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Oh, I don't know...
I just feel chatty

Feeling chatty. No telling what will come out, and if you will want to read it.

Starting off, if you read the last newsletter about dedicated templates, and how to avoid the simplest of mistakes, did I start from the template? Yes, absolutely.

I want to do some traditional art, more than digital. What's stopping me? The perfection gene. Hah! You think I'm kidding. I'm not.

I was about 5, I had a coloring page of a dog, then I was given a red sheet of paper with a four inch circle on it, and had to cut it out to give the dog a ball. Some of the other kids finished before I did, a lot of the balls that were cut out looked more like 9–12 sided polygons. I wanted my dog to have a proper ball, round. The circle I cut out was pretty round. I think the teacher was impressed, but the circle was about two inches across. Literally about half the size of the four inch circle. I think some of the kids tried to make fun of me for having a circle half the size. I wasn't going to have any of it. My circle was round, though I'm sure I felt self conscious (I was in the minority).

I like art, I like drawing. However, growing up, I'd sit down with a good idea of what I wanted to draw. I can't tell you how many sheets of paper got thrown away, because it wasn't perfect.

In high school, I developed an interest in genealogy. And I did not get very far, got all my grandparents, then a few of the great-grandparents. After high school, my parents moved to the Austin area, and I discovered the State Library had a genealogy section. So I was able to go back a little further. Off an on, over the next several years, I'd sit back down for a little arm chair genealogy, and learn a little more. Then it happened, I got a scathing email that said my Shelby connection was wrong, and there was no way I could be a Shelby descendant. I know have the goods to prove that I am a Shelby descendant, and I spent several years avoiding the topic, because someone said I was wrong. Someone had given my father a newspaper clipping, the obituary of Mattie Shelby. It was stated in the article that her father's first name was Alford. So I asked

my father if Alford's name might really be Alfred. Found lots of Alfred's mentioned in the area where he grew up, but no one named Alford. He said it wasn't a typo, and that I should keep going with Alford, because illiteracy did not run in his family tree. Took my research off the radar. One day, I discovered a website with a huge quantity of Shelby genealogy. That changed everything.

I had Alford's father listed as Gov. Isaac Shelby of Kentucky. Other people said it, and I was trusting their research (mistake). Gov. Isaac had a son named Alfred. Gov. Isaac also had a first cousin, named Isaac. First cousin Isaac also had a son named Alfred. So, without a good path of documentation to follow, getting information wrong is almost a given. I came to find out, there are a lot more Shelby men named Isaac and Alfred.

I'm going way off topic here, right? Not really. I now have the goods on my great-great grandfather Alfred Shelby and clues to tell him apart from the other Alfreds out there that lived about the same time. Here I can say, Alfred did surveying. Surveyors have accurate. Cousin Gov. Isaac was also a surveyor. Alfred married Malinda Lewis, her father was Samuel S. Lewis and he did surveying. Her brother, Martin Baty Lewis was a map maker, in addition to a surveyor. So there are these men in the family tree (and more) with the knowledge of surveying, a skill that promotes accuracy. I have seen some of the documents created by these men, as surveyors and map makers. Totally fascinating.

Perfection is not bad, when it comes to print and web production. It can certainly get in the way when it comes to the creative process as art. I have been trying to break the perfection gene, now that I know where it came from. The sensation of knowing free flow art is empowering.

When someone tells you that you are mistaken. Do the research, perhaps you own half of the mistake and the other half belongs to the accuser. Embrace perfection where you can, and break perfection when it comes to fun.

I have art for sale, or merch if you want to call it that. Please see my Merch Webpage for more details.

<http://picassel.com/merch.html>

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