



AD 1086



SHIRLEYS AT THE SHIRLEY PLANTATION

On Saturday, June 20, over 100 Shirley descendants from many states and representing many different branches of the Shirley family, attended the National Shirley Convention.

On display were photographs of Shirley places in England, USA, documents and people as well as maps showing location of the many Shirley residences.

The meeting began on Saturday morning with Betty Shirley telling the story of the Shirleys and their appearance in the USA in 1600's, their associations with other prominent families of those days and their part in historical events.

In the afternoon, the subject turned to the early English ancestors and was then question and answer time. Also those attending had the opportunity to stand and say a few things about their

branch of the Shirleys and the traditional story passed down in their family.

Following dinner, the video of the celebration in England at Ettington, the original seat of the family, was shown. Many expressed how disappointed they were they had not been able to go.

On Sunday, Fathers Day, we all formed a caravan and traveled by car and van and campers and motorhomes to the Shirley Plantation some 45 minute drive from Williamsburg, Virginia where we were staying.

A river boat ride down the James River, followed by group picture taking started this days activities at Shirley. A catered lunch on the grounds in a picturesque setting with tables, chairs and umbrellas by the river in front of the house was a most pleasant memory of this convention.

Staffordshire, England

Robert Shirley born about 1795 Stafford
married Mary_____.

Known children:

1. Jane 1827 Staffordshire
2. William 1831 Birmingham, England
m. Maria_____. He was a metal roller

Known children:

- (1) William 1854
- (2) Maria 1856
- (3) Walter 1859
- (4) Alfred 1862
- (5) John 1865
- (6) Herbert 1867
- (7) Roland 1870

3. Henry 1832 Handsworth, England
m. Maria Allen. He was a furnaceman
and a copper roller. He could not
read or write.

Known children:

- (1) Mary Ann 1857 W. Bromwich
- (2) Thomas 1854 same
- (3) Joseph June 9, 1861 W. Bromwich
m. Emma Hammond. He worked as
head roller at copper works.

Known children:

- A. Eliz. 1880 W. Bromwich
- B. Robert Henry 1885 W. Bromwich
- C. Elijah Edwards 1893 W. Bromwich
[SEE PHOTO]
- D. Florence 1898 W. Bromwich
- E. George Thomas 1887 W. Bromwich
[SEE PHOTO]
- (4) Robert Henry 1852 W. Bromwich
Died age 24 of TB.
- (5) Harriet 1850 W. Bromwich
4. Eliza 1835 Smethwick, England
5. Joseph 1837 Smethwick, England
m. Catherine_____. Metal Roller.

Known children:

- (1) Ann 1859
- (2) Albert 1862
- (3) Fred 1870
- (4) Melinda Eliz. 1879
- (5) Henry 1872
- (6) Arthur 1880
6. Richard 1840 Smethwick, England
He was mill furnaceman and copper roller
m. Elizabeth Horton
Known children...Jesse, Jane, Lucy,
Harry, William, Joseph and Caroline.

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Brothers, Elijah and George
SHIRLEY

Photo and information sent by John E.
Shirley of England.

John wrote that about 2 years ago,
following the death of his grandmother,
a small parcel of documents and medals
were given to him concerning the death
of his grandfather. All that was known
up to then was that he was killed on
active service in Greece in the 1914/
18 War. He decided to investigate and
contacted the Commonwealth War Graves
Commission in Maidenhead and they were
very helpful.

Corporal E.E. Shirley No. 16954 of
the 9th Gloucestershire Regiment was
killed in action on 21st August, 1916
during an engagement with the enemy
near the Yugoslav border with Greece.
The exact location is not known nor the
original burial place although they
assumed it would have been near to the
scene of the action.

In early 1919 the original grave was
transferred to Karasouli Military
Cemetery which lies about 56k from
Thessaloniki. The commonwealth War

Graves Commission were good enough to send a photograph of the cemetery and also the exact location of the grave.

SURREY, ENGLAND

Misc. records..... SHIRLEYS

Southwark, St. Saviour Parish

Giles Wade m. Mary Platford Sept 2, 1822
Jeremiah m. Margaret Flinn Oct 11, 1803
John m. Eliz. Larkin Sept 6, 1795
Mary m. Jeffery Whitney Sept 26, 1778
Thomas m. Amey Norrington Sept 22, 1834
William m. Ann Gasking July 14, 1825

Croydon

John chr. Aug 23, 1820 to Wm. Whitney/Sarah
John chr June 12, 1836 to John/Sarah
Sarah Ann m. John Horner Nov 25, 1810
William m. Kezia Jane Ware July 13, 1823
Wm. Whitney chr Aug 27, 1843 to Wm/Ann
Wm. Whitney chr Dec 15, 1815 Wm/Sarah

