



FIRST GROUP OF SHIRLEY DESCENDANTS AT SHIRLEY PLANTATION!

L to R

front row Mrs. Garland Shirley
 Jessie H. Kiel
 Audrey Fahrer
 Esther Shirley
 Ralph Atchley & son James
 Elinor Richey
 Debbie Shirley
 Alabeth Wooding
 Virgil Shirley
 Marion & Walt Shirley
 Richard Vogt
 Wilfred Stevens

2nd row Anne Shirley Connor (sitting)
 Maxine Shirley
 Carol Walker
 Tracy Oliver
 Natalie Walker
 Allen & Dorothy Shirley
 Evelyn D. Shirley
 Shirley Jean & Orvil Shaffer
 (behind them is) Ed Shirley
 Orris & Ethel Richert
 Ruth Payne
 Guy Shirley & daughter Delaine

PHOTO sent by Alabeth Wooding

3rd row Edna Chandler
 Harvey Shirley
 Dorothy Thrawley
 Anne Witt Walker
 Ruth Witt
 Elwood & Dorothy Shirley
 Pat & Mike Wine
 Betty & Paul W. Shirley
 Shirley Howard Payne
 Betty Shirley

"Are you holding a reservation for Shirley?"

The good natured Mr. Sharp, manager of the Holiday Inn at Hopewell, Virginia, barely blinked before responding, "Which one?"

The first Shirley Convention was not in the least deterred by the gasoline shortage.

Forty-three Shirleys from fourteen states converged on the Inn by auto, air and motorcycle; and enough of us had arrived by Friday evening to start getting acquainted. ("How do you do. I'm not a Shirley--I'm just an 'out-law.'") Pen-pals met each other face to face while Betty and Guy moved graciously from group to group and then back to their

(continued next page)

preparations for the next morning's meeting. Sharing of family notes and pictures began seriously and was resumed during every spare moment throughout the week end. Striking family resemblances were noted too often to be coincidence!

Saturday morning, Betty asked us to be seated by lineage--the Walters, the Kentuckys, and the odds-and-ends. We munched on California Bing cherries, compliments of Betty and Guy, while formally introducing ourselves. ("I'm descended from the Barren Co., Kentucky Shirleys and I'll now turn you over to my mouthpiece--my wife." -- Obviously the so-called "out-laws" play an important role in the Shirley Association!) We learned more about our common English ancestry from an enormous wall chart arduously prepared by Betty. In addition, she announced that a limited number of these charts and books, containing relevant portions of "Stemmata Shirleana," are now available.

Mr. Hill Carter, present owner by descendency of Shirley Plantation, climaxed the morning with a capsule history of the land--starting with the foundation of the "West and Shirley Hundred" in 1610, and capping it off with Louisa Carter's breathtaking eyewitness account of events at Shirley during the Civil War when the plantation was protected by the Union against destruction by both sides. He concluded by reciting from memory two letters to the Carter family from Robert E. Lee, whose mother was a Carter, written after the Civil War. Mr. Carter's presentation was a sober reminder that Shirleys lived on both sides of the Mason Dixon line and leveled guns at each other--as we so often hear, that families were divided by that terrible war.

Carter's personal attention, the historic significance of the house and surrounding lands, and the beauty of the gnarled old walnut trees on the banks of the James River. If our group picture taken at Shirley reflects emotions other than interest and pleasure--such as hilarity or suspense, these reactions were the result of watching the photographer sprint to position in the picture after setting a delayed shutter release!

We reconvened later in the afternoon for more ancestral-record swapping and an informal business discussion which dealt with such mundane matters as the format of

The Shirley News; Betty's deficit (she does have one!); the necessity for accuracy and authenticity in reporting our genealogical information--documented whenever possible; and ways and means of broadening our association membership and general interest in active research into Shirley history.

Looking forward to a growing interest in Shirley relationships, ancestry and future Shirley gatherings, we all sensed a warmth and congeniality which can only bear out the truth in the old adage that blood is thicker than water.

* * *

Introducing Betty and Guy! Guy is handsome, personable and modest. His ancestors start in Pennsylvania, move on to Ohio, to Arkansas, and finally to California where he is now in the construction business. He gallantly bowed to Betty's leadership at the Convention, but was a tireless, informed partner and host--a necessary ingredient in our first conclave.

Betty is a woman with one gear: "Full speed ahead!" A mover and an organizer, she has conducted a successful bridal service, including everything from the engagement to the last grain of rice. She recently became interested in her own family origins and moved on to Guy's family and Shirleys in general. Her ambitions for the Shirley Association together with her organizational abilities encouraged us all to believe that we can not only enlarge our membership and scope of research, but have fun doing it. It was fun to meet Betty and Guy and their two youngest daughters, Delaine, 15 years and Debbie, 12 years.

