



June 1987

**SHIRLEY NEWS INTERNATIONAL**

FIRST EDITION !!!

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AD 1086



Ettington Park, Warwickshire. Photograph by permission of Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England)

## ETTINGTON PARK in ENGLAND

ORIGINAL SEAT OF THE SHIRLEY FAMILY

Ettington Park is situated 6 miles Southeast of Stratford-Upon-Avon and is accessible from the Oxford-Stratford road. The house forms part of the Ettington estate which has been owned by the Shirley family before the Domesday Book.

According to tradition, a house was first built around the central courtyard and survived intact until the early 16th century. This was converted to form part of the present structure in 1677 with further substantial extensions in 1740 and 1767. The library dates from 1820.

The south and west fronts of Ettington Park were completely remodelled in the mid-19th Century to give its present appearance.

The noted antiquarian, Evelyn Philip Shirley, MP, rebuilt the house in the gothic style designed by Pritchard and embellished the house with scores of statues and friezes illustrating incidents from the long history of the Shirley family. This factor makes Ettington one of the finest Victorian houses in the country and it is of almost unique architectural and historic interest.

Ettington was restored to its original splendour and opened May 1985 as a five star





hotel, providing 42 double/twin bedroom suites and 7 suites, all with en-suite bathrooms, an A la Carte Restaurant seating 70 guests, together with function and conference facilities for up to 80 persons. A leisure complex has been added consisting of indoor swimming pool, whirl pool, sauna, tennis courts and riding facilities. Plenty of fishing is also available from the attractive grounds which slope gently to the banks of the River Stour.

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*[The following is from some publicity in regards to the American Shirleys who traveled to England in 1986 and your editor].*

MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED AMERICAN SHIRLEY'S WILL TRAVEL TO ENGLAND FOR 900th ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR ORIGINAL LAND RECORDED IN THE DOMESDAY BOOK.

With the upcoming reunion of the at-least-900-year-old, far flung and populous Shirley family, there may be some unsuspecting Shirleys out there. After all, when a family's direct lineage can be traced back to the year 1086, you know there are plenty of folk with a Shirley ancestor somewhere in their proverbial woodpile.

Members of the Shirley ancestry from the United States and around the world are gathering in England in June to participate in the celebration of 900 years of continued ownership of their original estate...26 generations.

The impressive Shirley holdings were recorded in the celebrated Domesday Book, created by royal edit of William the Conqueror, to define lands and landowners.

The progenitor of the Shirley family was Saswalo, or Sewallis, who according to the Domesday Book, held the manor under the Norman, Henry de Ferrers.

Ettington is just six miles from Stratford-Upon-Avon, William Shakespear's birthplace. The Bard, in fact, refers to the Shirley family in several classical plays.

The American Shirleys will visit many previously owned Shirley estates during their 12 day visit in England. Some of these past estates include, Chartley Castle, (it's ruins anyway), where Mary, Queen of Scots, once was held

Staunton Harold where the only church built during Oliver Cromwells time still stands. Special service will be conducted for the visiting Shirleys in the church.

The Right Honorable Earl Ferrers, a Shirley descendant in England, has arranged for the rare display of the Shirley pedigree which is half the size of a tennis court.

The 900th year pilgrimage to England is being arranged by Betty Shirley, founder of the American Shirley Association in 1978. Her research over the eight years has found her seeking Shirleys in the telephone books, city directories, and other sources from around the country. She has written hundreds of personal letters to people named Shirley to pool information about the family.

Betty has been the strong, guiding hand behind the national Shirley conventions in Indiana, Virginia, California, Kentucky and South Carolina.

Membership is the orgaization, she says, is growing steadily.

In her research, Betty has turned up plenty of blueblood Shirley ancestors. These notable men and women include, George Shirley who was Lord Chief of Ireland, James Shirley, treasurer of the firm that financed the epic voyage of the Mayflower to the New World, William Shirley, the Governor of Massachusetts who swore in George Washington as Commander-in Chief of the Continental Armies, Eliza Shirley, founder of the Salvation Army in America, O. Henry (William Sydney Porter, a Shirley descendant), Myra Belle Shirley, better known as Belle Starr who ran with the outlaws, Frank and Jessie James and the Younger brothers.