LEICESTER, ENGLAND

Breedon on the Hill

Amelia Ann Dec 2, 1848 Washington Sewallis
and Augusta Asbella
Anna Elenora Nov 12, 1679 Robert/Eliz
Barbara Feb 5, 1687 Robert/Eliz.
Charles Apr 9, 1682 Robert/Eliz.
Charles June 21, 1684 Robert/Eliz.
Dorothea May 25, 1683 Robert/Eliz.
Eliz. Nov 25, 1674 Robert/Eliz.
Eliz. June 20, 1678 Robert/Eliz.
Eliz. Aug 19, 1694 Robert/Anne
Fearis Apr. 23, 1689 ?
George Oct 21, 1686 Robert/Eliz.
Henry Nov 14, 1691 ?
Katherine May 31, 1676 Robert/Eliz.
Laurence Sept 26, 1693 ?
Lewis July 13, 1685 Robert/Eliz.
Robert Sept 4, 1673 Robert/Eliz.
Robert Dec 28, 1692 Robert/Anne
Sarah Feb 3, 1833 /Eliz
Walter May 27, 1690 ?
Washington Jan 22, 1677 Robert/Eliz.
Washington m. Francis Ward Sept 1, 1781

TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE SHIRLEY ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL...

Send \$15 U.S. Dollars or 10 pounds
sterling to: Shirley Assoc. Int'l,
10256 Glencoe Drive, Cupertino, Ca.
95014 USA. Send your family data on
your Shirleys. You will receive 4
issues of the NEWS during your one
year membership. Renewal Time will be
stamped on envelope when the 4th issues sent.

A James Shirley was the Treasurer of
the Merchants Adventurers who financed
the Mayflower.

"The English Ancestry and Homes of the
Pilgrim Fathers" mentions James Shirley
3 times, and that Edward Holman, who
was a passenger on the Mayflower, was
probably a cousin of James as his mother
was Mary Holman Shirley. It references
"Visitation to London".

L'res Pattents exemplified to Robert
Shirley of London, gent. by William
Segar & c. dated Sept 10, 1609 7Rs. Jae.

Ralph (Rafe) Sherley of Wistonson, com.
Chester.

m. Joane Clowes

son...

1. Robert Shirley of Wistonson and of
London gent.
m. Mary Holman of Godston in Surrey Co
children:
(1) Robert Shirley of London
(2) John Shirley of London, goldsmith
m. Hester Finch (dau of John French
of Sussex.
children: E. Mary
A. James F. Barbara
B. John G. Suzan
C. Robert H. Elizabeth
D. Stephen I. Hester
(3) James Shirley of London, goldsmith
d. 1634 m. 1st Mary Mott
m. 2nd Mary Terry
children:
A. James B. Thomas

"Genealogy Pox"

WARNING! GENEALOGY POX:

Very contagious to adults. Symptoms: continual
complaint as the need for names, dates, and
places. Patient has blank expression, some-
times deaf to spouse and children.

Has no taste for work of any kind, except
feverishly looking through records at libra-
ries and courthouses. Has compulsion to write
letters. Swears at mailman when he doesn't
have mail. Frequents strange places such as
cemeteries, ruins, and remote desolate country
areas. Makes secret night calls. Hides phone
bills from spouse. Mumbles to self. Has strange,
far-away look in eyes.

NO KNOWN CURE!

Treatment: Medication is useless. Disease is
not fatal, but gets progressively worse. Patient
should attend genealogy workshops, subscribe to
genealogical magazines and be given a quiet
corner in the house where he or she can be alone.

REMARKS: The usual nature of this disease is
...the sicker the patient gets, the more he
enjoys it.

SHIRLEYS FROM HORSINGTON PARISH IN
SOMERSET, ENGLAND TO....NEW ZEALAND!

William and Ann Crouch Shirley were
the parents of the following known
children:

1. Thomas chr. Jan 19, 1800
2. John Crouch chr Apr. 5, 1807
3. William chr. Mar. 4, 1810
4. Ann chr. Aug 25, 1812
5. James chr. May 22, 1814
6. Emily chr. May 26, 1822
7. Amelia chr. Dec. 25, 1824
8. Jane chr. Dec. 25, 1827

THOMAS SHIRLEY chr. Jan 19, 1800
married Ann Hallett Feb. 24, 1825 in
Horsington Parish. They were the
parents of the following children:

1. Matthew chr. Aug 8, 1825
2. Selina chr. Dec. 25, 1827
3. Henry chr. Dec. 25, 1829
4. Sophia chr. Jan. 18, 1835
5. Thomas chr. July 23, 1837

Thomas and Ann Shirley left Dartmouth
England June 15, 1841 in the "ARAB"
and arrived in Wellington, New Zealand.
They sailed with seven children. Two
have not been accounted for and more
children could have been born in N.Z.

