



## SHIRLEY CELEBRATION 1986 AT SHIRLEY MANOR IN ENGLAND

The Shirleys of America have been invited to come and help celebrate the 900 years of continuous ownership of Ettingdon Park, the original seat of the Shirley family.

A letter dated May 23, 1978 from John Shirley, the present owner of Ettingdon Park and great grandson of Evelyn Phillip Shirley (author of Stemmata Shirleiana: 1873) states: "I somehow feel we ought to have some Shirley celebration there in 1986 to celebrate the 900 years of continuous ownership; and it would be nice if a contingent of the American Shirleys could come for it."

The Shirley family lived at

Ettington until John's grandfather died in 1904. The family moved to its Irish Estate where they lived until last year.

For a number of years after the family moved, the Shirley Manor at Ettingdon was a hotel. Hot and cold water was installed in 40 bedrooms. It was a popular place for wedding receptions and private parties.

At present, the Shirley Manor is let on a long lease. It is a disco.

All big houses in England and Ireland are a constant worry and problem with heating and repairs etc. says John Shirley.

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### THE SHIRLEY MANOR AT ETTINGTON

The present Manor House is the third to occupy the site. The original was of Saxon construction, and the second of Tudor which was rebuilt in the 18th and 19th centuries and incorporates an elaborate Victorian-Gothic facade together with many other interesting features of this architectural period.

It is thought this second, smaller house was built using materials from the older house.

In 1840, a considerable number of additions and alterations were made by the Hon. George Shirley. In 1850, Evelyn Phillip Shirley cased the roof in the popular Victorian style.

The fine old mansion has sculptured panels on the outer walls showing incidents in the history of the family.

The marble pillars, which flank the front door and are also within the hall, are from the Shirley estate near Carrickmacrops in Ireland.

Ettingdon, the original seat of the ancient family of Shirley, was a plantation of about 2,040 acres and was located within the county of Warwick four miles from Stratford-Upon-Avon. It had a magnificent old church and an unusual manor house. The place was described as very old in William the Conqueror's time. It appears to have been long established when it became known as the seat of Henry de Ferrers.

Under the prevailing English custom that the exclusive right of inheritance belonged to the first-born male, Henry de Ferrers was succeeded by his son Saswalo (Sasualo, Sewallis). Some historians hold that de Ferrers had gone from Normandy to England with William the Conqueror, but others contend that Saswalo was of original Anglo-Saxon descent. Whether this son was an Anglo-Saxon or a Norman is still a debatable question. Whatever the case, he was highly favored by the new ruler of England.

It was William the Conqueror's policy to confiscate the property of those who opposed him and place it in charge of those who would cooperate with him; and Saswalo was among the recipients of valuable property. According to extracts from the Appendix of Domesday Book, "most of the lands of six great lordships," located in different counties, were in the hands of Saswalo. Thus, by the extent of his holdings, one can estimate the high esteem in which he was held by his king.

The Shirley family's history, Stemmata Shirleiana (1841), by Evelyn Philip Shirley, maintains that even though some of these estates at various times and for various reasons passed from the hands of this family, Eatington "alone hath ever since continued by the blessing of God the property of the descendants in the male line of its original . . . owner, which is . . . such an uninterrupted succession of owners for so many years as we seldom meet with." Indeed, the Shirley historian wrote that it was "the only place in this country that glories in an uninterrupted succession of its owners for so long a tract of time." When the revised edition of the book was published in 1873, the manor house at Eatington was pictured in excellent condition.

Stemmata Shirleiana not only records the unbroken line of descendants through the oldest living son from 1066 to the late 1800s, but also presents accounts of the successive families in action and gives insight into the kind of people they were. At home many of the consecutive heirs, in addition to managing their estates, served in their counties and in adjoining counties as sheriffs, coroners, and justices of the peace. These offices were considered of great note in early England. Over the years the various members of the Shirley family were stewards of the Royal Household and some served as pages at the Court.

As knights, crusaders, and soldiers, the Shirleys were valiant on the fields of battle.

Shirley Association

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## SHIRLEY

By Ruth Clay Burrell

According to the DOOMSDAY BOOK, the name "Shirley" was taken by its first bearers from the parishes of that name in the counties of Derby and Gants, because of their residence in those places at the adoption of surnames. It was first used with the prefix "de," meaning "of," and appears in ancient English and early American records in the various spellings of Churley, Schurley, Sharley, Sherley, Shirley, and others--of which the form last mentioned is that most generally used today.