In England, the Shirley family tree yields one Shirley who sired 57 children, 30 who were illegitimate.

Just a few from the Shirley family tree.

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#### MILLARD SHIRLEY

Millard Shirley and his wife, Jean, were killed in November, 1986, in an automobile accident in Swaziland. Since his retirement a few years ago as head of the American CIA in Johannesburg So. Africa, Shirley had been researching material to write a history of the Nazarene missions in Africa. They are survived by a son, Herbert, who is a game ranger in So. Africa.

Millard's father was a missionary in the Church of Nazarene to So. Africa 30-40 years ago.

*This was submitted by M/M Wayne Shirley of Calif*



Major John Shirley is the present owner of Ettington Park, inheriting it from his father who inherited it from his father and so on for 900 years. Philip, the eldest son of Major John Shirley is next in line to inherit Ettington.

The present-day, Shirleys probably hold a position in society which, at least in material terms, is broadly comparable with that of Saswalo-Philips great grandfather 24 times. The family currently own around 3000 acres and have recently been buying up the leases of Ettington farms that become vacant in order to farm them on a sharecropping basis. Major John Shirley lives near Ramsey on the Isle of Man but spends a fair amount of time looking after some 1000 acres in county Monaghan in Ireland- reduced from the 25,000 acres they once owned there.

Both Major John Shirley (ex-King's Royal Rifles) and Philip were brought up on the Irish estate, which came to the family when Sir Henry Shirley married Lady Dorothy Devereux, daughter and co-heiress of the Earl of Essex, a favourite of Queen Elizabeth.

Ettington itself has been lived at by Shirleys only periodically. The family appears to have been there until the 13th century, whereupon it was let for about £200 pounds a year. The Shirleys went off instead to live at Staunton Harold in Leicestershire.

After a legal battle, the family got the house back in the 16th century and lived there until 1904 when Major John Shirley's grandfather succeeded to the estate at the age of 14 and decided it would be easier to let a Warwickshire estate than an Irish estate.

Ettington was duly let and the family moved to Co. Monaghan, Ire.

The lease was up in 1984 and another made with a company which has invested over £3 million pounds refurbishing it. Ettington is now a 5 Star Hotel.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE SHIRLEY ASSOC.

WRITE TO: SHIRLEY ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL 10256 Glencoe Dr. Cupertino, Ca. 95014 USA

### Little Compton

SHIRLEY...Shurley...Sherley

(male) chr June 1609 to Robert and Elizabeth  
Ann chr Apr 19, 1626 to Thomas Shurly  
Ann chr Jan 3, 1686 to Edw. Shurley & Ann  
Doritie chr Sept 13, 1607 to William & Alisse  
Edmond chr Jan 26, 1604 to Thomas & Jane  
Eliz. chr Oct 31, 1606 to Robert & Eliz.  
Ellyne chr June 7, 1612 to Thomas & Jone  
John chr Mar 27, 1698 to Robert & Mary  
Jone chr Jan 29, 1605 to Thomas & Jone  
Mary chr Apr 10, 1668 to Thomas & Joan  
Mary chr June 17, 1672 to John  
Richard chr Apr 26, 1677 to Thomas & Joan  
Richard chr Mar 17, 1696 to Robert & Mary  
Rob chr Jan 5, 1695 to Rob & Mary  
Sarah chr Apr 20, 1679 to John and Alice  
Sarah ch Fen 8, 1682 to Edward and Ann  
Thomas chr July 18, 1680 to Edward and Eliz.  
Thomas chr Nov 11, 1680 to John and Alice  
Thomas chr May 19, 1681 to Edward and Ann  
William chr Mar 9, 1676 to Edward and Eliz.  
William chr Apr 24, 1679 to William and Mary  
William chr Aug 9, 1694 to Edward and Ann  
William chr Mar 17, 1696 to Robert and Mary

