a birthplace of Alabama, tracing Martin to Alabama by 1821— Hickman's reported birth year—would add evidence to the hypothesized relationship.

The records spell the surname in a variety of ways: Shults, Shultz, Schults, Schultz, Shoults, Shutts, etc. This report will standardize the name to Shults except when quoting a record.

## DNA Background Information

With no record stating Martin Shults as the father of Hickman Monroe Shults, genetic evidence can confirm the hypothesized relationship. Ancestry DNA ThruLines is a tool that first uses DNA to find individuals who share inherited DNA. The tool's algorithm then compares user-submitted family trees to find possible shared ancestors up to the fifth great grandparent level. Although the family trees may not be accurate, they offer suggestions of relationships that can then be verified.

The main test-taker for this project is Lucretia Neill, the third great-granddaughter of Martin S. Shults. ThruLines shows 151 connections between Lucretia and descendants of Martin Shults through other hypothesized and documented children.<sup>5</sup> Because Lucretia is the third great-granddaughter of Martin S. Shults, she would likely share enough autosomal DNA with these descendants to be viable and prove a genetic connection. Any shared segment under 10 cM is suspect because of the possibility of it being a false segment or a population segment and not inherited from a common ancestor.

Since many of the shared DNA segments are small and there is the possibility of pedigree collapse in these southern lines, only segments of 20 cM and above will be used. Figure 1 illustrates a portion of the ThruLines relationship report.

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Mooreville Cemetery, Mooreville, Falls County, Texas, USA; Maintained by Sherry Goolsby, Genealogical Research (contributor 47340731).

<sup>5</sup> "ThruLines," database report, AncestryDNA (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed date), for Lucretia Becker Neill, for Martin S Granville (Captain) Shults (1793-1854) *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : viewed 9 May 2022).

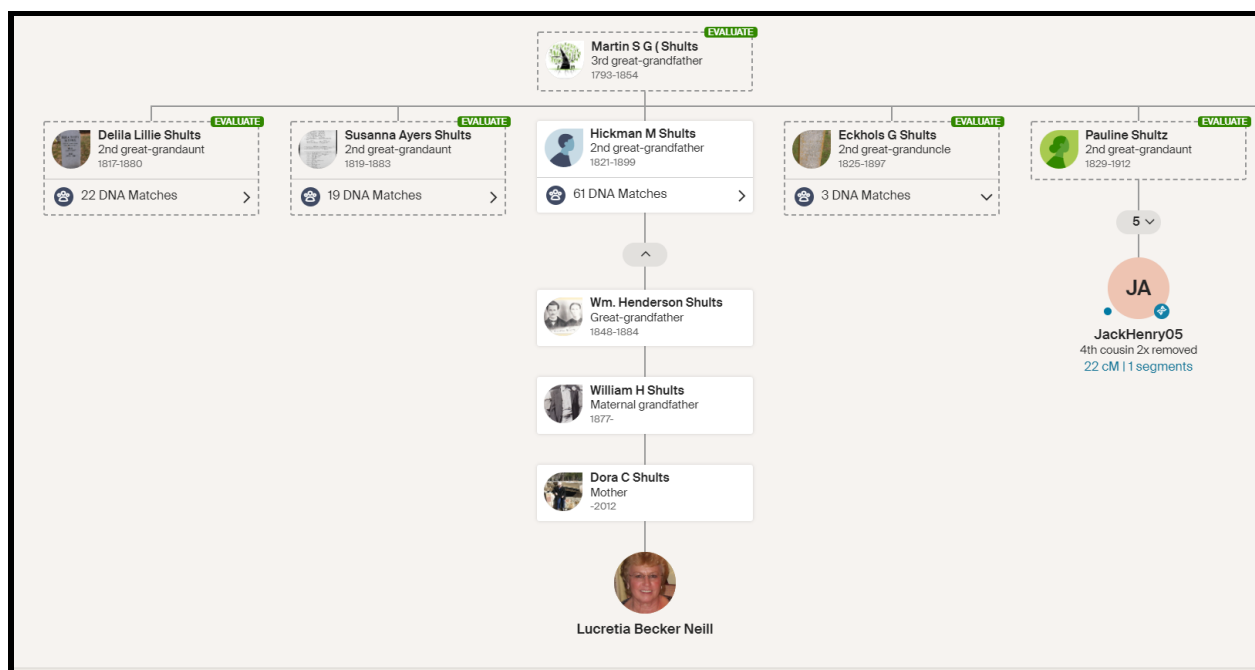


Figure 1. Ancestry ThruLines for Martin S. Shults

Three other descendants of Hickman Monroe Shults have also taken the Ancestry DNA test and can add additional validity to the hypothesis: Patricia Hoskins, Diana Elder, and Lester Simmons. The four test-takers and their lines of descent from Hickman Monroe Shults are shown in Figure 2.



and Rachael with their first-born son, Wm. H. Schultz.<sup>7</sup> Next to the young family, Sarah Shults, age 54, headed a household that included a Wade H. Shults and Martin V. Shults. According to online family trees, Hickman was the Alabama-born son of Martin Shults and Sarah T. Rowden.<sup>8</sup> The absence of Martin on this census could mean Sarah was a widow as early as 1850.

29	7	7	Nancy J. Donaghy	28 F						
30			H. M. Schultz	29 M	Farmer	320	Ala		1	
31			Rachael Schultz	21 F			Inda		1	
32	8	8	Wm. H. Schultz	1 M			Texas			
33			Sarah Schultz	54 F		320	Pa			
34			Wade H. Schultz	11 M			M <sup>o</sup>		1	
35			Martin V. Schultz	17 M	None				1	

Figure 3. 1850 Census, Navarro County, Texas, Households of H.M. Schultz and Sarah Schultz

On 17 April 1850, Hickman Monroe Shults received a Mercer Colonist certificate entitling him to 640 acres in Navarro County, Texas.<sup>9</sup> He was one of the later participants in the Mercer Colony, which began settling families on 29 January 1844. The process of receiving a land patent was lengthy. First, an individual needed a certificate, and Hickman's certificate stated his land was "to be located, on any vacant land, within the limits of the colony of Charles Fenton Mercer and his associates, not otherwise appropriated, he having taken the oath and made the proof required by law of his citizenship."<sup>10</sup> With his certificate allowing him 640 acres, Hickman next selected land and had it surveyed.

The 640 acres were split into two land plats of 320 acres each. On 12 May 1850, D.R. Mitchell, a deputy surveyor for Robertson Land District, surveyed 320 acres of the land in Navarro County situated about 7 1/2 miles from Corsicana on Grape Creek.<sup>11</sup> Several months

<sup>7</sup> Navarro County, Texas, "Marriage Records Vol A 1-3 1846-1880," pp. 9-10, Shults-Cox marriage, 1848; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 2 April 2019); digitized film number 007255691, images 14- 15 of 801.

1850 U.S. Census, Navarro County, Texas, population schedule, Navarro District, p. 103b, dwelling 7, family 7, H. M. Schultz; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 18 January 2022); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 913.

<sup>8</sup> FamilySearch Family Tree, Details for Hickman Monroe Shultz 1820-1899, ID # 2MKF-ZDD, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/2MKF-ZDD> : accessed 6 February 2022).

<sup>9</sup> Texas Land Grant, Hickman M Shults grantee and patentee, 1852, Navarro County, Robertson District 3rd Class, Abstract 756, File Number 000598, *The Texas General Land Office* (<https://s3.glo.texas.gov/glo/history/archives/land-grants/LandGrantsWorklist.cfm> : accessed 20 February 2022).

<sup>10</sup> Texas Land Grant, Hickman M Shults grantee and patentee, 1852, Navarro County, Robertson District 3rd Class, Abstract 756, File Number 000598, image 2, Mercer Colony Certificate, *The Texas General Land Office* (<https://s3.glo.texas.gov/glo/history/archives/land-grants/LandGrantsWorklist.cfm> : accessed 18 February 2022).