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Mr. Thomas Andrew Shirley, sometimes of
Mt. Wensley, Taradale, was a well known
colonist who spent almost the whole of
his life in New Zealand. He was born in
the year 1837 in the parish of Horsington
Somerset, England. He was the son of the
late Mr. Thomas Shirley who landed in
Wellington with his family from the ship
"Arab" in 1841 and leased some sections
at the Lower Hutt. At the time it was
common for all residents of the Hutt
Valley to be called into barracks for
protection from hostile Maoris, but Mr.
Shirley was averse to yielding to them,
and he and his sons carried on their
farming operations under martial law,
and had many narrow escapes from violence
at the hands of the natives. When a
lengthy war broke out, the Maoris killed
eleven soldiers, and one who was danger-
ously wounded would certainly have been a
twelfth victim but for the bravery of
Mr. Shirley, senior, who ran to his
assistance, and, under a hostile fire,
carried him to a place of safety. After
the war was over the hero of this incid-
ent continued farming at the Hutt until
1856 when he purchased land at Puketapu

near Napier, and resided there until
his death. He was eighty six years old.
His wife died a year later. Both are
buried at Napier, in the family grave,
which already contains four generations.

Mr. Thomas A. Shirley joined in Fox's
rush to Lake Wakatipu, and for a few
months kept a store at Queenstown, going
afterwards to Invercargill. He entered
the employment of Messers Morison and
Law, merchants, and remained with them
until 1867, when he returned to Wellington
and began farming at "Longwood" in the
Wairarapa. Three years later Mr. Shirley
took Abbot's Featherson Hotel, and after
a similar period there, bought the Royal
Hotel in the same town. This he conducted
for three years, replacing the old build-
ing in 1874 with a fine new hotel of
about forty rooms. He then retired to
"Underhill" a large private house
which he had built near Featherston, but
in 1880 he let this, and moved to Napier,
where he bought the Masonic Hotel. Selling
out of that house two years later, he
bought "Korokepo" which he farmed until
1885. Mr. Shirley afterwards lived at
"Mt. Wensley" in retirement, up to the
time of his death.

Mrs. Shirley was also born in Somerset
and came to Wellington with her parents
Mr. and Mrs. Bicknell in 1841.

from...OLD COLONISTS
sent to us by, Phillip B. Shirley

JAMES SHIRLEY....SON OF MATTHEW SHIRLEY
(above) CHR. AUG 8, 1825

OBITUARY OF JAMES SHIRLEY

In the passing of Mr. James Shirley at
his residence, Colac Bay, recently,
Southland has lost another worthy pioneer
who enacted a great part in her early
history. His career was a long and inter-
esting one and into his 83 years of life
were crowded many varied and noteworthy
experiences.

The late Mr. Shirley was born at The Hutt
Wellington, New Zealand on June 30, 1847,
his father, Matthew Shirley arriving in
the colony by the second and his mother
the third ship under the New Zealand
Company. He received his early education
at the Hutt and at the age of 13 left
Wellington with his parents for Dunedin,

where he worked at the time when Hasties, Barnes, Jones, and Macandrew were prominent figures. At the time of the Lindis gold rush they removed to Oamaru and afterwards went with Gabriel's Gully rush and returned to Dunedin. James worked the claim with his father. He was fourteen at the time. The size of a claim was 12 ft. x 12 ft., so their area was 24 ft. x 12 ft. It was situated just below the famous Blue Spur and adjoining the hut of the well known character "Hobart Town Jack," familiar to all early miners at the Gully. As all the claims having been taken up, they had to content themselves with the one on the sloping side of the Gully. Mr. Shirley relates that a shaft of 20 ft. was made and driven out and from the 1 ft. x 1 ft. 3 in. of "wash dirt" from this 24 ft x 12 ft. claim, in four months they secured gold to the value of 1600 lbs. of sterling. It was the sight of a life time to climb Slaughter-house Hill and view that two and a half miles of gully and its moving industrious mass of humanity, all striving for gold and yet more gold. The clatter of shovel, picks, buckets and long toms and the vast array of tents of the thousands of miners was a scene not to be forgotten.

In Gabriels, Weatherstones and Munro's Gullies there were about 13,000 human beings, all within a radius of five miles.

Up till within a short time of his death, Mr. Shirley retained vivid recollections of his thrilling times spent as a youth in this historic Gully, where romance, glamour and tragedy were intermingled and gold won or lost on the turn of fortune's wheel.