### Marriages in Alstonfield, Stafford, England

Ann	m. John Parson	Apr 16, 1801
Anne	m. William Price	Dec 21, 1826
Benj.	m. Ann Yates	Feb 16, 1786
Benj.	m. Mary Hulme	Nov 23, 1814
Benj.	m. Ann Wardle	Mar 26, 1753
Eliz.	m. James Shirley	Oct 19, 1826
John	m. Mary Benison	Feb 21, 1736
John	m. Mary Johnson	Sept 29, 1768
John	m. Ann Charlesworth	June 20, 1799
John	m. Anne Slack	Mar 13, 1825
Joseph	m. Ann Gilman	Dec 31, 1778
Joseph	m. Susannah Brunt	Jan 10, 1799
Martha	m. Isaac Sulton	Jan 19, 1809
Mary	m. Thomas Benison	Oct 1, 1747
Mary	m. Thomas Gilman	Oct 27, 1806
Mary	m. Samuel Wood	Dec 24, 1833
Samuel	m. Sarah Passett	Apr 11, 1816
Samuel	m. Hannah Riley	Feb 18, 1834
Sarah	m. Thomas Riley	Feb 10, 1823
Thomas	m. Martha Oliver	Oct 4, 1753
Thomas	m. Mary Critchlow	Apr 29, 1783
William	m. Sarah Brindley	Dec 2, 1783

### CREDITS FOR MATERIAL USED IN THIS ISSUE:

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John Shirley of England



### THE FAMILY OF SHIRLEY

The family of Shirley is of great antiquity of an ancient Saxon line long before the conquest.

The Saxon names of Saswalo, Sewal, Sewalis tell us this, and in those ancient times were men of great estate and wealth.

The lineage below starts with the first generation and continues to the sixteenth generation following direct line of descent of the Shirleys of Derbyshire England.

1st), Sewalis, a subtenant of the house of Henry de Ferrers, being a most eminent person. He possessed the great lordship of Ettington, also Tichmarsh in Northamptonshire, part of the Witenai in Lincolnshire, and Haton, Hoga, and Ettwall in Derbyshire. He died in 1085.

2nd), Fulcher, granted land in Shirley in Derbyshire. He died in 1105.

3rd), Sewalis. He died 1129.

4th), Henry, who held five knights fees in Derbyshire of Robert de Ferrers, Earl of Derby, and Lord of Tutbury. [Knights fees were to provide military service, and often one had to bear arms oneshelf, the number of knights depended on the size of the estate, knights to be properly armed and mounted, horses supplied. Scutage' or shield money' was often paid to exempt one from the fee]. He died in 1165.

5th), Sewalis, held nine knights fees of William, de Ferrers, Earl of Derby and Notts. Lord of Chartley Castle, and Tutbury Castle. Sewalis died 1243.

6th), Sir James Shirley, the first Shirley to be knighted. He died 1278.

7th). Sir Ralph Shirley, served in the Welsh expedition against Llwellyn. Sheriff of Notts. and Derby and Warwick. He died in 1327.

8th), Sir Thomas Shirley, the great father of the Shirley's noted for his liberal donations to churches, collegiates, abbeys, priories, convents, and other places of devotion. Famous also for his valour, and his many services to King Edward III against the French; said to have fought at Crecy and at Poitiers. He married the heiress of the great baronial house of Bassett of Drayton. He died in 1363.

9). Sir Hugh Shirley, followed the fortunes of the Red Rose'. Henry as Duke of Lancaster made him Constable of Donington Castle and later as King made him grand falconer within the United Kingdom of Ireland, and the duties of office being to provide the various kinds of hawks, used in the sport of falconry. He married the heiress Beatrice de Braose, descendant of the powerful Lords of Bamber which added to himself her rich inheritance in Sussex. Sir Hugh was slain at the battle of Shrewsbury. He died in 1403.

10), Sir Ralph Shirley, aged ten years at his fathers death, was taken into royal protection, knighted before the age of twenty one and held the office of steward to the Duchy of Lancaster, Sheriff of Notts. and Derby in the year of 1417. He married Joan Basset, sole heir to her father Thomas, of Braiesford, Derbyshire. Sir Ralph served in the battle at Agincourt, He died abroad in 1443.