By Marion Shirley
(Mrs. Walter L. Shirley)
Indianapolis, Ind.

WANTED!!



WALTER SHIRLEY BRANCH

Walter Shirley, born April 27, 1690
Staunton Harold, England - died Frederick Co.,
Va. (now Jefferson Co., W. Va.), married
Dorcas Avis in 1752.

Children

1. Walter b. ca. 1728, d. ca. 1804
2. Jarvis b. ca. 1732, d. 1819
3. James b. ca. 1735, d. 1785
4. Sarah
5. Dorcas
6. Robert b. ca. 1745, d. ca. 1815

In an old Bible dated 1816 contains the note: "Walter Shirley landed in America from England about 1726." This Walter Shirley lived until after his children were grown. Within 3 years following Walter's death, we find his sons participating as rangers in the French and Indian Wars in Captain Robert Rutherford's command. Walter's family lived with him on his Frederick County (now Jefferson Co., W. Va.) plantation. They had ample time and opportunity to hear their father's story. Most of his children lived to be an advanced age and they, in turn, passed the story to succeeding generations.

Walter Shirley was born, circ., 1690. According to Thomas Turner Wysong (b. May 20, 1817) and Lewis Barton Wysong (b. Jan. 1, 1801), Walter Shirley, their forebear, came of a prominent family in England, but owing to an unfortunate episode in which he felled his adversary, he left his native land for America. He is said to have landed in the Colony of New Jersey. This, according to a family Bible (1816), was in 1726. He married Dorcas Avis, said to have been a good woman of respectable family, and they with their children migrated to the Shenandoah Valley prior to 1745. He settled on a tract of land consisting of 800 acres and lying on "the great waggon road" near Keyes Ferry in Frederick County, Va., now, Jefferson Co., W. Va. In a book entitled "The Rocks of Deer Creek," Thomas Turner Wysong speaks of Shirley as "The Hermit of Otter Rock." Walter Shirley soon became embroiled in pioneer litigation. In Court Orders and Petitions of Frederick County, 1743-1745-(Vol. I, p. 294), record is to be found of a judgment obtained against one William Jay for L1 16s. The defendant not appearing in court the amount was ordered paid to the plain-

tiff. In Court Orders, 1745-1747 (Vol. II, p. 143), this notation is to be found: "Walter Shirley vs. Frederick Hawes, Attachment suit dismissed upon agreement of parties. In Vol. II, p. 444 (1745-1747, we find: "Walter Shirley vs. Enoch Pearson, In case, Suit being agreed is dismissed." In Court Orders, 1748-1751 (Vol. III, p. 46) he was given a civil commission "to succeed Samuel Walker and sheriff is ordered to notify him that he may appear and be sworn into office."

On October 13, 1750, Walter Shirley received a grant of 404 acres of land from Lord Fairfax (N. N., Bk G, p. 438, Virginia Land Office Records). Guy Broadwater was the surveyor. There being an error in the grant, Broadwater was called upon to re-survey the tract and this resulted in some thirty acres being added to his estate. Shirley won his cases. A second grant was obtained June 20, 1751. This document is reproduced in full: "Book H. Northern Neck Grants, p. 3, Virginia Land Office. The Right Honorable Thomas Lord Fairfax, Baron of Cameron in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, Proprietor of the Northern Neck of Virginia; To all to whom this present writing shall come greeting: Know ye that for good causes for and in consideration of the composition to me paid for the annual rent thereafter reserved I have granted and confirmed and by these presents for me my heirs and assigns do give, grant and confirm unto Walter Shirley of the County of Frederick a certain tract of waste and ungranted land joining the tract whereon he lives in the said County and bounded by a survey there made by Mr. George Washington.

Walter Shirley made a will July 10, 1755 (Frederick County Will Book, Vol. 2, p. 175). On August 11th he annexed a codicil. On October 7th of the same year the will was proved in Winchester, the county seat of Frederick County in the Colony of Virginia. This will is given in full:

In the name of God, Amen, the tenth day of July one thousand seven hundred and fifty-five, I Walter Shirley, of the County of Frederick and Colony of Virginia, being weak and sick of body but sound and perfect in mind and memory, thanks to Almighty God, and calling to mind the mortality of this transitory life and that all flesh must once ----- unto death, where it

shall please God to call, do make and declare this will and testament in manner following to wit:

I give and recommend my soul into the hands and possession of Almighty God who gave it me and my body to be decently buried making no doubt but at the general Resurrection to receive it again and as touching the transitory estate wherewith the Lord has been pleased to and on wherewith, I do give and bequeath in the manner following to wit:

ITEM - I give and bequeath unto my eldest son Walter Shirley two hundred acres of land lying and being in the County and Colony aforesaid and on the glade of branch I now live on, and adjoining and including a large spring called the Pond joining Nathaniel Thomas' land and the ---- land.