After leaving Gabriel's Gully he and his father walked a distance of 51 miles from there to London st. Dunedin in a day. They followed the Waipori road and on through West Taieri. A few months later his father decided to travel to Southland. They left with a six-horse wagon and a three horse dray containing all their worldly possessions and goods. All went well until the Poputuna Gorge was reached. Here a stoppage had to be made and some shots fired by the gang of men working there. A track was thus made and the journey continued after a halt of a few hours. That night was spent at the residence of Mr. Thomas Trumble and the next with Mr. MacGibbon at Dacre. The following day they reached Half-way Bush and stayed with Mr. McIntosh - all settlers having

passed away many years ago.

Mr. Shirley and his father then engaged in waggoning with both bullock and horse teams, between Invercargill and the Lakes District.

In crossing flooded rivers and negotiating almost impassable portions of the route they had many hair-breadth escapes.

After the waggoning days they started farming in the Wyndham district, where some years later Mr. Shirley's father died.

Mr. Shirley having experienced the difficulties and trials of traveling on poor roads of the early days, was one of the first to enter into work of road contracting and bridge construction to facilitate travel to different parts of the province.

One of the first bridges was the Burwood-Mararoa, for which he held the contract. His next was the construction of the railway line from Edendale to Wyndham and the Menzies Ferry bridge across the Mataura River. In both of these latter works Mr. Shirley had large numbers of men employed. At various times he owned sawmills and flaxmills at Tokanui Gorge, Waikawa, and Niagara. He was proprietor of the mail coach from Wyndham to Fortrose and Chase-lands to Waikawa. Prior to this he was owner of two accommodation houses at Fortrose.

His attention then turned to farming pursuits in Waikawa Valley and Niagara. It may be said that Mr. Shirley made Niagara. I was through his energy and foresight that the church and school was built there. He was looked upon as being the "father" of the community. acting the role of doctor, lawyer and adviser.

The well-known Bridge Inn at One Tree Point was once owned by Mr. Shirley. The gas mains at Invercargill was carried out by Mr. Howell and Mr. Shirley.

This sketch would not be complete without reference to his musical ability, prowess as an athlete and exponent of as well as judge of step-dancing, and above all, the generous disposition of the deceased, whose passing will be mourned by a wide circle of friends.

He is survived by his widow, seven sons, and five daughters.

The funeral took place at the Riverton Cemetery on Monday afternoon.

Southland Daily News Invercargill, 11/28/30.

The Sherleys of Wiston

The first member of the family of whom there is record was called Seswalo. His grandson, Sewallis, took the name of his manor and was known as Sewallis de Scyrle, or Shirley or Sherley, and so the family has been known ever since.

The family came into Sussex through the marriage of Sir Hugh Shirley to Beatrix de Braose, who inherited the manor of Wiston, which became the Shirley Home in Sussex.

The history of the Sussex Sherleys was unspectacular until the time of Sir Thomas. They lived quietly in the country for decades, but Sir Thomas was restless. Others around him were making fortunes raiding Spanish commerce, etc. They were voyaging to the four corners of the earth becoming famous seamen and dauntless soldiers. He longed to be like them and eventually could endure the life a Sussex gentleman no longer. He projected himself on the national scene, and thereafter the activities of the Sherleys interested all of England.

Sir Thomas was born around 1542. In 1561 he was enrolled at Queens College, Cambridge. He was knighted in Rye 1573 and served as a member in Parliament, sheriff and justice of the peace, and as a deputy lieutenant of the county.

Sir Thomas appears to have had two characteristics worth remarking. He was inclined to be extravagant and he made friends easily. When he was a young man he did two things which cost a good deal of money and which probably could have been avoided. He remodeled Wiston and he became sheriff of Sussex and Surrey. Sir Thomas' steward declared that the remodeling had cost his master a thousand pounds. But it should be noted here that at the time extravagance was endemic in England. The great majority of his contemporaries could not really afford these extravagances either.

The office of sheriff was an expensive burden that gentlemen did all they could do to avoid it. There is no indication that Sir Thomas labored to be let off. He accepted the honor, the duty and the expenses, which were numerous. A sheriff paid fees when he entered office and fees when he left. There were fees to barons, attorneys, marshals and clerks, and many others. If the Queen, great nobles or foreign ambassadors visited the county the sheriff was expected to entertain them. As deputy lieutenant, his principal duty was to assist in bringing the county into a state of military readiness. He maintained a muster of the able men in the shire and took charge of "all the store and powder, metals and bullets." This position Sir Thomas first was appointed to in 1569 and was not finally removed from the list of duties until 1601. As the Antagonism to Catholics increased and the war with Spain changed from cold to hot, his duties became increasingly important.