11). Sir Ralph Shirley, Constable of Melbourne Castle, and of the Castle in the Peak of Derby. He married his cousin Margaret Staunton, aged seventeen years, on 2.4.1423. She was the heiress of Staunton Harold, East Leake and other lands. The rich inheritance of the 'Stauntons' was brought in marriage to the Shirley's who's forebears lived and flourished at Staunton Harold for five hundred years. Sir Ralph died in 1467.

12). Sir John Shirley, the first Shirley to live at Staunton Harold, transferred his home from Shirley in Derbyshire, to Staunton Harold, Leicester in right of his mother Margaret de Staunton. He married Alinora, daughter of Sir Hugh Willoughby of Wollaton Notts. Sir John died in 1485.

13). Sir Ralph Shirley of Staunton Harold and Shirley in Derbyshire. He married 1st. Elizabeth, daughter of and coheir of Thomas Walsh.

2nd. Jane, daughter of Sir Robert Sheffield. ancestor of the Dukes of Buckingham.

3rd. Anne, daughter of Sir Henry Vernon of Haddon Hall, Derbyshire.

4th. Anne, daughter of Thomas Warner. Sir Ralph died 1516/17.

14), Sir Frances Shirley, Sheriff of Notts. Leicester, Warwickshire; in the year 1556, and again Sheriff of the same counties in the year 1562, said to be a very rich and hospitable gentleman of much charm; who entertained the nobilities in the reign of



Queen Elizabeth the First.

During the dissolution of the monasteries at this time, by special favour of King Henry VIII, Sir Frances Shirley purchased the priory church of St. Mary and St. Hardulph Breedon, as a private burial place for himself, his family and his successors for ever. The adjoining parish church being almost in ruin, Sir Frances Shirley allowed the parishioners of Breedon Hill licence to use the priory church. This licence approved in writing and still to be seen dated 1638. Sir Frances died in 1571.

15), Sir John Shirley, died in his fathers lifetime at the early age of thirty five years, 1570.

16). Sir George Shirley grandson of Sir Frances Shirley, having inherited his fathers and his grandfathers estates and wealth, so being a very rich country gentleman, often traveled the long journey to London, for fewer than one gentleman in one hundred traveled further than the nearest town. Sir George was created a 'Baronet' in the famous first batch of May 1611 in the reign of James I (1603-1625).

*More on the Shirley family next issue.*

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#### THE RED HAND OF ULSTER

The "Red Hand" of Ulster, may be seen on the coat of arms of Sir George Shirley, high above the organ loft in the church at Staunton Harold.

James I was an ardent supporter of the church of England while Ireland remained catholic and England and Scotland were fast becoming protestant.

James I at this time confiscated over half a million acres of land around Ulster; this land he portioned out to some thousands of Anglican English and Presbyterian Scot settlers, which became known as the "Ulster Plantation".

The Catholic Irish being forced out or relegated to other areas.

To raise revenue to subdue the Irish, James I sold "Baronetcies", his majesty limited the number of "Baronets" to two hundred.

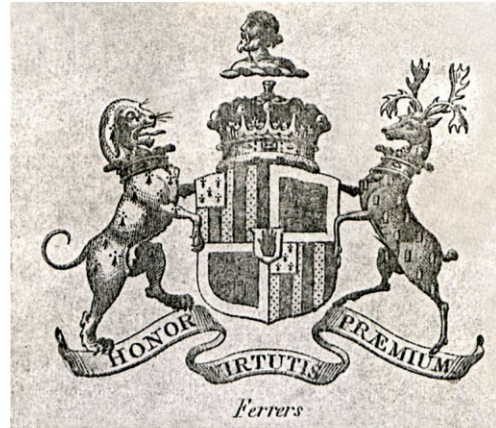
Sir George Shirley was the fourth on the list of recipients.

Each applicant for the honour of "Baronet" had to provide "Three hundred foot soldiers"

for a period of three years at eight pence per day, for the settling of "Ulster", or a single payment of £1095 (pounds).

The Red Hand of Ulster was added to the coat of arms of all fee paying Baronets. It was an added "status symbol", the receipt for the fee.

This was the hand painted on the coaches housed in the stable yard at Staunton Harold.