<sup>11</sup> Texas Land Grant, Hickman M Shults grantee and patentee, 1852, Navarro County, Robertson District 3rd Class, Abstract 756, File Number 000598, *The Texas General Land Office* (<https://s3.glo.texas.gov/glo/history/archives/land-grants/LandGrantsWorklist.cfm> : accessed 20 February 2022).

later, on 30 December 1850, Hickman transferred his right to these 320 acres to George Cooper for \$50. Figure 4 shows the map included in the survey.

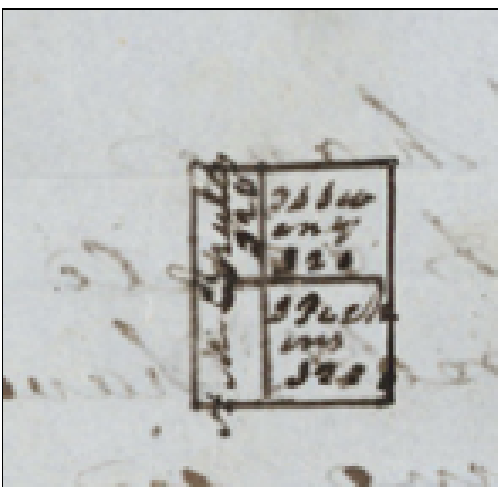


Figure 4. 1850 Survey for 320 Acres, H M Shults, Navarro County, Texas

A modern map with the original land patents superimposed shows the Shults land with T. Sweeny and Grape Creek to the east.<sup>12</sup>

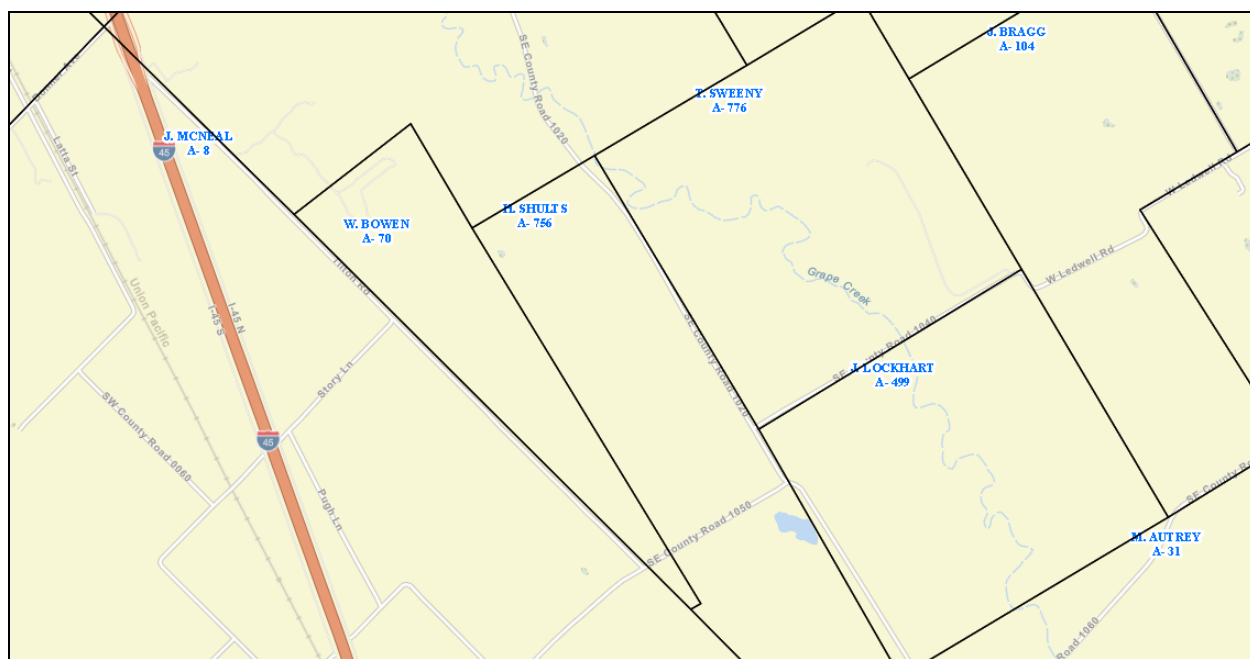


Figure 5. Land parcel surveyed for Hickman Monroe Shults, 1850, Navarro County, Texas: Abstract #756

<sup>12</sup> Texas General Land Office, “Land and Lease Viewer,” <https://gisweb.glo.texas.gov/glomapis/index.html> : accessed 16 May 2022); search by abstract 756.



The other parcel of 320 acres was surveyed on 17 April 1850 by William L. Browning. This land was also located in Navarro County but situated on Brier Creek and was about four miles northwest of Corsicana. This land bordered that of J. Crabb and William Hoggard. The following survey map is included in the land patent file.

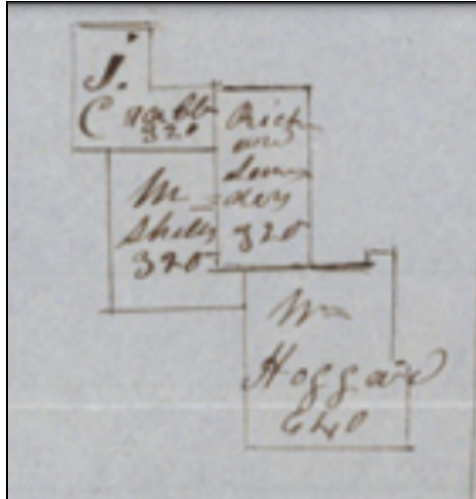


Figure 6. 1850 Survey for 320 acres, M Shultz, Navarro County, Texas

A modern map with the original land patents superimposed, shows the Shults land with Wm. Hoggard to the east.<sup>13</sup> Online family trees have William Hoggard as a brother-in-law to Hickman so the proximity of their land patents adds evidence to the hypothesis of the connection.

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<sup>13</sup> Texas General Land Office, "Land and Lease Viewer," <https://gisweb.glo.texas.gov/glomapis/index.html> : accessed 16 May 2022); search by abstract 756.

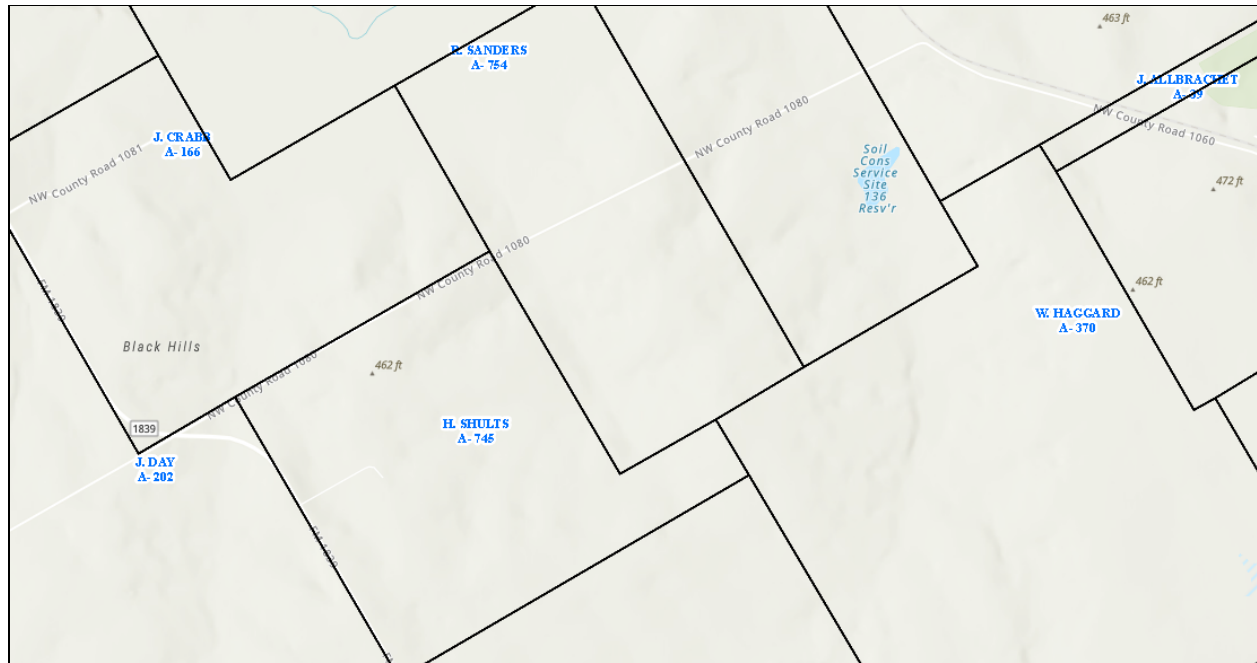


Figure 7. Land parcel surveyed for Hickman Monroe Shults, 1850, Navarro County, Texas: Abstract #745