ITEM - I likewise give and bequeath unto my son Jarvis Shirley two hundred acres of land including a little spring near Nathaniel Thomas' corner and mine.

ITEM - I give and bequeath unto my son James Shirley two hundred acres of land lying near the great waggon road where it corners with John Suel and Reuben Rutherford.

ITEM - I also give and bequeath unto my youngest son Robert Shirley one hundred and eighty-three acres of land being the place and plantation whereon I now live all which parcels and dividends of land aforesaid includes the full quantity contained in two separate deeds I obtained from the Right Honorable Thomas, Lord Fairfax, all which dividends of land aforesaid I do give and bequeath unto several sons aforementioned and above the several aforementioned places which I do give and bequeath unto each of them and to their heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten in wedlock and so to continue and descend from lawful heirs to their lawfully begotten of their bodies in wedlock forever.

ITEM - My will and desire is that my four sons Walter, Jarvis, James and Robert Shirley have a full power and full legal and lawful authority themselves as also their heirs hereafter to be or shall be either of them lawfully begotten forever without hindrance or interruption of any or either of them to cut, split, fell,

hall away of and from any part of the aforementioned lands for the use and support of their buildings and plantations forever any wood and timber and my will and desire further is that my lands aforesaid to my said sons or any part thereof ---- by them or any of them or either of them or their heirs heretofore by them or either of them begotten, leased for life or lives or any term of years.

ITEM - My will and desire is that provided my youngest son Robert Shirley shall decease this natural life without heirs of body lawfully begotten as aforesaid, then my other three sons inherit the said land to him before devised to be equally divided between them and their heirs as aforementioned forever and I do allow my son James to have my dwelling house and plantation.

ITEM - And provided any two of my sons should depart this natural life without lawfully begotten heirs aforesaid that then my will and desire is that my two daughters Sarah Shirley and Dorcas Shirley should have, enjoy and inherit the two dividends to their deceased brothers and in manner following (that is to say) the eldest daughter is to have the eldest brother's land and the youngest daughter is to have the youngest brother's land according as she according as he happen to die and to be held and enjoyed as aforesaid forever together with the liberty of opinion as aforesaid forever.

ITEM - My will and desire is that after my just debts and funeral expenses be paid and my loving wife's right of dower according to law together with a large gray pacing mare called my wife's mare together with her side saddle that my movable estate be divided into four parts and that one fourth part be equally divided between my sons Walter, Jarvis and James Shirley and the other three parts to be equally divided between my son Robert Shirley and my two daughters Sarah and Dorcas Shirley.

ITEM - My will and desire that before any distribution of any of my movable estate be made as aforesaid that as much thereof be sold by my

executors hereafter named as may be sufficient to pay for digging, walling and fixing a good well with constant water upon that part or dividend of land devised to my son James Shirley together with all things necessary thereunto and I do hereby ordain, constitute and appoint Edward Lucas and John Hartley executors of this my last will and testament disannulling all other wills and testaments by me made and this only to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year above mentioned.

Signed, sealed and pronounced and published in the presence of

John Crow

Thomas Crow Walter Shirley (Seal)

John Suel

In the name of God, Amen, a codicil to this the within last will and testament of Walter Shirley of Frederick County in the Colony of Virginia, to wit:

ITEM - I give and bequeath to my well beloved friend and brother Francis Avis sixty acres of land out of that tract or parcel of land which I in my last will and testament bearing the date the tenth day of July last did give and bequeath to my beloved son Robert Shirley to be set off out of the same at the discretion of my loving wife Dorcas and him the said Francis to live on and enjoy the same with all the appurtenances thereof belonging during his natural life be paying only the quit rents of the same and the residue of the said tract or parcel of land demised to the within named Robert Shirley which said sixty acres of land I give to him the said Francis Avis for the love and good will I bare him and more especially that he live near my said wife and son to be their friend and counselor seeing that my son may have good schooling and learning which is my last will and desire as witness my hand and seal this eleventh day of August, one thousand seven hundred and fifty-five.

Signed sealed and delivered in the presence of us

Thomas Rutherford

William Givin Walter Shirley

Worthington

Richard Lock

Walter Shirley died in the late summer of 1755. A number of years elapsed before his estate was finally settled. He was buried in his plantation.