The Shirley Coat of Arms for the Earl Ferrer family dated around 1808. Colors are blue and gold with the Red Hand in the center.



#### STAUNTON HAROLD CHURCH

The only church built during Oliver Cromwell time. It was built by Robert Shirley.





The walls were twelve feet thick, and had loop holes built so that arrows could be shot horizontally, which made it a wonderful fortress.



The once impressive Chartley Castle in Staffordshire, now in ruin, was built in 1220, with a circular keep and two round towers.

*Left...*photo of American Shirleys looking at Shirley Pedigree half the size of tennis court in Leicester Museum June of 1986.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE ROBERT WASHINGTON SHIRLEY  
13th Earl Ferrers

The Earl Ferrers is descended from the Shirleys of Staunton Harold.

As Minister of State for Agriculture he has the responsibilities within the Ministry of Agriculture and he speaks for the Government in the House of Lords for the Department of Employment as well as for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. He is also Deputy Leader of the Upper House and was made a Privy Councillor in June, 1982.

Lord Ferrers' office at the House of Lords look out over Westminster Abbey

and from the window one can glimpse the statues of Richard Lionhart, George V, the medieval Jewel Tower and the endless traffic streaming between Millbank and Parliament Square.

His father, the 12th Earl Ferrers, died at Staunton Harold only a few hours before it was to be auctioned. He had been ill for some time and he did not want his son to bear the burden and responsibility of Staunton Harold. It was sold.

He had always wanted to find a purchaser who would offer Staunton Harold a 20th century purpose. It is now a Cheshire Home.



G.F. SHIRLEY FAMILY HISTORY

My father George Shirley was born in 1853. He was the youngest son of John George Shirley, who was a chemist at Queensway, London. George's mother, Ellen, was a daughter of Richard Shilleto, a lecturer of languages at Trinity House, Cambridge University.

John George Shirley was born in 1818 and was a descendant of the 6th Earl Ferrers at Staunton Harold, at Ashby de la Zouche in Leicestershire. George Shirley apparently visited Staunton Harold upon a number of occasions, and was well liked by his uncle, because his uncle later paid for his education at the elite school of Christ's Hospital, known as the Blue Coat School, after their style of school wool uniforms.

My father had four brothers and two sisters, and when they grew up, the two eldest brothers, Stephen and James established business as manufacturing chemists at Elephant and Castle. Their headache cure, a small dome of menthol for rubbing on the forehead, was a great success.

Another brother, John, became an assistant manager of Barclay's Bank, whilst Harry followed George to Australia in 1911.

When my father left Christ's Hospital School in 1868, he received a recommendation from the School Council. His musical capacity was also mentioned and the fact that he was a choir-boy soloist.

After leaving school, George took a course in book-keeping and was employed by his father in the chemist shop at Queensway. It was here that he obtained his general knowledge of chemistry that was to be of great value to him in the years ahead and in his career.

When 25 years of age, he decided to seek his fortune in the colonies. And after receiving a princely sum of 20 sovereigns from his father, he sailed for New Zealand on a sailing ship of the famous Black Ball line, which took nearly seven months for the journey.

Upon arriving in Auckland, he still had 5 pounds in his pocket, but found that following a severe drought, the colony was suffering a depression and the opportunities for employment were practically

nil. Eventually he joined a road mending gang who were repairing the new road from Grafton Bridge to Mount Roskill. It was here that an event happened that would influence his future career.

After heavy rain, the new road had become almost a bog. Whilst the gang was preparing for lunch, a very smart little pony and sulky appeared. Its driver was apparently one of the gentry because he wore a top hat and dark satin suit. Unfortunately the sulky became completely bogged and the horse began to play up the consternation of the elderly driver, who began to step out into the mud in order to control the pony. My father immediately stepped forward and said, "Sir, I understand horses. Please let me handle this for you". And so he led the horse and sulky onto dry ground, where the elderly gentleman thanked him and offered him a sovereign for his good deed.

My father refused the money and in the subsequent conversation the gentleman said, "Young man, you seem to be better educated than the usual road-mender. I could have room for you in my business." Then he handed him his card and told my father to report to his office on the following Monday. That is how he later became the manager of the Wanganui branch of the big firm of John Chambers, who in those days were stock and station agents. Later he was moved to their head office in Auckland.