The turning point in Sir Thomas' career came in 1585. He was rich, well thought of, and probably bored. With his two elder sons he embarked with Leicester for the Low Countries and a life of adventure, excitement and possibly large, quick profits.

Queen Elizabeth was shocked into making a treaty with the Dutch. She agreed in August 1585 to send an army of 6,000 foot and 1000 horse to the Netherlands. The States of the Netherlands agreed to hand over to the English as "cautionary towns" Flushing, Brietle, and the fortress of Ramekens. When the English had been repaid for the cost of their soldiery, the towns were to be handed back. The man the Queen appointed to lead the army was the man she loved and the Earl of Leicester.

Disembarking in the Netherlands, the expedition was enthusiastically welcomed at Flushing, Rotterdam, etc.

"Concerning the wars," Sherley wrote, one month later, "there is yet little done since our coming nor is not like to be until there be a supply of men from England." Leicester's first spectacular action was not military but political. He had barely arrived in the Netherlands before the Dutch offered to make him their governor. Sir Thomas reported to Walsingham "they have given him the absolute authority to govern, which surely was their wisest course." Queen Elizabeth did not agree with Sir Thomas. She was furious over the governorship. In February she sent a letter to Leicester to demand that he resign immediately. Leicester sent Sir Thomas Sherley to the Queen to intercede for him. She refused to see him or accept the letter which he brought. About a week later Sir Thomas succeeded in seeing the Queen and pleaded Leicester's case. The Queen reminded Sherley that she had published an eloquent pamphlet in which she declared to the world she would never take the sovereignty of the Netherlands. Now the general of her forces had accepted it. The Queen feared Leicester's action would embroil her in difficulties with Spain. Sherley most respectfully and humbly pointed out that by sending Leicester to fight the Spanish in the Netherlands and Drake to strike at Spain in the Indies, the Queen was inevitably embroiled with Spain anyway, and of the two actions the depredations of Drake were the more direct affront to Spain. To this agreement the Queen replied that she "could very well answer for Sir Francis, but if need be the gentleman careth not if I should disavow him."

The Queen still refused Leicester's letter but did question Sherley about events in the Netherlands.

Sherley made one more attempt on Leicester's behalf, relying on prevarication and pity rather than on his meager knowledge of statecraft. "Upon Friday last" he wrote Leicester, "as Her Majesty walked in the garden, I thought to test her affection unto your Lordship by another means." He told the Queen that Leicester was ill. In fact, he alleged, the

fictitious affliction was a recurrence of one which had previously been cured by the Queen's physician and would it be possible, he begged, to send the physician to the Low Countries to cure Leicester? Sherley told Leicester that it moved her much and she told Sherley that with all her heart you should have the physician and she was sorry that your Lordship had that need of him. This proved to Sherley the Queen had a warm heart but it did not alter her attitude toward Leicester's governorship.

(continued next issue)

JAMES SHIRLEY (1596-1666)

English Playwright and Poet

There are thirty-one extant plays by Shirley, more than by any contemporary except Fletcher and Shakespear. Had not a famous act of Parliament in 1642 cut off his productivity at its height, there might have been many more, for Shirley was giving his public precisely what they wanted. It was a more limited public than Shakespear's, confined practically to the royal court and the elite of like-minded cavaliers who patronized the private playhouses. The King's Company now depended upon their intimate performances at Blackfriars, and their great public theatre, the Globe on the Bankside, had lost caste. When some occasion required them to produce Shirley's *The Doubtful Heir* (1640) at the Globe, the dramatist wrote a prologue that is informingly contemptuous of middle-class taste:

All that the Prologue
comes for is to say,
Our author did not calculate this play-
For this meridian. The
Bankside, he knows,
Is far more skilful at
the ebbs and flows of
Water than of wit . . .
No clown, no squibs,
No devil in 't! Oh, now,
You squirrels that want
Nuts, what will you do?
Pray, do not crack the
Benches, and we may
Hereafter fit your palates
With a play.

But you that can contract yourselves, and sit
As you were now in the
Blackfriars pit,
And will not deaf us
With lewd noise & tongues,
Because we have no heart
to break our lungs,
Will pardon our vast
Stage and not disgrace
This play, meant for
Your persons, not the place.

King Charles took a personal interest in Shirley and collaborated more or less in his play, *The Games-ter* (1633), of which, according to the well-known anecdote, the King later reported, "it was the best play he had seen for seven years." When the Earl of Strafford was maintaining viceregal pomp in Ireland (1636-1640), Shirley was brought to Dublin to advance the court prestige there, his plays being, of course, produced in London also.