Families of this name were later resident in the counties of Warwick, Leichesters, Sussex, Lincoln, Stafford, and London, and were also resident in the county of Monaghan, Ireland. For the most part, they were of the landed gentry and nobility of both England and Ireland.

The progenitor of the SHIRLEY family was Sewallis ("Sassulo" in Anglo-Saxon), who was living at "Ethindon," county Warwick, in 1066 when William the Conqueror subdued "the isle of Briton." He was said to be of a Saxon ancestry, and was a rich and powerful lord, holding lands at "Ethindon" (Ettington) in Warwick, "Tiscemerse" (Tichmarsh) in Northants, "Witence" in Lincoln, and at "Hoga" (Hoon), "Hatun" (Hatton), "Etewille" (Etwell)--and "Sherley" in Derby.

Descendants of Sewallis have owned "Ettington," county Warwick for over 900 years.

Throughout the centuries the SHIRLEYS of England have married and intermarried with "the best families." Their lineage record (as found in STEMMATA SHIRLEIANA: Annals of the Shirley Family, by Evelyn Phillip Shirley, 1873, London; BURK'S PEERAGE AND BARONTAGE, etc.) is so regal and bewildering that one tends to stop short before "presuming a relationship." Although proof of such a relationship is yet to be found among many SHIRLEY lines in America, there are traditions that have been handed down that state many families are descendants of that ancient SHIRLEY family of England.

### reference:

From England to North Carolina  
Two Special Gifts  
By Ethel Stephens Arnett

History tells us that Virginia became a "Royal Colony" in 1624, and the first Census was taken during that year. The record of each individual was called a "Muster," and John Camden Hotten compiled his "List of Persons of Quality" from these "Musters." DANIEL SHIRLEY is shown on this list, and his "Muster" shows that he came to the Colony on the "Bona Nova" in 1619. He was the first SHIRLEY to come to America!

Shortly after Virginia became a "Royal Colony," the settlers were allowed to own land, and deeds and titles in the form of "Grants" were issued--mostly for land the Colonists already occupied. In Nell Marion Nugent's CAVALIERS AND PIONEERS, p. 19, can be found:

DANIEL SHIRLEY (Sherley), Planter, of the Neck of Land within the precincts of Chas. Citty, 50 acres 12 April, 1633, 21 year lease. Bordering upon land of William Dawkes. Granted by order of Court, 5 Dec., 1632.

DANIEL SHIRLEY's grant was well "above Jamestown" and was even "above" the West-Sherley Hundred--land which had been granted to Lord de la Warre, the first Royal Governor of the Colony. Lord de la Warre is better known in history as "Lord Delaware." His real name was Sir Thomas West, and his wife's name was Cecelia Sherley, daughter of Sir Thomas Sherley, the elder, of Sussex, England. Lady West never came to America, and Sir Thomas was here only once--he was drowned returning to the Colony to accept his duties as Governor. His "Hundred" had been granted to him in 1613, and he had named it after his family and his wife's family. It is found in early records as "The Sherley Hundred."



THE SHIRLEY MANOR AT ETTINGTON

The well known "Sherley Plantation" of Virginia is located on this original grant to Lord de la Warre. The West family later sold the land to Edward Hill, and it remained in the Hill family until the third Edward Hill gave it to his daughter, Elizabeth, as a wedding present. Elizabeth Hill married John Carter, son of "King" Carter, and "The Shirley Plantation" has remained in the CARTER family since 1723.

What became of DANIEL SHERLEY? Records concerning early Colonial Virginia are few and far between, and nothing further has been found. DANIEL SHERLEY, however, must have left descendants because SHIRLEYS became numerous on "the Eastern Shore" during the following century! There were SHIRLEYS in Northumberland Co., Va. at an early date--as well as in Middlesex, Lancaster, Westmoreland, Richmond, Essex, and King and Queen Counties--and had even scattered across the Chesapeake Bay into what is now Maryland. By the 1700s, SHIRLEYS could be found in Pennsylvania, present West Virginia, to the West, to the South--anywhere there was a resemblance of civilization!