Hickman Monroe Shults also transferred this parcel of 320 acres—to George W. Cooper for \$50 on 30 December 1850. Cooper then sold the right to the land to Robert W. White.<sup>14</sup>

Sometime after the 1850 land transfers, Hickman moved north to Tarrant County, Texas, where he “resided upon and cultivated the tract of land” surveyed for Wm. Dean. The land file indicates that Dean and/or Hickman had resided on the land for the “space of 3 consecutive years prior to the 21st day of December 1856.”<sup>15</sup> As the assignee of William Dean, Hickman received a patent for the land under the Preemption Act of 21 January 1845.

Hickman moved one county west to Parker County, Texas, where he purchased 160 acres on Rock Creek in 1859 for \$800.<sup>16</sup> The 1860 census record for Hickman Monroe Shults and Rachel has yet to be found, and although it's possible that the census enumerator missed the family, future research in the census, deeds, and tax records of Tarrant and Parker County could

<sup>14</sup> Texas Land Grant, H. M Shults patentee, Robert W White grantee, 1852, Navarro County, Robertson District 3rd Class, Abstract 745, File Number 0001044, *The Texas General Land Office* (<https://s3.glo.texas.gov/glo/history/archives/land-grants/LandGrantsWorklist.cfm> : accessed 23 January 2022).

<sup>15</sup> Texas Land Grant, William Dean grantee, H.M. Shultz patentee, 1859, Tarrant County, Denton District 3rd Class, Abstract 436, File Number 0003343, *The Texas General Land Office* ([https://s3.glo.texas.gov/ncu/SCANDOCS/archives\\_webfiles/arcmaps/webfiles/landgrants/PDFs/3/4/7/347299.pdf](https://s3.glo.texas.gov/ncu/SCANDOCS/archives_webfiles/arcmaps/webfiles/landgrants/PDFs/3/4/7/347299.pdf) : accessed 23 January 2022).

<sup>16</sup> Texas Land Grant, H. M Shults grantee, William Wilson patentee, 1859, Parker County, Robertson District 3rd Class, Abstract 1619, File Number 0004369, *The Texas General Land Office* (<https://s3.glo.texas.gov/glo/history/archives/land-grants/LandGrantsWorklist.cfm>: accessed 23 January 2022).

locate the family. Hickman could have also been residing in Tarrant County during the 1860 census enumeration. That census was lost and could explain the absence of the family.

Hickman Monroe Shults moved to Falls County, Texas, by 1867, where he signed a voter registration list, stating he had resided in the county for over 30 days and in the state for over 12 months.<sup>17</sup> Hickman headed an 1870 household with Rachel, and although the census did not state relationships, this is almost certainly a nuclear family household.<sup>18</sup>

Monroe Shultz	50	farmer \$500 personal	Alabama
Rachel Shultz	43		Indiana
William Shultz	22	farm labor	Texas
Martin Shultz	20	farm labor	Texas
Apolonia Shultz	17		Texas
Lucinda Shultz	16	attending school	Texas
Francis Shultz	14	attending school	Texas
Delila Shultz	13	attending school	Texas
Maria Shultz	10	attending school	Texas
John Shultz	7	at home	Texas
William Shultz	5	at home	Texas
Andrew French	15	farm laborer	Arkansas

Rachel died by 1880 leaving Hickman a widower at age 59.<sup>19</sup> This census named relationships and parent birthplaces for the first time and three of the children align with those listed in the 1870 census: Maria-Mary, John-Johnny, and William.

H. M. Shults	59, widower	farmer	Ala, Ga, Ga
Mary Shults	19, daughter	house laborer	Tex, Ala, Ga
Johnny Shults	16, son	farm laborer	Tex, Ala, Ga
William Shults	14, son	farm laborer	Tex, Ala, Ga
Eliza Shults	8, daughter	blind	Tex, Ala, Ga

<sup>17</sup> "Texas, U.S., Voter Registration Lists, 1867-1869," Falls > H M Shults, 1867, digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 18 January 2022); citing 1867 Voter Registration Lists, Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

<sup>18</sup> 1870 U.S. Census, Falls County, Texas, population schedule, Precinct 5, p.113A, dwelling 249, family 244, Monroe Shultz household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://ancestry.com> : 1 Apr 2019); citing NARA microfilm publication M593, Roll 1584.

<sup>19</sup> 1880 U.S. Census, Falls County, Texas, population schedule, enumeration district (ED) 42, sheet 216A (stamped), p.13 (penned), dwelling 121, family 126, H.M. Shults household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 10 June 2019); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1302.

Hickman remarried in 1881 to Mrs. Sarena E. Faulkner and died on 12 May 1899. His gravestone lists names her as “S.E. Shultz.”<sup>20</sup>

Hickman M  
[----]  
S.E. Shultz  
BORN  
JUNE 13, 1821  
DIED  
MAY 12, 1899

Although the informant for Hickman's birth date of 13 June 1821 on the tombstone is unknown, the year 1821 does correlate with the three censuses that also consistently list Alabama as his birthplace. Finding Martin Shults residing in Alabama in 1821 will add evidence to the hypothesis of a parent-child relationship.

## Martin S. Shults Timeline

Martin Shults appears only in Texas land records that refer to “the heirs of Martin Shults, deceased.” Like Hickman Monroe Shults, the heirs were also granted 640 acres of land under a Mercer Colonist certificate, and the patent was finalized in 1854.<sup>21</sup> Interestingly, researchers have assigned Martin Shults a death date of 1854, seemingly based on this land patent. However, viewing the original land case file indicates that Martin was already deceased by 17 April 1850, when the original Mercer Colony certificate was issued.

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<sup>20</sup> "Texas, County Marriage Records, 1837-1965," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QV14-X9JD:10 December 2017>), H M Shults and Sarena E Faulkner, 22 Oct 1881; citing Marriage, citing Falls, Texas, United States, Texas State Library, Archives Division, and various Texas county clerks; FHL microfilm 985,641.

*Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/23392097/hickman-monroe-shultz> : accessed 18 January 2022), memorial page for Hickman Monroe “Houston” Shultz (13 Jun 1821–12 May 1899), Find a Grave Memorial ID 23392097, citing Mooreville Cemetery, Mooreville, Falls County, Texas, USA ; Maintained by Sherry Goolsby, Genealogical Research (contributor 47340731) .

<sup>21</sup> Texas Land Grant, heirs of Martin Shults decd, Mercer Colony certificate granted 17 April 1850, Johnson County, Robertson 3rd Class, Abstract 767, File Number 000536, Texas General Land Office ([https://s3.glo.texas.gov/ncu/SCANDOCS/archives\\_webfiles/arcmaps/webfiles/landgrants/PDFs/3/3/9/339490.pdf](https://s3.glo.texas.gov/ncu/SCANDOCS/archives_webfiles/arcmaps/webfiles/landgrants/PDFs/3/3/9/339490.pdf) : accessed 14 March 2022).