(Walter line continued next issue)

(Refs. story of Smithfield by Robert Bates)



THE ORIGIN OF THE SHIRLEY FAMILY

The Shirley family was of early origin and was a prolific strain. Research as to the origin impels a study of the times leading to their first identity with the Norman conquest of England in 1066; a review of the customs and cultures from the time of Roman rule over England from 55 B.C. to 410 A.D., a period which was followed by successive invasions of Anglos, Saxons, and Danes. The Danes were called "Vikings" in England and called "Normans" in France in the 8th and 10th centuries. The Norman invasion of 1066 was the most significant instance in the history of England, which following the freedom from Roman rule had developed a pattern of political and social life during which agriculture advanced slowly, crafts were semi-primitive, and feudalism developed with overlords owning the land which was worked by vassals, owing allegiance to the overlord.

This form of Fuedal government applied to the various areas called "Shires" corresponding to our modern counties, the Shire being made up of Estates called "Manors," the occupants being of kinship - which were called clans or tribes, in today's terms were families. The titles of nobility (the overlords of landed areas) were Duke, Marquess, Earls, Viscounts, and Baren...all identified as "Lords." Those working for nobility were known only by a given name and by the vocation followed. Each manor had its baker, smiths, farmers, hunters, and persons living by a hill or given to pursuits such as fishing; those vassals seldom left the area of the manor except when on conquest with their Lords, when they were identified by their armor and had little need for what today we call surnames.

The Shirley family had its origin with the Norman Invasion of William, Duke of Normandy. Sir Sewallis-Baren Henry de Ferrer, a follower of William from Normandy, was the first recorded Shirley ancestor.

From Reuben Thompson Shirley book, compiled in 1968 at which time he was 75. He spent 6 years researching and gathering info for his family book.

KENTUCKY SHIRLEYS

(Con't. from April '79 issue)

Thomas Shirley

- b. Mar. 21, 1761, Berkeley Parish, Spottsylvania Co., Virginia
- d. April 17, 1820, Adair Co., Ky.
- m. Molly Yates in 1788, Caroline Co., Va.
 - b. August 17, 1767, Fredericksburg, Va.
 - d. July 16, 1839, Adair Co., Ky.

Children

1. Martha Y. (Patsy)
 - b. Jan. 26, 1789, Spottsylvania Co., Va.
 - m. Samuel Hodges
2. Paul
 - b. Aug. 30, 1790, Spots-Co., Va.
 - m. Sarah Caperton Gibson
3. William A.
 - b. May 29, 1792, Spots Co., Va.
 - m. H.H. Logan
4. Thomas W.
 - b. February 9, 1794, Spots Co., Va.
 - m. Patsey Montgomery
5. Frances S.
 - b. Oct. 6, 1796, Culpepper Co., Va.
 - m. Josiah C. Culp
6. Richard W.
 - b. April 25, 1798, Culpepper Co., Va.
 - m. Polly Yates
7. James A.
 - b. June 1, 1800, Culpepper Co., Va.
 - m. Frances Giddings
8. John M.
 - b. February 19, 1802, Culpepper Co., Va.
 - m. Mary C. Poole
9. George Yates
 - b. March 12, 1804, Culpepper Co., Va.
 - m. Evaline Garvin, m2nd Emily Brown
10. Mary Ann
 - b. December 18, 1805, Adair Co., Ky.
 - m. John Snoddy
11. Charles Michael
 - b. March 15, 1808, Adair Co., Ky.
 - m. Sarah Ann Henderson

Thomas Shirley, Private, in a company designated at various times as Captain Matthias Hite's Company, Capt. Richard Campbell's and Lieutenant & Capt. John Steed's Company, 8th Virginia Regiment, commanded by Colonel Abraham Bowman. He enlisted January 21, 1777 for the war. He fought in the battle of Cowpens, South Carolina. His name last appears on the company muster roll for the

months of November and December, 1777 and January, February and March, 1778 -- dated Valley Forge April 17, 1778, with remark "On furlough" (Virginia County Record (8 Va. Reg. Am. Rev.) folder 178, 1-4-6, Spottsylvania County, Va.)

Thomas enlisted in the 8th Virginia Regiments when he was 15 years old. (His brother John also fought with the Virginia Troops.) He married Molly Yates in Caroline Co., Va. in 1788. They lived in Spottsylvania Co., Va. until about 1795 when they moved to Culpepper Co. Va. About 1805 he disposed of everything he had except about 60 of his best slaves who cut a road through the forest as Thomas traveled to Adair Co., Ky. Thomas predicted Adair Co., Ky. had a great future and he died there a very wealthy man. It appears he had his family under his thumb. His will is most interesting and business-like -- and lengthy.

Thomas' children and descendants lived in Barren Co., Ky.; Okla.; Texas; Mo. and Kansas. Some surnames of those marrying into this family are in addition to those already listed: Moody, Thomson Browning, Hatcher, Spindle, Stapp, Bailey, Gadberry, Sexton, and Bridges -- to name a few.