My father was of a very kindly, good-natured disposition and had many friends that admired his ability. He was also a singer who was much in demand in the country, where he was always happy to sing at the bazaars and church festivals etc. And as New Zealand was beginning to build its churches in the country towns, his song programmes were much appreciated.

When he was moved to the head office in Auckland, his fame as a singer apparently came with him. It was not long before he was invited to sing in the Auckland Town Hall at a concert in aid of St. Sepulchre's Church in Symonds Street. At first he demurred, but when promised the help of an expert accompanist he eventually agreed, not knowing that the person that would be playing the piano for him was a young lady named Anna Elizabeth Sinclair. Incidentally, the concert at the Auckland Town Hall was a great success, and it was only a few weeks later that he proposed marriage to Anna and she accepted. Unfortunately the idea of



marriage to this "penniless Englishman" was not acceptable to her father, and many days were lost and many difficulties had to be overcome.

After they married, they bought a little cottage on the Mt. Roskill Rd. (near to where George used to work on the road). They remained there for about 6 years.

George had visited New South Wales and was impressed by the enormous possibilities in Australia. His experience as a stock and station agent would also be of value to him when dealing with the farming community. It was decided that Anna should live at her mother's home while George went to Australia with a view to establishing his own business in New South Wales.

George Shirley came to Sydney in 1893, and having obtained a number of agencies for farm equipment, he rented an office in lower Pitt Street, Sydney, where he soon made friends with firms in that neighbourhood. Amongst these were Mr. Knox (who founded the C.S.R.), the two Elliott brothers (who found the great chemical firm of the name), and Mr. Mort of Goldsbrough Mort and Co. (who were then 'Ships Chaddlers etc' with an office on the waterfront at Circular Quay).

I mention these four men because they became firm friends, and each day they had lunch at Pfarlet's Hotel in Bridge Street and finished by playing a game of dominoes together.

One day the elder Elliott brother announced that his firm was expecting the arrival of a clever young chemist from England and that his ship was even then tying up at the wharf in Circular Quay. Mr. Mort immediately suggested that the young man be brought to his office so that they could all meet him. This was done, and he was introduced to my father in Mr. Mort's office.

During a conversation at Mr. Mort's office, the young man (George Shirley) became interested in a large stone on the floor that was being used as a door stop. He said "Where did you get that piece of stone from" and Mr. Mort said "An old Skipper from a Pacific Trading ship brought it here and asked me what I thought of it. As none of us knew about it we decided that it would make a good door stop." He did not know the Skippers name and he only called about

once per year.

The young chemist (George Shirley) examined the stone and took a small sample of it for analysis. He returned the next day, very excited and stated that his tests showed that it was pure "Guano" which had been formed over millions of years from the manure droppings of sea birds. It was one of the best fertilizers that was available. When could we see the Skipper. What island did it come from etc... Unfortunately Mr. Mort could not answer these questions and they had to await for the next annual visit of the old Skipper. When at last he arrived he was not quite certain himself but later remembered that it was from the Island of Narau.

As my father (George Shirley) was hoping to establish a Artificial Fertilizer Business and was already purchasing certain products from C.S.R., he decided to visit the Island and obtain further samples and ascertain the size of the deposit. This he did and it is upon record that the first load from Narau was taken off by George Shirley in a rowing boat to the Ship of a Pacific Island Trader.

Now satisfied about the amount of the phosphate Rock available, George Shirley commenced organising his business. Factory premises were rented at Pyrmont and contracts had been let with Shipping Companies to carry the precious rock to Sydney where it would be ground up and mixed to manufacture "Shirley's Fertilizer" 'Shirley's Magic Dust', 'Shirley's super-phosphate'.

The task of selling artificial Fertilizers to farmers who had never heard of such things was not an easy one and George Shirley traveled many thousand miles amongst the farming community. Long hours of travel (mostly by horse and sulky) to tell the story about the increase of productivity that follow the use of his "Magic Dust" and putting up with the good humoured banter from the farmers and graziers who later admitted that what George Shirley was selling "Really Worked".