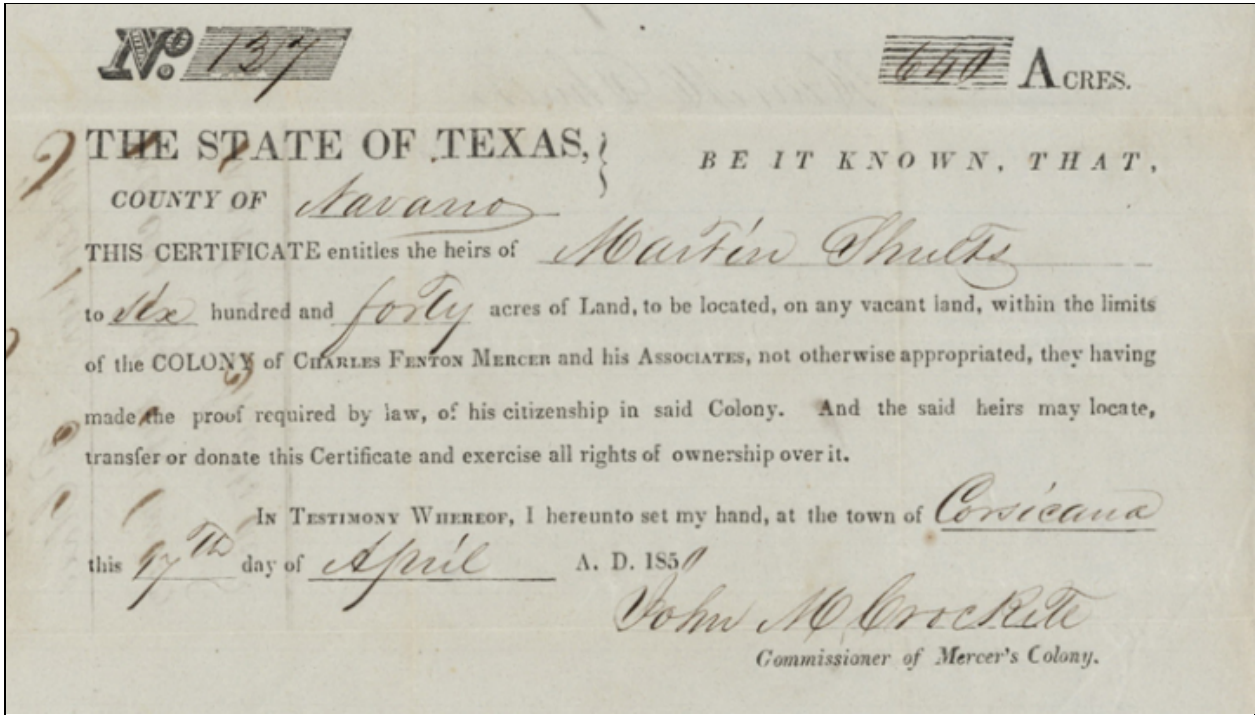


Figure 8. Mercer Colonist Certificate for Heirs of Martin Shults, Navarro County, Texas

The heirs of Martin Shults, deceased, deeded their 640 acres of the original Mercer Colonist certificate to William Shults on 20 March 1857.<sup>22</sup> Sarah sold her dower right to the land, and the heirs signed the document. The following abstract gives the relevant details. Note that William Hoggard signed the deed. He was almost certainly the same William Hoggard who patented land next to Hickman Monroe Shults.

Parker County, Texas, 20 March 1857

- Heirs of Martin Shults, deceased, for \$125 paid by William Shults of the State of Texas and County of Dallas
- Sell and convey all our right title claim and interest in and unto the headright Certificate of Martin Shults and the lands thereby located for 640 acres issued by the Commissioner for Mercers Colony
- I, Sarah T. Shults sold all of my dower in and unto the said head right

<sup>22</sup> Johnson County, Texas, Deeds, C: 474, heirs of Martin Shults to William Shults, 1857, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLR-W9G7-C> : accessed 15 March 2022); DGS film # 008204502, image 947 of 988.





- Free White Persons - Females - Under 5: 2
- Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 14: 2
- Free White Persons - Females - 30 thru 39: 1 [Sarah]

Martin and household moved southwest to Pulaski County, Arkansas, by 1840.<sup>25</sup> The census enumerator listed the following inhabitants with probable individuals in brackets.

- Free White Persons - Males - 5 thru 9: 3 [Martin V. and Wade H. Shults]
- Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 14: 1
- Free White Persons - Males - 15 thru 19: 1 [Hickman Monroe Shults]
- Free White Persons - Males - 40 thru 49: 1 [Martin Shults]
- Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 14: 1
- Free White Persons - Females - 40 thru 49: 1 [Sarah Shults]
- Persons Employed in Agriculture: 1

Hickman Monroe Shults's birth in 1821 would identify him as the male 15 thru 19 and the younger males likely Wade H. and Martin V. Shults from the 1850 Navarro County, Texas census.<sup>26</sup>

The Shults family likely resided only a short time in Pulaski County. Martin didn't receive a land patent in the area, nor did he purchase patented land from another individual.<sup>27</sup> Perhaps Martin didn't find the hilly land conducive to farming. In 1840, Pulaski County's population numbered 5,350, and the early settlers hailed from Virginia, the Carolinas, Kentucky, and Tennessee.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>25</sup> 1840 U.S. Census, Pulaski County, Arkansas, population schedule, p. 101 (penned), line 14, Martin Shultz; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 6 February 2022); citing NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 19.

<sup>26</sup> 1850 U.S. Census, Navarro County, Texas, population schedule, Navarro District, p. 103b, dwelling 8, family 8, Sarah Schultz.

<sup>27</sup> Pulaski County, Arkansas, "Land Patent Search," negative for Shults, Shultz, images, *General Land Office Records* ([www.glorerecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov) : accessed 25 January 2022).

Pulaski County, Arkansas, Index to deeds, Grantor, MO-SI 1819-1906, negative for all variations of Shults, FHL film # 1302638, DGS 7900349, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4L-53K1-2> : accessed 25 January 2022).

Pulaski County, Arkansas, Index to Deeds, Grantor, SE-Z 1819-1906, negative search for all variations of Shults, FHL film # 1302639, DGS 8561133, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4L-53K1-2> : accessed 25 January 2022).

Pulaski County, Arkansas, Index to deeds, Grantee, R-WI, 1819-1906, negative search for all variations of Shults, FHL film # 1302649, DGS 8185963, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4L-53K1-2> : accessed 25 January 2022).

<sup>28</sup> *Biographical and Historical Memoirs: of Pulaski, Jefferson, Lonoke, Faulkner, Grant, Saline, Perry, Garland and Hot Spring Counties, Arkansas*, (Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889), pp. 361-524; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSZV-J47G> : accessed 25 January 2022), FHL film 007944055, image 559.

The following map shows the locations of New Madrid County, Missouri, in what is known as the "Boot Heel" portion of the state. The Shults family could have followed the Mississippi River downriver to the junction of the Arkansas River, then taken that river up to Pulaski County.



Figure 10. Map of Arkansas showing the 1830 Census residence of New Madrid County, Missouri, and the 1840 Census residence of Pulaski County, Arkansas, for Martin Shults<sup>29</sup>

Tax records pinpoint residence between the census years and first listed Martin Shults in 1841 paying a poll tax.<sup>30</sup> Arkansas's first state constitution authorized counties to collect a poll tax from every free male between twenty-one and sixty.<sup>31</sup> Martin paid for only one poll, so the other male in the 1840 household was not yet twenty-one by 1841. Hickman Monroe

<sup>29</sup> Henry S. Tanner, "A New Map of Arkansas with Its Canals, Roads & Distances," (Philadelphia: H.S. Tanner, 1841), digital image, *David Rumsey Map Collection* (<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~266960~90041512:Arkansas-> : accessed 8 February 2022).