John Shirley (brother of Thomas)

- b. April 1760, Berkeley Parish, Spottsylvania Co., Va.
- d. March 1840, Adair Co., Ky.
- m. Frances G. Yates, Nov. 25, 1782
 - b. 1759, Caroline Co., Va.
 - d. Sept. 22, 1843, Adair Co., Ky.

Children

1. Nancy W.
 - b. ca. 1783
 - m. 1st Thomas Coleman, Dec. 27, 1804
 - m. 2nd Francis A. Henry, Jan. 11, 1829
2. George Yates
 - b. ca. 1785
 - m. Pamela Coleman, December 18, 1807
3. Col. John Warfield
 - b. December 28, 1787
 - m. Patsy Young, January 26, 1809
4. Polly E.
 - b. ca. 1789
 - m. Edmund Rogers, January 27, 1809
5. Betsey W.
 - b. ca. 1792
 - m. Nimrod Bailey, November 18, 1819
6. Benjamin W.
 - b. October 22, 1797

John entered the service from Spottsylvania as a Marine on the "Venture," served four months in Culpepper Co., Va.

In 1807, he migrated to Mercer Co., Ky., then settled in Adair Co., Ky. where his brother Thomas lived.

(refs. Pension File #8719 Spots Co., Va. deed book M., p. 440, 444)

I'd like to know more about the descendants on this John Shirley line. Can anyone help me?? *Betty Shirley*

INQUIRY:

NEED INFORMATION ON MARRIAGE (OR MARRIAGES) AND PARENTS OF:

EDMUND SHIRLEY b. SEPT. 15, 1767, VA.
d. SEPT. 5, 1853, BOONE CO., IN. BURIED -
FAYETTE, BOONE CO., IN.

TO
PHILADELPHIA

b. OCT. 1, 1769
d. APR. 29, 1843,
FAYETTE, IN.

NEED MARRIAGE OF EDMUND BEFORE 1817 --
WHEN SON MILETUS WAS BORN.

SEND INFORMATION TO:

MRS. ETHEL RICHERT, ELMWOOD, NEB 68349

or

PROFESSOR RICHARD VOGT
7903 MEADOWBROOK DRIVE
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46240

VIRGINIA - THE MOTHER COLONY

History records that the colony of Virginia was established May 13, 1607 by the London Company with 105 emigrants by Captain John Smith, who was elected president of the colony in Sept. 1608; he returned to England in 1609.

Lord Delaware West was sent to Virginia as the first Captain General of Virginia. He served as Colonial Governor from 1610 until he died June 7, 1618 while enroute from England to Jamestown.

The first settlers in Jamestown in 1607 became discouraged with their efforts to make a living in the new world and therefore started back to England in 1610. At the mouth of the James River the settlers met a shipload of colonists with plenty of supplies for all of them. On this ship was Lord Delaware West. He was determined settlements in America should be permanently established. He persuaded the disheartened colonist to return with him to Virginia-- where they set up trading posts and undertook to bring the hostile Indians to subjection. For better protection against the warlike natives, and for a type of community work plan, Lord Delaware encouraged the establishment of "hundreds" on which about one hundred families would live, work together, collect their dues, hold their courts, and manage themselves in general.

In 1596, Sir Thomas West married Lady Cacia Shirley, daughter of Sir Thomas Shirley, the elder. Afterwards he became seventh Baron De La War or Lord Delaware who spent a fortune establishing colonies in America.

The Shirley Plantation was established in 1613 by Lord Delaware. It was first called "West & Shirley Hundred" and later shortened to "Shirley" in honor of his father-in-law.

"Shirley" was sold in 1660 to Colonel Edward Hill, and it remained in the Hill family until the third Edward Hill gave it to his daughter Elizabeth as a wedding present. She married John Carter, son of King Carter, and the Shirley Plantation has remained in the Carter family since 1723.

Anne Hill Carter was born at "Shirley" in 1773. Twenty years later she married "Light Horse" Harry Lee, at Shirley. They were parents of General Robert E. Lee. Robert spent several years at "Shirley" and received part of his early schooling there. Prominent people such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson have been guests at "Shirley."

During the Revolution, "Shirley" was a supply center for the Continental Army. Twice it was a listening post for both sides in no man's land between the British at Hopewell and Lafayette's Army at Malvern Hill.

"Shirley" is Virginia's oldest plantation.





"STEMMATA SHIRLEANA"

I have a copy of this book which was sent to me by John Shirley, great grandson of the author, Evelyn Philip Shirley. It was printed in 1873 and contains more than 400 pages. Some of the book is printed in Latin and there are other hard to understand pages including lineage of other married in families and lineage charts.