Shirley was in truth a gentleman and a poet. Educated at Spenser's old school, the Merchant Taylors', and at both Oxford and Cambridge, he took Anglican orders and became headmaster of the grammar school at St. Albans, but was converted to Roman Catholicism and in 1625 set up as a playwright in London. He wrote almost every type of play except the chronicle history; masques, comedies, tragicomedies, and tragedies dropped with equal ease from his fluent pen. Except in fecundity, however, he is dwarfed by the "giant race" that stands behind him. He has been likened to the inheritor of an exhausted mine, and the reader of his well-bred and gracious dramas is likely to be haunted by echoes.

Some of his plays were: *The Cardinal* (1641), *The Duchess of Malfi*; *The Traitor* (1631); *The Revenger's Tragedy*; *The Coronation* (1635); *The Traitor (III.i)*; *The Lady of Pleasure* (1635); *The Witty Fair One* (1628); *Beaux' Stratagem*; *The Triumph of Peace*; and *The Contention of Ajax and Ulysses*.

The above was taken from: A Literary History of England

Info sent by: Franklin R. Shirley

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.

SHURLEYS OF ISFIELD, SUSSEX CO ENGLAND

Isfield Church belonged to the Shurleys and was used as and was the families mausoleum. The chapel is still called SHURLEY CHAPEL.

The Shurley monuments on the south wall is that of John Shurley who died in 1527. The effigies have disappeared but an inscription remains stating that John was 'sutyme chefe clerke of the kechen to our souayn kyng henry ye viii'. John's third son, Edward, inherited owing to the death of his two elder brothers, and is the subject of the delightful brass over his tomb which is the east one in the south wall.

Edward's eldest son, Thomas, inherited and is the subject of the brass on the east wall. He died in 1579.

Thomas' son, John Shurley, married first Jane Shirley, sister-in-law of Lord Delaware West (first colonial governor of Virginia). John married second Dorothy Goring. He died in 1631.

The magnificent alabaster tomb is that of Sir John Shurley and his two wives. The nine childrens effigies arranged along the front of the tomb are the children born to Jane and John Shurley. All the figures of this tomb are delicately and attractively carved. Sir John is arranged in the semi-armour of the period. Lady Jane is on his right hand and has a close fitting cap, Lady Dorothy on his left and has a hood with long veil flowing down to her feet. Both have farthingales and ruffs. The daughters have stiff lace collars, puffed and slashed sleeves, ruffles, no neck ruff and hair in ringlets with a band. Of the children, Thomas, John, Cecelie and Hannah died young.

There is one other monument to a Shurley, a flat tombstone under the altar in the Chancel. It is of Sir George Shurley, brother of John above.

The inscription says "Here lyeth the body of the honerable Sir George Shurley, Knight, Lord Cheife Justice of the cheife pleases of Ireland and one of the Privy Councillors there under the late King James and King Charles for 28 years. He was born at Isfield, 1569, and died the fifteenth of October 1647".

JOHN SHURLEY, ESQ., OF ISFIELD

John Shurley, Esq. died March 1, 1526. In his will he directs his body to be buried in the Church of Isfield. He appoints John Surley, his heir apparent to be his executor, and mentions his second son, William and Edward as his third son. Edward inherited as his his older brothers, John and William died during their fathers lifetime. Also mentioned in the will are Joan and Bridget, his daughters, unmarried. He appoints Roger More, "Sergeaunte of the Kyng's bakehouse, co-ex'or with John his Sonne; Sir Richard Broke, Knight, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, Supervisor" and Thomas WELDON, "third Clerke of the Kyng's kechen," a legatee. He also mentions lands "at Prestend, co. Hereford; in the Marches of Wales, which were William WALKER'S his grandfather. and Roger Shurley's myn own father.

John Shurley, esq.'s son Edward was the father of Thomas who was the father of John Shurley who married Jane SHIRLEY. She was the daughter of SIR THOMAS SHIRLEY Wiston, Sussex Co. Jane was the sister of Lord Delaware's wife, Cecelia, and of the three famous Shirley brothers.

John Shurley, (husband of Jane Shirley), had a brother George who was born at Isfield in 1569. He was Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, and one of the Privy Council there for Twenty-eight years, during the reigns of James and Charles I.

Sir John Shurley himself is stated to have been "of an ancient Sussex Family."

In an extract from the will of Rauff Sherley of Wiston...Ralph Sherley, gr. grandfather of Sir Thomas, father-in-law of Lord Delaware West...who died in 1509, he calls John Shurley, of Isfield, cousin.

Sir John Shurley was Clerk of the Royal Kitchen at the same time as this Ralph Sherley was body guard to Henry the Eighth.

LADY HUNTINGDON

Lady Selina Shirley Huntingdon was the daughter of Washington Shirley, 2nd Earl Ferrers.