## BELLE STARR

### "QUEEN OF THE BANDITS"

Belle Starr was born Myra Belle Shirley February 5, 1848, in Jasper County, Missouri. Her parents were John (born about 1796) and Eliza (born about 1816), both from Virginia according to the 1850 Missouri census. Their real estate value was listed as \$600. Children named in the census were Charlotte A., 12 years; John A. M., 8 years; and Benton, 9 months old.

By 1860, John owned the hotel in Carthage, Missouri. His real estate value was listed as \$4,000, and personal \$6,000. The children were Allison 18 years, Myra 12 years, Edwin 11 years, Mansfield 8 years, and Craven 2 years.

In 1863, Ed, Belle's brother, was killed by the Missouri Cavalry. The Shirleys sold their hotel and moved to Texas. Here Belle became involved with the James brothers, Quantrill's gang, and many other desperados.

To learn more about her life as the Bandit Queen, read Belle Star & Her Pearl by Edwin P. Hicks.

Next issue: Who were Belle Starr's parents, and where did they come from before they were in Missouri?

## GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS

1741- - 1756

William's parents were William Shirley, Esq., a London merchant who died in 1701 at Clapham. He married Elizabeth, daughter of John Godman, of Ote Hall in the parish of Wivelsfield, Sussex, Esq. by whom he had issue, besides John and Catherine, who died in their infancy. William, born in 1694, who eventually succeeded to his mother's estate in Sussex, and resided at Ote Hall in that county. This gentleman was educated at Cambridge, and intended for the bar. In 1732, he was at Boston, in America, from which place a letter has been preserved from him, asking for the situation of collector of the customs of the port of Boston. It appears that at this time he was practicing as a barrister at New York. He was a good classical scholar and is said to have written several papers in The Spectator. He was certainly a man of considerable talent, and, consequently, brought into notice during the administration of Sir Robert Walpole and appointed by the Duke of Newcastle Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of the province of Massachusetts Bay in New England in 1741. In 1745, the expedition to Cape Breton was fitted out immediately under his inspection. In 1750, (January 19), he was appointed one of His Majesty's Commissioners at Paris for settling the limits of Nova Scotia and other controverted rights in America. In 1755, he was General and Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Forces in North America, and Lieutenant-General in His Majesty's Army in 1759. General Shirley having had the principal command of the land forces in 1755, and the early part of the following year, some of the misfortunes which afterwards ensued to His Majesty's service, and particularly the loss of Fort Oswego, built by General Shirley, at the mouth of the Onondaga River on Lake Ontario, were at the time most unjustly charged upon him. On the 6th of November 1758, he received the appointment of Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of the Bahama Isles.

General Shirley died at Roxbury near Boston in New England, March 24, 1771, aged 77, and was interred in a vault under King's Chapel in that city where are also the remains of his wife, Frances, daughter of Francis Barker of London, Esq. who died in September 1746. A long inscription to her memory, and that of her second daughter, Frances, wife of William Bollan, Esq. who died

in March 1744, is preserved on a mural tablet, surmounted by the bust of Mrs. Shirley in that chapel.

This chapel, remarkable as the first Protestant episcopal chapel in America, was rebuilt in 1749, the first stone being laid by Governor Shirley. The following testimonial of respect to his memory was given by the proprietors, as appears by the records of King's Chapel, in April 1771. "Whereas the Hon Lieutenant General Shirley, formerly Governor of this province, lately deceased, did for several years attend public worship at King's Chapel, to which he was a warm friend and a very generous benefactor; for his more honourable interment, and to testify their gratitude for his many services, the proprietors of the said chapel have this day voted that John Erving, Esq. have liberty to deposit the corpse of the said Lieutenant-General Shirley, and any other of his family or descendants, in the tomb No. 18, under the said chapel."

The children of William Shirley, Esq. and Frances his wife (continued in next issue)

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Dear Shirley Descendant,

I believe that forming an association is the only and quickest way to successfully trace our "Roots." I have been busy for months establishing a filing system. As of now, I have approximately 5,000 Shirley names on individual filing cards for quick reference. These names are of early Shirleys in America through the year 1900.

Please help us by looking in your "old" family Bibles and talking to your Shirley relatives about your ancestors. Send us the information so we may help other Shirleys who descend from your ancestors. We especially need help on the early Shirleys in America in the 1600s and 1700s.

I'll look forward to hearing from you.

*Betty Shirley*



CHAPEL AT ETTINGTON