The book is hard to find in the United States. The library of Congress has it and will zerox it at a cost of \$25.00 or more.

I have condensed this book to 39 pages of understandable reading. I've included some wills which are most interesting, particularly Dame Anne's will in which she mentions Caecilia and Lord Delaware West's children as well as Caecilia. It is a lengthy and detailed will. There are several genealogy charts on individual Shirley branches in England from 1086 - 1800's. They show the descent of the Shirleys in England. I have coordinated these charts into one chart so as to understand the English family tree. It contains 300-400 names. By studying the chart briefly, here are just a few of some relationships I figured out:

The great, great grandfather of William Shirley, governor of Massachusetts in 1741, was a first cousin of Lady Caecilia Shirley (wife of Lord Delaware West).

Walter Shirley b. ca. 1690 was the son of Lady Elizabeth Washington and Sir Robert Shirley. Lady Elizabeth Washington was George Washington's great Aunt (sister of George Washington's grandfather). Therefore, George Washington's father and Walter Shirley were first cousins.

Walter Shirley's half-sister, Mary, was the mother of William Tyron. He was governor of North Carolina in 1765, Gov. of New York in 1771, and Lt. General in 1782.

These are but a few illustrations of how the chart can help you understand the early English Shirley lineage.

The chart is 24" x 36" and the booklet is 39 pages. They can both be purchased by sending a \$10.00 donation plus \$2.00 for mailing expenses. This money will go into a fund to purchase a computer to carry all our Shirley data. Tell other family members about this so we may raise enough money thru this and donations, to purchase our computer before September.

SEND TO
THE SHIRLEY NEWS
10256 GLENCOE DRIVE
CUPERTINO, CA 95014



Next Issue

South Carolina Shirleys
Georgia & Alabama Shirleys
Western migration of Kentucky Shirleys
Continuation of Barren Co./Scott Co., Ky
Shirleys

(No article for this issue as promised in July '79 issue because I needed more time to properly research and write it. Will have it for Oct. '79 issue.)

**WE NEED MORE PICTURES OF
OUR MEMBERS AND OF THEIR
ANCESTORS!!!**

1st Annual Shirley Convention

By Betty Shirley

What a fantastic group of people and what a great time we had in Virginia! Nearly 50 people from 15 states attended the first Shirley Convention in Hopewell - Chester, Va., June 23, 1979.

Our visit to the Shirley Plantation was quite an experience. We stood on land and looked at landscaping and buildings that have existed through early American history.

Since our visit there, I have read a 20-page letter about "Shirley," written by a relative of Mr. Carter, the present owner. The letter was written in 1868 and goes into much detail about the happenings at "Shirley" during the Civil War. In it I learned how the vast lawn area from the house to the James River (on which I stood) was covered with the injured and the dead soldiers; how the Carter family was confined to the house, and some of their experiences, etc. I'm sure there is still alot to learn about the Shirley Plantation and its history.

Mr. Carter came and visited my husband and me the night before the convention. He is very informative on early history and the Carter family. He agreed to come and speak to us the morning of the convention -- and gave us a personal tour of the Shirley Plantation. He has assured me, if we ever come there again to hold our convention, he will assist us in getting publicity and anything else he can do to help us.

Our meeting ran smoothly and information exchanged among those attending. The food was good and the service was excellent. Mr. Sharpe, the manager of Holiday Inn, was super to us!

Ruth Payne presented me with a beautiful plate designed by her and another lady for the Abraham Lincoln Chapter of N.S.D.A.R. On the back is written:

Lincoln, Illinois
Lincoln's Namesake City

Seven years before he became President of the United States, the proposed town in Logan County was named with the consent of Abraham Lincoln.

August 27, 1853, beside the newly completed Chicago and Mississippi Railroad, Robert B. Lalham and John D. Gillett, of Logan County, and Virgil Hickox, from Springfield, Ill., a director of the railroad, held an auction sale of lots in the plotted town. Abraham Lincoln, a legislator from Springfield, attended the sale as attorney for the sellers.

In a mock christening, he used the juice of a watermelon from a farmer's wagon nearby, and named the townsite Lincoln.

President Gerald R. Ford re-enacted the event October 15, 1976.

* * *

Ruth and her husband Shirley Payne are both "Shirleys." They live on the Shirley Plantation in Hartsburg, Ill. We shall feature their family in a future Shirley News issue.

Another event took me by surprise when I was given \$386 collected from those attending the convention to help cover our \$472 deficit. It was agreed to raise the membership fee from \$10.00 per year to \$15.00 per year.

