

Shirttail aliens: Could it be —

a family tree that branched to outer space?

By STEVE BYERS
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LIKE MANY of us, I don't know a whole lot about my ancestors. Sure, I know my mother's family supposedly came from Scotland and Ireland and my father's from England and Alsace-Lorraine.

But what do I really know for sure?

For example, I don't know whether there are space aliens in my family tree.

So it was with high interest that I picked up a copy of that learned publication, the Weekly World News, at the seat of higher learning known as the

ABOUT LIFE

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grocery store checkout lane.

The Weekly World News promised me "How to tell if YOU are descended from a space alien.

Since I've long been interested in my ancestry, and decidedly so if it includes a space alien, I immediately plunked down 65 cents for a copy.

Sure enough, there on pages 24 and 25 were the Warning Signs, as interpreted by

"anthropologist Henri Noblet," who told reporters in Paris that space aliens interbred with our primitive ancestors more than 8,000 years ago, and that he had developed a guide to "help identify people who bear the strongest resemblance to our alien forebears.

Sure enough, the behavioral aspects, which the article called "important clues," set me wondering; about great-great-great-great-great-grandfather Byers.

Alien descendants, Noblet said, tend to be:

- Dreamers (one of my traits)
- Smart (at least I'm smart enough to read the Weekly World News)
- Perceptive and insightful, the kind

of people who would have an open mind on such matters (and I certainly have)

- Independent (another of my traits)

Could it be? Could someone back in those Scottish hills or the villages of Alsace-Lorraine actually have befriended genuine space aliens?

And that Mayflower Society thinks crossing the Atlantic Ocean in a dinky boat is hot stuff! Maybe my ancestors have a much richer story.

Alas, then I looked at the list of physical characteristics of "descendants of space aliens":

- Eyes of green or hazel set wide apart;
- Feet small and narrow with longer than normal toes;

- Ears larger than average and set close to the head;

- Hand and fingers long and slender with perfectly formed but fragile nails;

- Facial features unusually delicate with lips fuller than average or unusually thin;

- Hips fuller than average;
- Hair tending to be blond or red;
- Body build small to average with unusually weak and thin bones.

Unfortunately, this doesn't describe me at all.

I guess I just have to be satisfied with being a descendent of other homo sapiens.

But maybe I can be Elvis in my next life.