<sup>30</sup> "Arkansas Tax Records, 1821-1884, Pulaski County, Martin Sholts, 1841, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLG-SSW1-T> : accessed 25 January 2022), FHL 2322550, Items 2-12, image 606.

<sup>31</sup> "Poll Tax," *Encyclopedia of Arkansas* (<https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/poll-tax-5045/> : accessed 8 February 2022).



Shults, born in 1821, would have been twenty years old and not yet eligible to pay the poll tax.

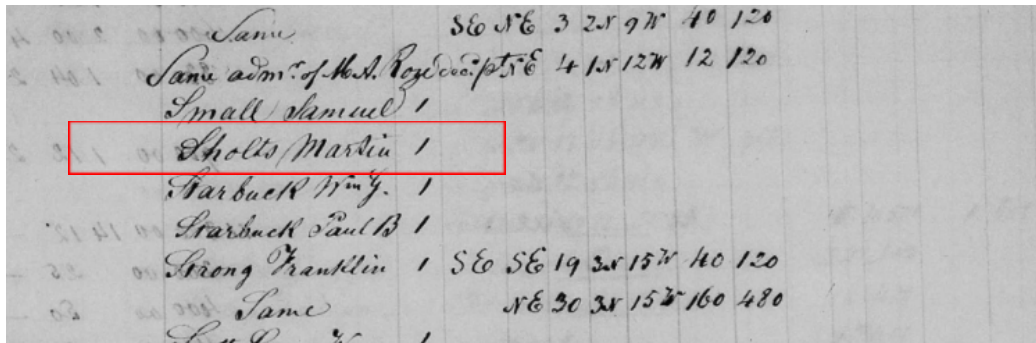


Figure 11. 1841 Tax Lists for Martin Sholts, Pulaski County, Arkansas

The 1843 tax list raises some questions. Martin again paid one poll tax, but by 1843, Hickman would have been twenty-two and either listed as a poll in his father's household or by himself. Since the tax lists show no sign of Hickman, perhaps he had already traveled west to Texas. Another interesting fact revealed by the tax record for Martin Shults is the listing of a tract of land: located in Section SW 31, Township 1 North, Range 8 West, 160 acres valued at \$480.

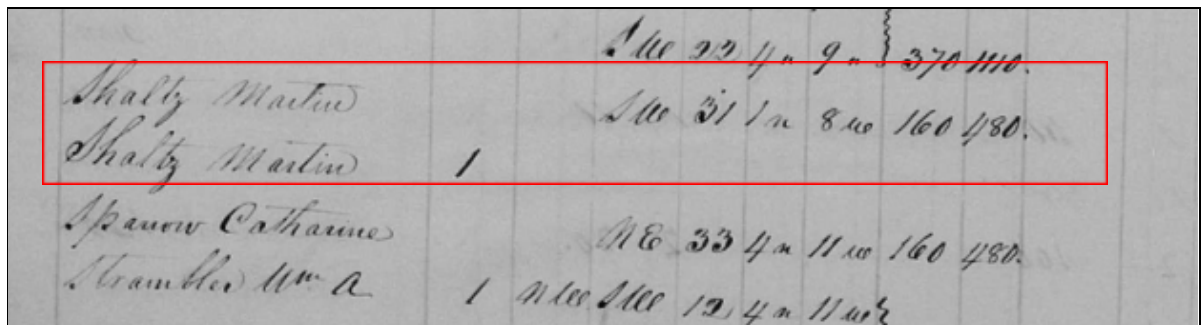


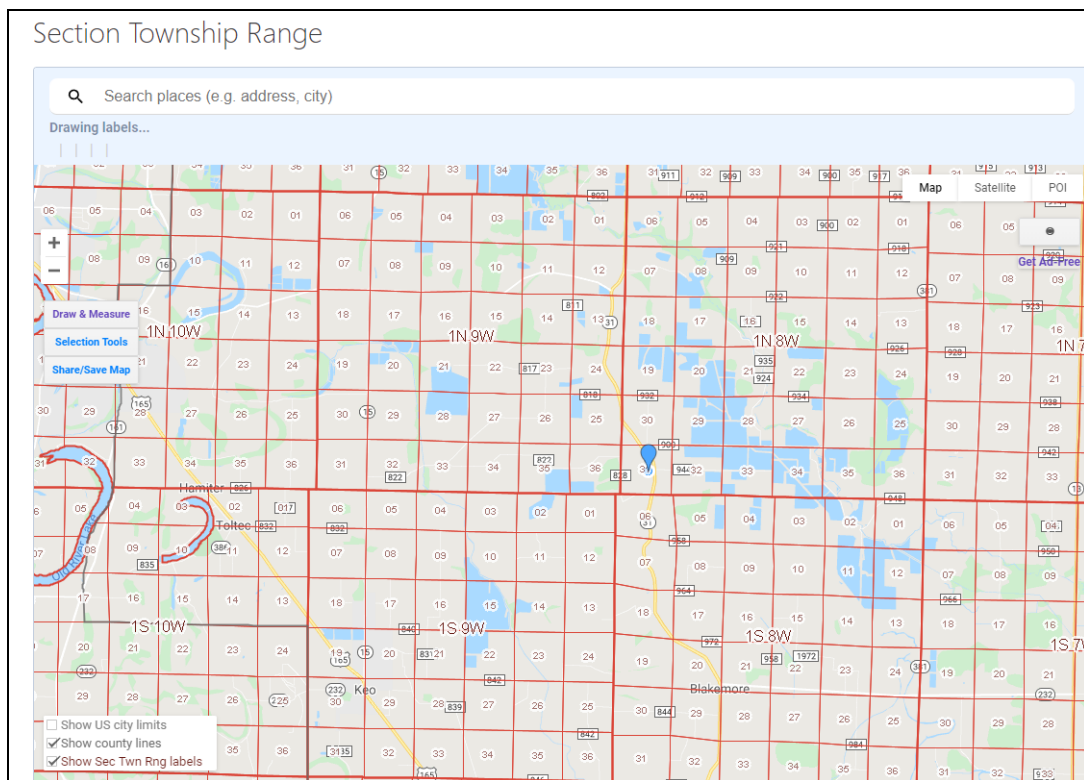
Figure 12. 1843 Tax Listing for Martin Sholtz, Pulaski County, Arkansas

Martin never completed the patent on the land but figure 13 shows the approximate location, east of Little Rock, Arkansas, and north of Blakemore.<sup>32</sup> This area of Pulaski county became Lonoke County in 1873, many years after the Shults family moved west to Texas.<sup>33</sup>

<sup>32</sup> Pulaski County, Arkansas, "Land Patent Search," negative for Shults, Shultz, images, *General Land Office Records* ([www.glorerecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov) : accessed 25 January 2022).

Land map for Martin Shults, Section 31, 1 north 8 W, Pulaski county, Arkansas, *randymajors.org* (<https://www.randymajors.org/township-range-on-google-maps?x=-91.9079131&y=34.6672394&cx=-91.9388122&y=34.6632861&zoom=12&labels=show&counties=show&basemap=roadmap> :accessed 8 February 2022).

<sup>33</sup> *The Handybook for Genealogists: United States of America*, 10th ed. (Draper, UT: Everton Publishers, 2002), 69.