I have had several calls and letters from those attending expressing their gratitude and hoping we'll do it again. We Will - Mark your calendars for the last week of June, 1980. The place will be somewhere in the San Francisco Bay Area, in CA.

Thank you to each of you who came to "Meet me in Virginia" as I wrote about in the April issue, page 5. To you who couldn't make it, we're sorry you couldn't, but maybe next year!



NEW HAMPSHIRE SHIRLEYS FROM IRELAND

James Shirley came to Chester, N.H. from the north of Ireland at an advanced age in about 1730. He had a large family, and several sons came over. Three of the sons came to Chester. James died in 1754 in Chester, at 105 years of age. The three sons were John, James & Thomas.

1. John b. in Ireland
m. 1st _____
m. 2nd Mary Miller, widow of Archibald Miller

John lived on land in Chester which he purchased from Samson Underhill and he remained there until his death in 1768.

Children

- (1) James probably born in Ireland, as in 1741 his father deeds land to him, which is eleven years after his father came to this country.
 - (2) Mary b. _____ d. 1792
m. James Wilson
 - (3) Ann b. _____
m. Robert Wilson
 - (4) Thomas b. 1728
 - (5) Jane b. _____
m. Robert McMurphy of Londonderry
 - (6) Mary b. 1736 in Chester
m. Alexander Gilchrist
 - (7) John b. _____ Moved to Roxbury, Mass.
 - (8) Daniel b. _____ Settled in New Chester (now Hill N.H.)
2. James, born Dec. 1700, Ireland
d. May 30, 1796 in Chester, N.H.
m. Janet _____ in Ireland

He was known as Captain James Shirley and was a seventh son. He was famous for curing "King Evil" (scrofula) and a man of some considerable note in his day. He first located in Brookline, Mass. and in 1734 moved to Chester. James served in the old French War in 1756, in Capt. John Gilmans Co.

Children

- (1) James b. _____. He was struck by lightning and killed when on his way home from Exeter, on horseback. He was overtaken in a severe thunder shower and was leading his horse when lightning struck him. The silver money in his pocket and his knee buckles were melted.

- (2) Margaret b. 1729, m. Dea Thomas Shirley
 - (3) Agnes b. Feb. 1823, m. John McNair
 - (4) John b. 1735 N.H., d. 1826 Warren Co. PA. A receipt roll dated Chester, N.H. Sept. 21, 1776 shows that he enlisted to serve until Dec. 1, 1776 unless discharged. His name appears on a muster roll and payroll dated Sept. 26, 1776 of men raised in Cols. Thornton's and Webster's Regiments in New Hampshire, to serve under Capt. Runnel's Co., Col. Thomas Trask Regiment at New York.
 - (5) William b. _____ Chester, d. 1807
m. Mary Morrison 1788 of Londonderry (daughter of Samuel Morrison). He served in the Revolutionary War and was Lieut. William Shirley. He served for years as clerk of the Presbyterian parish of Chester.
3. Thomas b. 1728, Ireland; d. Feb. 27, 1808
m. Margaret Shirley (cousin) 1752. She was the daughter of Capt. James and Janet Shirley. Thomas moved to Goffstown, N.H. in 1761 and settled on Shirley Hill on land purchased from John and Mary Holmes. Dea. Thomas Shirley was prominent in affairs of town, one of those commissioned to buy powder, lead and flints in 1774, and later was one of a committee appointed by the town to see that the quota was full. He served under two different enlistments in the Revolutionary service and took an active part in town affairs in the days of the Revolution. He adhered to his Scotch-Irish faith like all other Scotch-Irish emigrants, but united with the Congregational Church in 1801.

Children

- (1) Jane b. 1757, d. Nov. 21, 1838
m. Robert Patten of Bedford, 1787.
He was son of Matthew & Elizabeth (McMurphy) Patten
- (2) Mary
m. Robert Gilchrist
- (3) James b. 1759, Chester
- (4) Ann b. 1761, Chester; d. Apr. 17, 1787
- (5) Agnes b. Feb. 17, 1763 in Goffstown, NH

(Ref. History of Goffstown, N.H.)

WANT ADS

WANTED: Photographs, prints, paintings and news clips of the following people.

Benjamin Shirley ca. 1762-1824 and wife Elizabeth Hughes ca. 1770-1826

Nathaniel Shirley, 1787-1849 and wife Nancy Grubbs, 1796-1851

Benjamin Shirley, 1814-1894 and wife Katherine Latimer, 1824-1899

Joshua Cornelius Shirley, 1856-1927 and wife Mary Katherine Black, 1856-1935

Will pay for copies. Also interested in heirlooms of same people. Please contact Conrad Martin Shirley, 4115 Fogel Lane, Wheaton, Maryland 20906

* * * *

Am in need of the parents of my great, great grandfather, Willian Shirley, born ca. 1788 Kentucky. William served in the war of 1812 with an Isaac Shirley. May have been a brother or cousin. William living in Mercer Co., Ky. Census 1820. Isaac living in adjoining Washington Co. 1820. No record of Isaac in Ky. after 1820. Did he die or perhaps migrated west? Any help on this?