Selina was born in 1707 and married the Earl of Huntington. After his death in 1746, she devoted her remaining forty five years to the establishment of the Methodist Church. Appointing Reverend George Whitefield as one of her chaplains, she established sixty-four meeting houses in England and provided seminaries for the education of ministers to supply them.

In Lady Huntingdon's day there was a spiritual barrenness in England which vigorous itinerant preachers began to correct by preaching to large crowds the indifferent clergy had failed to reach. One Benjamin Ingram, of powerful persuasion had influenced and married Margaret, Lady Huntingdon's sister-in-law. Because of Margaret, she found the way to salvation through complete trust in the Lord and dedicated her life to His work.

Expressing her deep interest to the Wesley brothers, then in England, she went often to hear them preach.

While the Wesleys, Whitefield and other powerful preachers were reaching the proletariat, Selina worked valiantly to save the souls of the nobility. Sometimes her letters received indignant replies. The Duchess of Buckingham wrote: "I thank your ladyship for information on the Methodist preaching. Their doctrines are strongly tinctured with impertinence toward their superiors...It is monstrous to be told you have a heart as sinful as the common wretches who crawl the earth."

The Duchess of Marlborough replied: "Your concern for my improvement and religious knowledge is very obliging and I hope I shall be the better for your excellent advice...women of wit, beauty and quality cannot bear too many home truths...I am forced to the society of those I detest and abhor. There is Lady Sanderson's great rout tomorrow night-I do hate the woman as much as I hate a physician, but I must go if only to mortify and spite her...I confess my little peccadillos to you; your goodness will lead you to be mild and forgiving."

Lady Huntingdon was forgiving but her religious wrath matched her moral indignation and courage when she remonstrated with the Archbishop of Canterbury for the worldly behavior unbecoming to his position as church leader. When he laughed her to scorn, Selina arranged an audience with Queen Charlotte and King George III who sharply rebuked the Bishop.

George Whitefield founded Bethesda in Georgia about 1740. It is the country's oldest home for boys. Selina inherited Bethesda and upon receipt of it, set aside a day of prayer and fasting, then made longrange plans for making Bethesda the launching base for a great missionary movement among the settlers and Indians, using missionaries from Trevecka College in Wales which she had already established for educating ministers.

Selina wrote Washington of her plans and appointed William Piercy of St. Pauls Charleston, Bethesda's president, and sent over her own housekeeper. Before the missionaries set sail, she laid down strict rules for prayers and services during the crossing to America. Upon arrival, the missionaries dispersed and began preaching.

Wishing to prove faithful to Whitefield, she obtained advice from Governor James Wright of Georgia, who told her to give full power to the law firm of Tattnall and Hall, and to call the resident at Bethesda to account, which she did. Lady Huntingdon never received a penny from her Georgia estates; instead she spent thousands of pounds of her own paying bills rendered by Mr. Habersham, Mr. Piercy and the law firm. She rejoiced that no lives were lost in a Bethesda fire caused by lightning, and sold her jewelry for funds to help restore the buildings. Then the American Revolution interrupted her good works; also the sad discovery that Mr. Piercy had been dishonest, cheating her and Bethesda out of a large sum.

When this noble English Lady died, the orphanage was reclaimed by the State Legislature and the management committed to a board of trustees.

GOVERNOR WILLIAM TRYON OF NORTH CAROLINA 1765-71

USA

William Tryon was the son of Mary Shirley, born at Staunton Harold on November 20, 1702. She married Charles Tryon, esquire of Bulwick in Northampton. Their son William was born in 1729.

Mary Shirley was the daughter of Robert Shirley alias Robert Earl Ferrers and his second wife, Selina.

William Tryon was first cousin to Lady Selina Shirley Huntingdon. His uncle was Honorable Sewallis Shirley (1709-65) who was Comptroller of the Household to Queen Charlotte.

In 1757 William Tryon was commissioned as Captain in the First Regiment of Foot Guards and that same year he was married to Margaret Wake. By the time he reached North Carolina as Lieutenant-Governor in 1764 he was considered an able gentleman.

Upon the death of Governor Arthur Dobbs in 1765, Tryon became head of the province. During his six years in this position he experienced both failure and success. The new governor was soon confronted with the introduction of the English Stamp Act, but he was not able to lead North Carolinians to accept it. A few years later he was not able to persuade the Regulators from open rebellion against extra taxes and fees which his petty officers were accused of unjustly collecting. He therefore met the distressed countrymen in the Battle of Alamance (1771) where his trained North Carolina militia were victorious.