In 1903 his Company was selling several hundred tons of fertilizer per month. By 1911 (the year he died) his company sold 70,000 tons per year and sales were increasing.

George was proud of his wife and five children and wanted to take his first holiday since he started work. He booked his passage for us all to England, let his home to some tenants and began packing. He developed abdominal pains and the doctors diagnosis was shattering. He only had 3 months to live. The trip was canceled. I was 13 years old when my father died.







From your editor.....

At last here is the first issue of the Shirley NEWS International. I hope you will enjoy the content. There is so much history to share but we not only want to share this story ... we want to know about your family's history, the story we can't find in books or in our already accumulated records. This story can only come from you! We ask you to PLEASE write to us about your ancestors or your present family of Shirleys. We can only make the NEWS interesting and diversified by your getting involved and by supplying material for it. Do you have old photographs, old letters of interest about the family etc.? Research material about your family or other Shirleys you found that were not your line will be greatly appreciated as we endeavor to learn as much as we can about ALL Shirleys. WE NEED YOUR HELP! 1987

Show your issue of the NEWS to other family members, encourage them to join the Association so they may receive their own issue of the NEWS.

With a little encouragement from you in Australia and New Zealand, I may be coming in February to hold meetings about the Shirleys. I have so much to tell about the Shirleys and video of our Celebration at Ettington (professionally taped) and books and charts. We make them available through the mail in U.S. but postage and \$ exchange will make them more expensive. If I bring them with me, it would be less cost to you. I would like to meet you all anyway! That is the most exiting thing is meeting so many wonderful Shirleys from all over. We met many Shirleys in England. The sad part is we didn't have enough time together. I hope to be able to go back to England for meetings also. If not 1988 then 1989 for sure. The governing thing here is my finances for travel. IF WE HAVE ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO SEND ME A TICKET, I'LL BE ON MY WAY! HA! I love traveling and telling the Shirley story!

This year is our National Shirley Convention in the U.S. We are meeting on June 20 and 21, 1987 in Williamsburg, Va. We have reservations for over 100 people already. They are coming from several states and from many branches of the family, most who were here in 1600-1700's.

A report of this convention will be given in the next issue of the NEWS.

On June 22, 1987, a group of 37 of us will fly from Williamsburg to Boston Massachusetts and we will be met by a coach/bus that will take us sightseeing for the next several days. We will be dining at Governor Shirleys home which has been renovated a couple years ago. He was the governor in mid 1700's. We will visit New York and then to Philadelphia for the bi-centennial of the Consitution and to Gettysburg and down into Virginia again to visit the area of the Shirleys in mid 1700's from who most of the American Shirley Association descend. We will end the tour back in Williamsburg where we started. Then we will depart for home the way we arrived. I will make a report of this travel also in the next issue of the NEWS.

These are the kinds of things the Shirley Association is interested in being involved in. A return to the past either by sharing family info or by traveling to visit the past and recording what we find. I have spent many hours going through Shirley cemetaries and etc.

If there is one thing for you to be aware of is...I am genuinely interested in each and every family of Shirleys, no matter from what walk of life they came. Some may be more affluent than others, this makes no difference to me. They each are unique, some more colorful than others. But the Shirley story lies in each family group. Share it with us.

If you have heard some stories and wonder about them ...if they are true or want to learn more about them, write me. I will answer each letter individually. I may take awhile, depending on the work load, but I WILL write. Better yet, call me. Find the less expensive rate to call and dial me at 408-255-8511. I get calls all the time. I love it!

You may like to know a little about me... I just turned 50 in April, (I think the whole world knows already...HA! My children, and I have 5, sent a letter out to our American Assoc. members telling them they could send cards and I received many lovely cards and letters). I have lived in Cupertino California at this address for 32 years. My husband is a carpenter and he is the Shirley, not I! I started on my own family and he couldn't understand why I would spend so much time in the past. When I asked him about his ancestry, he didn't know only his grandfathers name. He got to thinking about it and we began searching and learned about his ancestry back to mid 1700's in Maryland. Now...to get them back to the boat. The family traditional story is that they came from England. Because of space I will leave this story here. Do write me!!!