# History of Texas Land Grants

What was the incentive for the Shults family to move west to Texas? Land. The history of Texas land is complicated. Spain first controlled Texas until 1821, then Mexico from 1821 to 1835. Texans rebelled against Mexico in 1836, and the Republic of Texas was born. During the unstable period after the revolution and the development of a new government, the Republic issued headright grants from 1836 to 1842 to keep settlers in Texas. These grants initially were for 4,605.5 acres per family or 1,476.1 acres per single man. The Republic wanted to encourage more settlers to increase the tax base, raise land values, and protect against Mexican and Native American raids. The records were filed and indexed by periods called classes. From 1836 to 1845, the Republic of Texas issued headright grants to settlers based on when they arrived in the Republic. These grants were named Class 1, Class 2, Class 3, and Class 4.<sup>34</sup>

The Republic of Texas needed still more settlers so reinstituted the empresario system used by Spain and Mexico. Congress gave the president authority to make contracts with

<sup>34</sup> Joseph M. Nance, “Republic of Texas,” *TSHA Handbook of Texas* (<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/republic-of-texas> : accessed 19 February 2022).

individual empresarios. Each contract was unique. In general, the colonists were to come from outside the Republic. These land grants were filed under the Class 3 heading and included four empresario colonies established under contracts with the Republic of Texas: Peter's, Fisher and Miller's, Castor's, and Mercers.<sup>35</sup>

There were many problems associated with these colonies because Texans with land certificates from the various land grant acts also wanted to settle in the land laid aside for the colonies. Some of the empresarios settled foreigners from Europe as well. Many Texans thought the foreigners were receiving the best land and the empresario act was repealed in 1844. Over 5 1/2 million acres of public domain land had been conveyed to settlers through this system. The population had grown substantially from about 38,000 to 130,000 and land prices had risen as hoped.

### Mercer's Colony

Charles Fenton Mercer was one of the empresarios granted a contract by the Republic of Texas president, Sam Houston. The contract stated that Mercer could begin settling families on 29 January 1844. Complications arose however when the Congress of the Republic passed a law the next year outlawing colonization contracts. That set in motion a period of turmoil with Mercer Colonists trying to claim their promised land that was already claimed by squatters or land speculators. Legal suits followed and on 2 February 1850, the Texas legislature guaranteed all claims made by Mercer Colonists before 25 October 1848. Because of this legislation, 1,255 land certificates were recorded in the GLO. At first, Mercer's association offered only 160 acres to families and 80 acres to single men, but the neighboring Peters Colony offered 320, then 640 acres, so Mercer had to match the offer.<sup>36</sup>

Hickman Monroe Shults and Martin Shults were among those who received a Mercer Colonist land certificate and 640 acres so they would have been at the tail end of the Mercer Colony era. How did the Shults men learn about the Texas land and the Mercer Colony? As soon as Charles Fenton Mercer received his colonization contract, he began work to advertise his new colony. He published handbills explaining the terms of colonization in Texas and had copies of his contract printed. His advertisement reads:

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<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

<sup>36</sup> Joe E. Ericson, "Mercer Colony," *TSHA Handbook of Texas* (<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/mercercolony> : accessed 17 February 2022).

## Texas Colonization

The subscriber obtained in January last, by agreement with the President, acting in behalf of the Republic of Texas, a grant of an extensive tract of land on the Rivers Brazos and Trinity, known to be healthy, fertile, well watered and beautifully interspersed with prairie and forest accessible by navigation from the flourishing city of Galveston; the best market in Texas. He now offers emigrants from Europe, or the United States as much as 320 A. to every family, who may settle thereupon prior to the 20th day of March 1845, on payment of \$8 for fees of survey.

The grant for each tract of land will be made directly from the Republic of Texas on condition that the family will build a comfortable log cabin or house on the land, and enclose and cultivate, for three years, not less than fifteen acres. To save enquiry it is of not fewer person that a man and his wife, or of a widower or widow with two children under 17 yr of age, or of a widow with a son about 17 or of women each over 17 yr. of age.<sup>37</sup>

This advertisement likely appealed to the Shults family living in Pulaski County, Arkansas. Like so many others, the enticement of land would be hard to resist. Especially if the current land situation was less than ideal.

When did Hickman Monroe and Martin Shults arrive in Navarro County? Likely by May of 1847. To apply for 640 acres of land, an individual had to have resided in the state for three years and be a head of family. Hickman married Rachel Cox on 4 July 1848 and became head of a family. With the Mercer Colonist Certificate granted on 12 May 1850, Hickman likely arrived by May of 1847.

Gaines Shults—a likely brother— appears on the 1847 Navarro County tax list, and possibly Hickman arrived after the tax was taken.<sup>38</sup> Hickman first appears on the Navarro County tax lists in 1848 and paid a poll tax and a tax for his three horses.<sup>39</sup>

## Alabama Research

With the migration to Texas explained for the Shults men and their timelines reviewed and fleshed out from 1830 to 1899, research turned to the Alabama era for Martin Shults. Online trees had a specific birth county of Bibb for Hickman Monroe Shults. Finding Martin Shults in Bibb County, Alabama, about 1820 would add evidence for the 1821 birth of Hickman.

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<sup>37</sup> Eagleton, Nancy Ethie, "The Mercer Colony in Texas, 1844-1883, II," *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 40, no. 1 (1936): 35–57. (<http://www.jstor.org/stable/30235597> : accessed 17 February 2022).

<sup>38</sup> Texas, County Tax Rolls, 1837-1910, Navarro County, Gaines Shults, p 9, negative for H.M. Shults, 1847, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/> : accessed 2 February 2022).

<sup>39</sup> Texas, County Tax Rolls, 1837-1910, Navarro County, entry for H.H. Shults, 1848-1849, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939J-4JS9-NH> : accessed 2 February 2022).

Bibb County, Alabama, lies in the state's center and was founded in 1818. Originally named Cahawba, it was renamed Bibb in December 1820. The following map shows its location and the neighboring counties of Perry, Tuscaloosa, Jefferson, Shelby, and Autauga.<sup>40</sup>

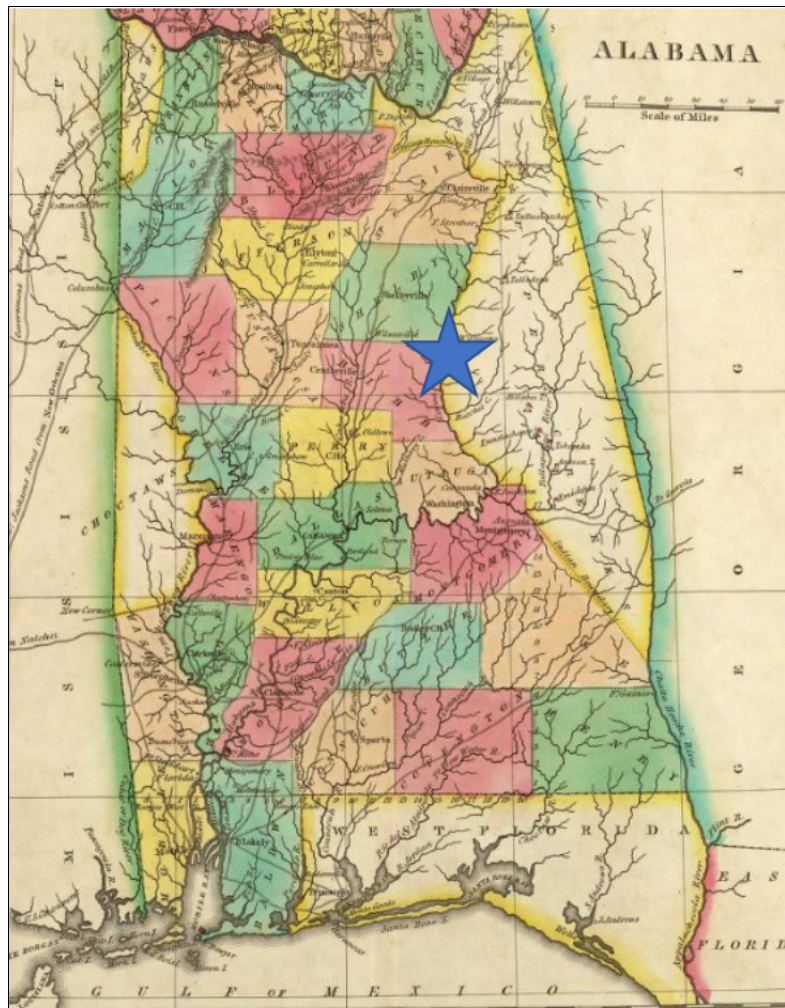


Figure 14. 1822 Map of Alabama, Bibb County

After the Creek Indian War of 1813-1814, the Creek Tribe ceded significant lands to the federal government to pay for war expenses.<sup>41</sup> This land included the central portion of Alabama, and white settlers moved into Bibb County lands. The land was not yet available to purchase, so these settlers in essence became squatters. A government survey in 1817 wrote this description:

<sup>40</sup> I Lea, "Map of Alabama," (Philadelphia : H.C. Carey & I. Lea, 1822); digitized image on the *David Rumsey Map Collection* (<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~751~70025:Map-Of-Alabama-> : accessed 10 May 2022).