Governor Tryon's other undertakings, however, were more successful, and in the twentieth century he is usually regarded as the best of all of North Carolina's colonial governors. A zealous churchman, he urged the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel to send to North Carolina not the "sweepings of the Universities but some clergy of character" who would promote church progress. He began at once to improve the state's inadequate postal system and to establish better transportation facilities. In 1767 he was able to establish the Cherokee Boundary line which contributed to the orderly settlement of western North Carolina.

At the request of the Presbyterians of Mecklenburg County, he recommended to the General Assembly that it establish "a public seminary in some part of the back country of the Colony for the education of youth." It followed that the state's first institution of higher learning was established (1771) as Queen's College at Charlotte.

Whereas former North Carolina governors had found it difficult to get the legislature to appropriate sufficient funds for governmental expenses, Tryon by his clever tact and diplomacy obtained ample money for his various undertakings. He was, therefore, influential in making New Bern the state capital--"a fixed seat of government" where important public records could be collected and preserved. And he erected (1767-1770) at New Bern a magnificent structure--the residence of the governor and the first capitol of the colony--now known as Tryon Palace. The stately mansion was once pronounced the elegant government building in English America.

A poll tax levied for the erection of Tryon Palace caused great disturbance in the so-called back country of North Carolina, for the people were too poor to bear easily any extra taxation. State progress, however, has thrown a different light on what was once considered a rank extravagance by some North Carolinians, for Tryon Palace, completely restored, has become one of the most treasured shrines of North Carolina and one of the great show places of the United States.

Thus, Governor William Tryon and his famous Tryon Palace became England's special gift to North Carolina.

Taken from book...FROM ENGLAND TO NORTH CAROLINA: TWO SPECIAL GIFTS by Ethel Stephens Arnett.

PLEASE NOTE ANNOUNCEMENTS ON THE
BACK PAGE OF THIS ISSUE OF THE NEWS!

PLEASE NOTE:

BETTY SHIRLEY WILL BE COMING TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND IN APRIL OF 1988!

Please begin making plans to come and meet me in Australia and New Zealand. This is the reason I am making this trip....to meet you!

I am going to need some help to make this a successful trip! Can you help?

I have someone, Poppy Ward, assisting me with plans for a meeting in Auckland New Zealand. She has already been of great help here. She is helping to locate a good place to hold our meeting in her area.

I have decided that another New Zealand location would be desirable and wonder about Christchurch area. Is there anyone who will write me about this area and help me locate a place to hold a meeting?

Now, in Australia, I think the two places that I would like to be in is in Sydney and Melbourne. Can I please get some help in these two locations?

I will be limited to time I can stay gone from home. Although the dates have not been confirmed at this time, it does appear that I will be coming about the 2nd and 3rd week of April. I will need to hold the meetings on the weekends.

If you have some input, please do not hesitate to write with your comments or suggestions.

Also, I am wondering about your video machines. I know the ones in England and the ones here in the USA are not the same. Does anyone know if your video players are like the ones in England or? I do plan to bring the video of the celebration day in England in 1986.

I will bring my displays, charts, books and misc. material and tell you the story of the Shirleys as I know it and what the Shirley Association is doing and has done and plans to do in the future.

We ask that you will bring your material such as family pictures, etc. to share

share with not only me but with others who attend the meetings.

I have found a nice family branch of Shirleys in New Zealand that is building quite well. Actually, two branches.

There are some smaller ones in England we hope to tie together and make a larger one soon. The rest we will continue working on. Remember...it takes time! And, in some cases, not that much information was sent to us. The more you send, family stories etc, the better we can do for you.

WE DO NEED MORE PICTURES AND STORIES!
PLEASE HELP US!

SHIRLEY ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL
ANNOUNCES!!!

SHIRLEY CONVENTION IN 1989

ENGLAND !!!

Shortly, I will begin to make plans to hold our first INTERNATIONAL SHIRLEY CONVENTION. We will plan for end of May 1989.

This will give everyone plenty of time to prepare for this great event!

USA SHIRLEY TOUR

On Monday morning following our day at Shirley Plantation, a group of 37 of us flew from Virginia to Boston, Massachusetts. Here we boarded a bus/coach and traveled for the next several days.

Our first stop was to Gov. Shirleys church, his mansion (where we had a lovely catered dinner) and our hotel.

The next day we journeyed to New Hampshire to an old Shirley farm and back to Boston for a dinner on the Pier.

The next several days included a visit to New York and the State Empire building, Statue of Liberty, etc... and then to Philadelphia for all the exhibits etc. of the Bi-Centennial of the Constitution and on to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and back down to Virginia and the Shenandoah Valley, and visited some of the old churches in the 1600 and 1700 eras that the Shirleys had attended. We ended up back in Williamsburg Va.

Everyone had a GREAT time!