Elwood Shirley, 318 Larch Lane, Lexington, Ky 450505

* * * *

As early as 1811 there were 4 Shirleys in the White Co., Tenn. tax list. They were:

Champion, Isaiah, Thomas and John

The heirs of Champion Shirley were paid for Rev. service in S.C. Records do not give the county or parish in which they resided. Has anyone any information on Champion Shirley in S.C., ca. 1770-80.

Anne Bumpass, 2717 Gray Circle, Columbia, Tenn. 38401

INQUIRY:

NEED INFORMATION ON MARRIAGE (OR MARRIAGES) AND PARENTS OF:

EDMUND SHIRLEY b. SEPT. 15, 1767, VA.
d. SEPT. 5, 1853, BOONE
CO., IN. BURIED -
FAYETTE, BOONE CO., IN.

TO

PHILADELPHIA

b. OCT. 1, 1769
d. APR. 29, 1843,
FAYETTE, IN.

NEED MARRIAGE OF EDMUND BEFORE 1817 -- WHEN SON MILETUS WAS BORN.

SEND INFORMATION TO:

MRS. ETHEL RICHERT, ELMWOOD, NEB 68349

or

PROFESSOR RICHARD VOGT
7903 MEADOWBROOK DRIVE
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46240

* * * *

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Advertising

Limit 50 words or less because of space.

Can anyone tell me who the parents are of L. Preslley Shirley, b. Jan. 27, 1807 d. Sept. 9, 1886, buried at Mt. Vernon cemetery, Renick, Mo. Also his wife's maiden name, Lucinda? d. Aug. 13, buried same place. Born either 1810 or 1820?

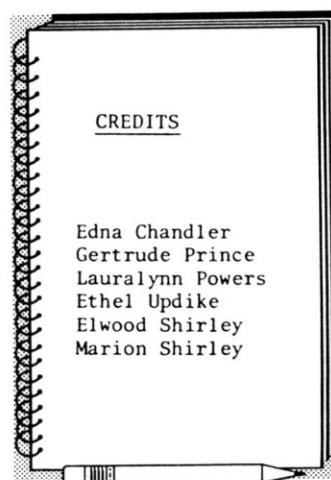
Also, can anyone help me with relationship of Barbara Fields, Thomas & Samuel Morton, and Philadelphia Wade?

Mrs. Ben F. Scott, 17208 E. 41st
Indep., Mo. 64055

* * * *

Need parents, bros. & sisters of my 3rd great grandfather, Moses Shirley, born ca. 1770-1780 N.C. or S.C., according to Census records. Married Nancy Dale 1797, Warren Co., Ky, daughter of Issac Dale. Lived Barren Co., Ky. 1800; White Co., Ill 1820; Hamilton Co., Ill. 1830-1861; died 1861

Edna D. Curtis, 665 W. San Antonio,
Many, La. 71449



Descent of the Yates Family of Virginia from George Yates I, Deputy provincial Surveyor of Maryland

- (1) George Yates died in Maryland 1691, m Mrs Mary Stockett, dau of Dr. Richard Wells
- (2) George Yates died in Maryland in 1717, m Rachel Warfield (d 1709) dau of Capt. Richard Warfield.
- (3) George Yates, b in Maryland 1700, was in King William Co., Va. by 1726, d in Caroline Co., Va., 1743, marriage unknown.

George Yates, III had 2 sons, Capt. George Yates IV and Dr. Michael Yates. The following is record of their family:

- (4) Capt. George Yates IV, b 1727, d 1777, marriage unknown. Children:

1. John Yates m Elizabeth
2. Charles Lewis Yates m Mary Goodloe
3. James Yates m Lucy Partlow
4. Frances Yates m John Shirley, Jr.
5. Richard Yates m Mary Pitt
6. William Yates m Isabella Gains
7. Molly Yates m Thomas Shirley
8. George Yates V., marriage unknown
9. Warner Yates m Elizabeth Baxter

Dr. Michael Yates died 1788, married Martha Marshall. Children:

1. Dr. George Yates m Mary Catlett
2. Dr. William Yates m Sarah Harris
3. Elmer Yates m Polly Anne Hawes
4. John Yates m Anne Coleman
5. Michael Yates m Ann ?
6. Marshall Yates m Sarah ?
7. Patsey Yates m a Johnson

By James H. Young

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