<sup>41</sup> "Creek Indian Land Cessions," *Ocmulgee Mounds, National Park Service* (<https://www.nps.gov/ocmu/learn/historyculture/upload/Accessible-Creek-Land-Cessions.pdf> : accessed 16 May 2022).

The Cahaba is said to be navigable for boats to its falls, distant from Ditto's Landing, just below Chickasaw Island, on the Tennessee, almost 120 miles; and in the neighborhood of the Falls, both above and below, there is said to be a valley of very inviting land with the finest Springs, & the fairest prospect of health." <sup>42</sup>

Common migration patterns for families were for one or two family members to go ahead by a year or more, and then others would follow. Many soldiers from the War of 1812 battle in New Orleans passed through central Alabama on their way home to Tennessee and became acquainted with the valuable land. The common route for Tennessee settlers was the "spur of the Kentucky Trace that ran south to Huntsville. From Huntsville, an old Indian trail led past Ditto's Landing on the Tennessee River through Elyton (now Birmingham) to Mudtown, the Indian village site on the Cahaba just north of present-day Bibb." <sup>43</sup>

The 1820 federal census was lost for Bibb County, Alabama, so no record of the Shults family would be extant. However, court records did survive and from 1818 to 1823, named Shults men involved in a variety of activities - mainly road building.<sup>44</sup> The following table outlines the actions of Martin, Kennison, and Valentine Shults, who were likely brothers.

**Table 1. Bibb County, Alabama, Court Records for Shults Men**

Year	Individual	Details
1818	Kennison Shults	May 1818: Kinason Shults appointed to a jury to view and lay out and mark a road leading from the courthouse of Cahawba County down the west side of Cahawba River to Dallas County lines so as to intersect a road leading from thence to Dallas Courthouse. (p. 3)
1819	Kennison Shults	Feb 1819 Kinason Shults drawn as a juror for the Superior Court. (p. 12)
1819	Martin Shults	Feb 1819 Martin Shults drawn as a juror for the Superior Court. (p. 12)
1819	Martin Shults	Feb 1819 Martin Shults [and others] who had severally obtained in vacation License to keep tavern and retail spirituous liquors by the small measure had on presentation

<sup>42</sup> Rhoda Coleman Ellison, *Bibb County, Alabama : The First Hundred Years, 1818-1918* (University, Alabama : University of Alabama Press, 1984), 13.

<sup>43</sup> Rhoda Coleman Ellison, *Bibb County, Alabama: The First Hundred Years, 1818-1918* (University, Alabama : University of Alabama Press, 1984), 16.

<sup>44</sup> Martin Evers, transcriber, *Bibb County Commissioner's Court of Roads & Revenues: Meeting Minutes 1818-1828* (Brierfield, Alabama : Cahaba Trace Commission, 2004).



		their respective bonds approved of ordered that their respective licenses continue in force for one year from the dates thereof. (p. 140)
1819	Kennison Shults	Feb 1819: Kinnason Shoults [and others] are hereby appointed Commissioners to view lay out and mark the road from blugut creek as contemplated in the order of this Court at their May Session 1818 to the line of Dallas County . . . (p. 15)
1820	Valentine Shults	July 1820: Valentine Shoults appointed overseer of road from the falls of Cahawba (p. 24)
1823	Martin Shults	3 Feb 1823: Martin Shults be allowed the sum of one dollar out of the monies in the County Treasury not otherwise appropriated for guarding John Y. Mayner one day while confined on a charge of having committed a rape. (p. 74)
1825	Kennison Shults	15 Aug 1825: ordered that Keneson Shults [and others] be a jury to review the road from the west end of the causeway on Aufunnee Swamp to bluegut Creek and make such alterations as may be conducive to the pulbick good. (p. 105)

The court records provided evidence of Martin Shults in Bibb County, Alabama, at the time of Hickman's birth. The records also give a picture of the early years of settlement-building. The early court minutes include many petitions for building roads. Alabama passed a law requiring all male citizens from 18-45 to either work on the road for ten days a year or to furnish mules or pay \$10 to the community. "When the road was to be opened, the men who resided in that area were ordered to begin work on it as soon as the jury appointed to view the layout and mark the road made its report." <sup>45</sup>

Martin applied for a license to run a tavern which could have a wide range of meanings such as an inn, store, etc. He may not have farmed in Bibb County as he did not apply for a land patent there like his probable brother, Valentine Shults.<sup>46</sup>

With the Bibb County court records providing proof of Martin's residence in Alabama in 1821, the research could then move to DNA and find a connection with Hickman's descendants and Martin's other children.

<sup>45</sup> Rhoda Coleman Ellison, *Bibb County, Alabama : The First Hundred Years, 1818-1918* (University, Alabama : University of Alabama Press, 1984), 25.

<sup>46</sup> "Land Patent Search," negative search for Martin Shults, *General Land Office Records* (www.glorerecords.blm.gov : accessed 16 May 2022).

## DNA Findings

Because the main test-taker, Lucretia, had 151 DNA matches in Ancestry DNA ThruLines, initial sorting sought the highest DNA matches for each of the proposed siblings of Hickman Shults. The following diagram shows those matches and the descendency lines from Martin Shults and Sarah Rowden.

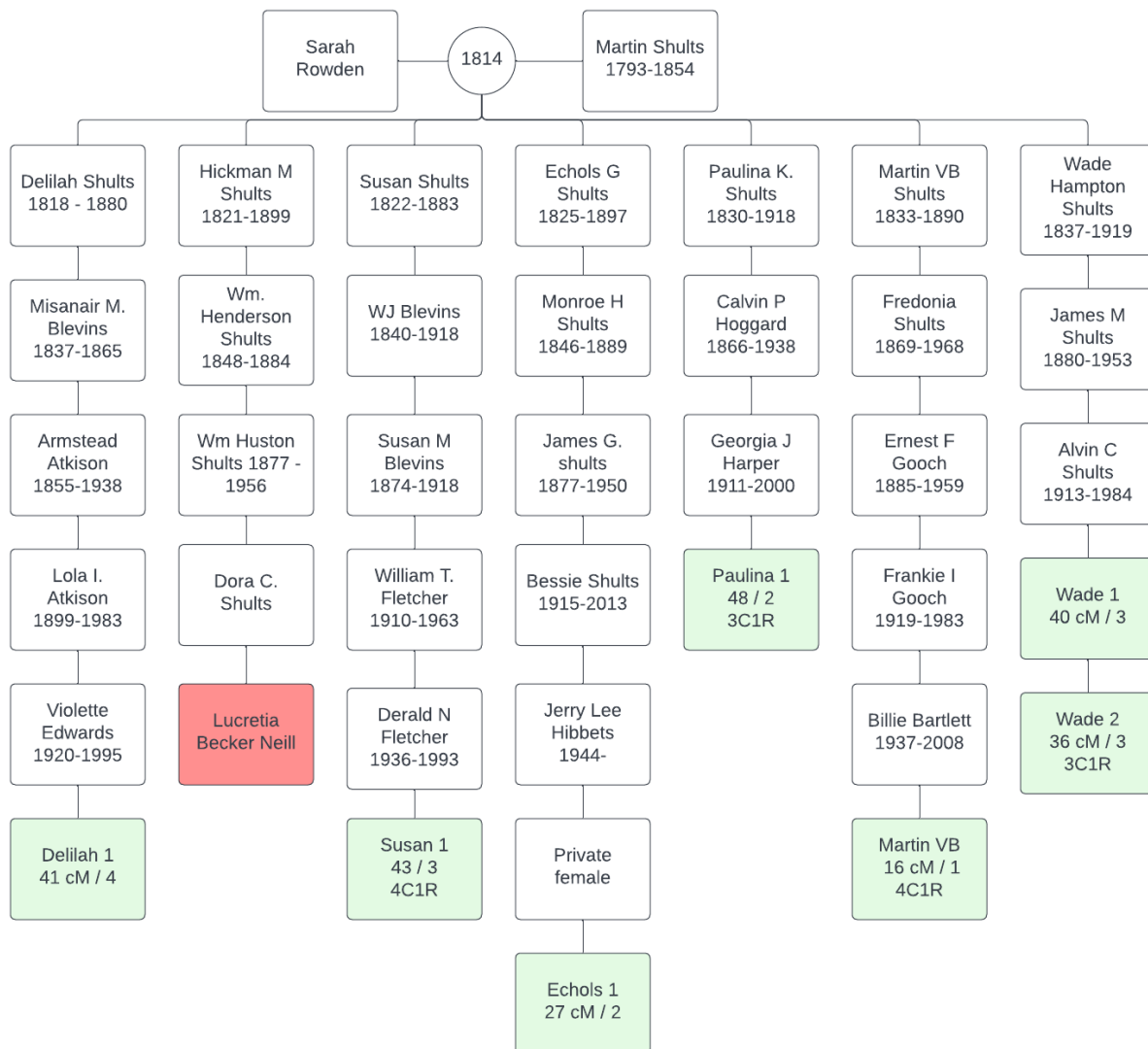


Figure 15. DNA Matches for Test-taker Lucretia Becker Neill, through siblings of Hickman Monroe Shults.



Each of these lines was verified independently and found sound.<sup>47</sup> Verification included the following steps.

- The family tree of each DNA match was traced back to their ancestor, a child of Martin Shults.
- The amount of DNA in cM was measured against the Shared cM Project to determine its validity.

Additional DNA evidence can be found by expanding the genetic network to include matches found through other descendants of Martin S. Shults. Four additional descendants of William Henderson Shults, son of Hickman Monroe Shults, provided access to their Ancestry DNA shared matches. See Figure 16 for their lines of descent.

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<sup>47</sup> "Public Member Trees," database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 16 May 2022), "Shults\_Kelsey," family tree by Diana Elder, profile for Martin Shults (1794-1850, married to Sarah Rowden), documented data.

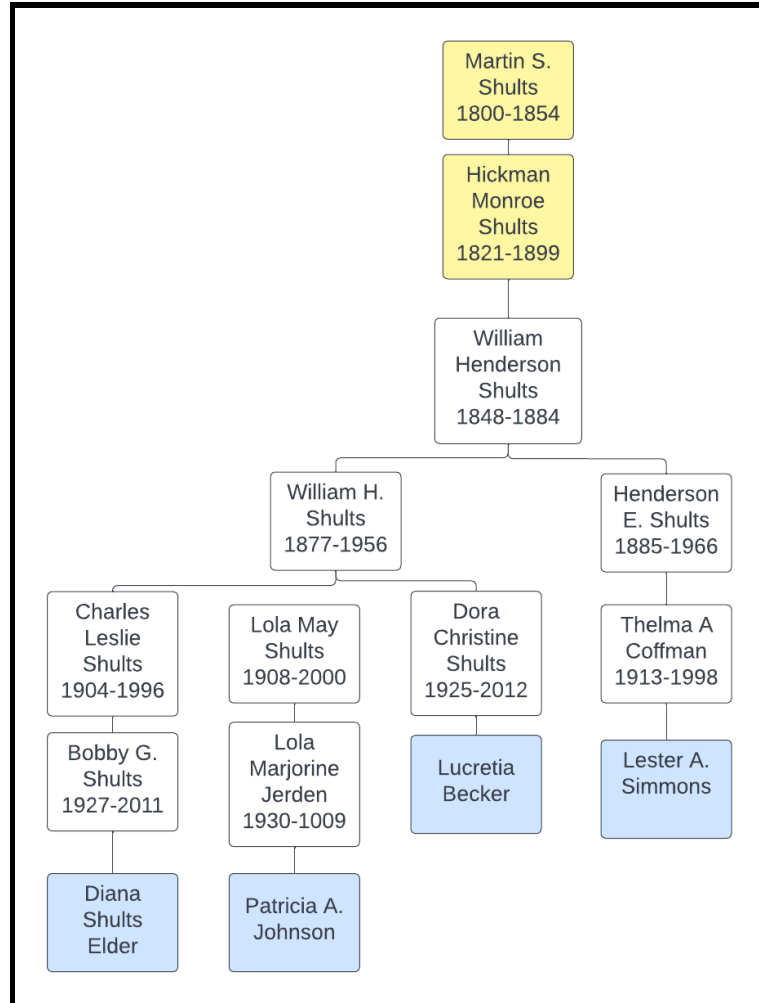


Figure 16: Line of Descent from Martin S. Shults for four test-takers shown in blue

Comparing the DNA that Lucretia, Diana, Patti, and Lester shared with the highest matches from each sibling line for Hickman Monroe Shults found the following results illustrated in Table 2.

**Table 2. Matrix of Martin Shults Descendants Shared DNA**

DNA Match	Lucretia	Diana	Patricia	Lester
Delilah 1	41 cM	16 cM	23 cM	x
Susan 1	43 cM	x	46 cM	x
Echols 1	27 cM	x	x	17 cM
Paulina 1	48 cM	x	30 cM	34 cM

Martin 1	16 cM	x	x	x
Wade 1	36 cM	x	17 cM	30 cM

The table illustrates the randomness of DNA recombination. although both Lucretia and Lester were a generation closer to Martin Shults than Diana and Patti, they only shared three of the selected matches. Diana shared the least amount of DNA with the selected matches, and Patti shared more than Lester. Continuing to expand the table with more matches will add to the evidence.

## Conclusion

This project successfully confirmed Martin Shults as the father of Hickman Monroe Shults through documentary evidence and evaluating DNA matches. The research found Martin Shults residing in Bibb County, Alabama, in the early 1820s when Hickman was born. The 1830 and 1840 census enumeration for Martin Shults revealed his migration from Alabama to New Madrid County, Missouri, then to Pulaski County, Arkansas. Those censuses contain placeholders for a male born about 1821 that would be Hickman. Additionally, Hickman and “heirs of Martin Shults” received Texas land patents under the Mercer Colony, likely migrating at or near the same time between 1840 and 1847.

DNA matches to Hickman’s third great-granddaughter through each of his proposed siblings provide evidence of a genetic connection to Martin Shults and Sarah Rowden. Identifying and verifying additional DNA matches can strengthen the genetic evidence.

## Future Research Suggestions

### Documentary Research

- Explore Tarrant and Parker County, Texas, records for Hickman Monroe Shults from 1850 to 1870.
  - Land records
  - Tax records
- Research Martin Shults
  - War of 1812 service record is attached to his profile on FamilySearch, but it is for a Maryland Militia and is likely for a man of the same name.
  - Tax records for date of migration from Rhea County, Tennessee, to Alabama.

- Research the M Schultz who served in the Mexican War in 1845/46 from Texas.  
Is this Martin Shults or another man of the same name.
- Research the siblings of Hickman Monroe Shults
  - Discover their migration pattern and proximity to Hickman in Texas.

## DNA Research

- Continue to identify and verify DNA matches to Lucretia Becker Neill through each of Hickman Monroe Shults' siblings.
- Continue to build out the descendency tree for Martin Shults and Sarah Rowden.
- Use DNA to prove Martin's father as Valentine Shults.