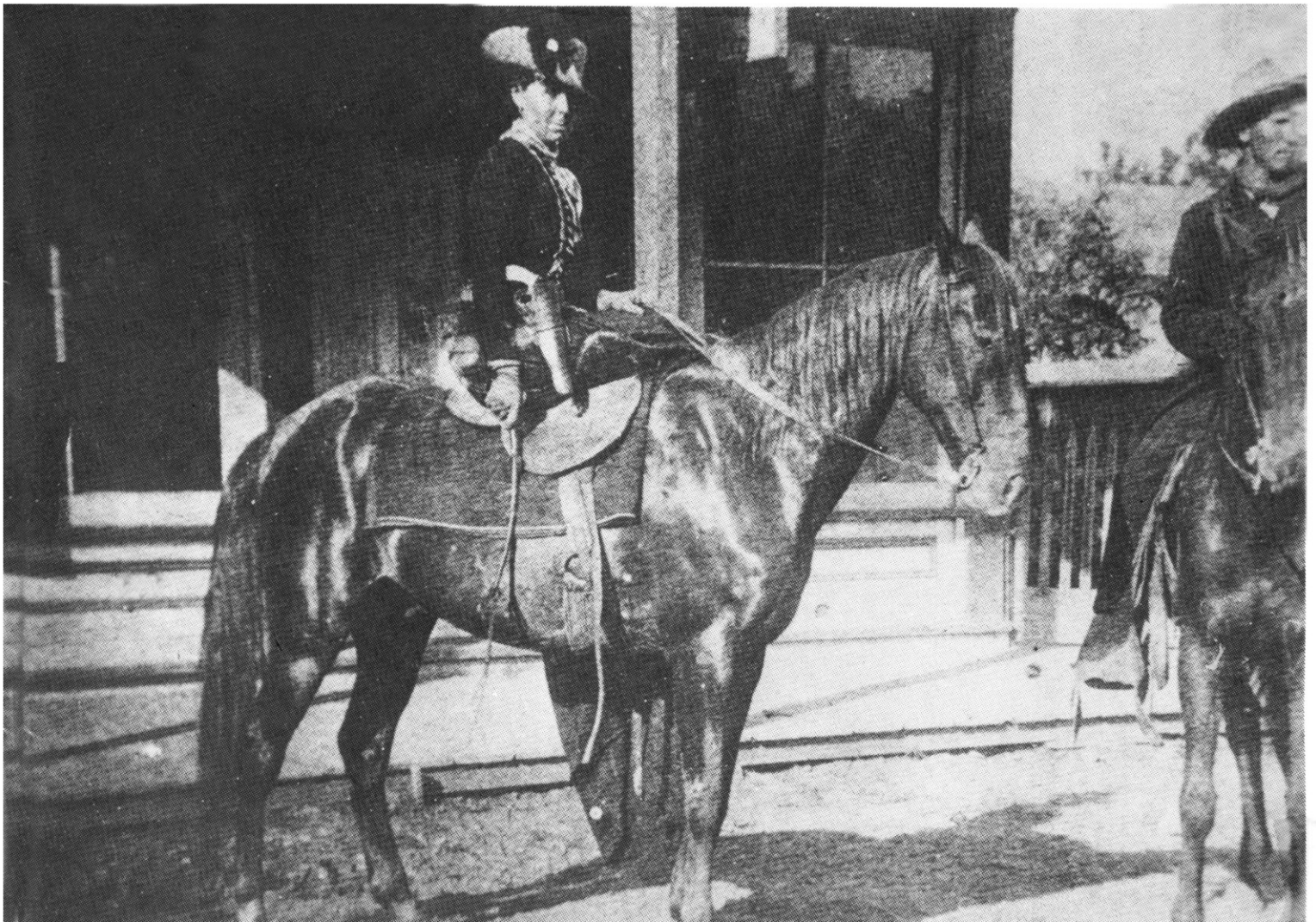




BELLE STARR ^{AND} HER ROOTS



BELLE STARR taken May 23, 1886 Fort Smith, Ark.
Photograph by Rhoeder's Gallery

Belle Starr was associated with the James Brothers gang of outlaws in U.S.A.

Belle Starr

WHEN AND WHERE WAS SHE BORN ???

The author of many books and magazine articles have guessed at where they THINK she was born and when. They suggest she mis-represented the year because of her vanity, etc....

Belle Starr was born February 5, 1848 near Medoc (later called Georgia City) in Jasper County Mo. She was named Myra in the census of 1850.

October Federal census of Jasper Co. Mo.

John	54 yrs (b.1796)	Va.	Farmer
Eliza	34 yrs	Va.	
Charlotte	12 yrs	Indiana	
John A.M.	8 yrs	Mo.	
Myra	2 yrs (b.1848)	Mo.	
Benton	9months	Mo.	

HER HALF BROTHER PRESTON ALSO LIVING IN JASPER CO. MO. 1850 CENSUS:

Preston b. 1826 Indiana
 Mary A. b. 1830 Indiana
 Christian T. b. 1848 Mo.
 John F. b. 1849 Mo.

NOTE: Preston had a child born just about the same time as Belle was born.

On June 30, 1848 John was granted a patent on 800 acres southeast of Medoc. On March 16, 1850 he sold 160 acres to David Martin for \$700. In June 1851 John bought two quarter-acre lots from John and Malinda Richardson located in the town of Carthage. In 1856 John sold his farm to George W. Broome. On March 29, 1861 George advertises this same farm in the Carthage Southwest News..."600 acres of Spring River bottom land, situated in Jasper Co. about three miles northwest of Sherwood, and on one of the most beautiful streams in the west. There is 100 acres in cultivation, has on it a small apple orchard, dwelling house, kitchen, stable and c., has a good well. The larger portion of it is heavily timbered; stone coal is abundant in the vicinity, and a more desirable stock farm could not be found in the Southwest."

John's real estate holdings increased from \$600 in 1850 to \$4000 real estate and \$6000 personal property in 1860.

John kept hotel in Carthage which included a livery stable and a blacksmith shop. In the Carthage Southwest News of March 29, 1861 carried this advertisement:
 [Mo. is abbreviation for state of Missouri U.S.A.].

CARTHAGE HOTEL
 NORTHSIDE PUBLIC SQUARE
 JOHN SHIRLEY, PROPRIETOR
 HORSES AND HACKS FOR HIRE
 A GOOD STABLE ATTACHED

.

[From the Dec. 8, 1979 issue of the CARTHAGE PRESS written by Marvin L. VanGilder, historian].

The North side of the square in 1861 was owned entirely by the Shirley family, although it is apparent from other sources that a portion of it may have been occupied perhaps on rental or lease basis, by others.

John Shirley, the former miller and whose household included teen-aged Myra Belle Shirley, the future Belle Starr, owned Lots 19, 20, 21, 23, and 24, while A.M. Shirley had title to Lot 22.

Testimony of several pioneers places the Carthage House Hotel and Saloon operated by Shirley, along with his stables and corrals on the north side, with a blacksmith shop situated at or near the northeast corner of Main and Third, site of today's Smith's Town and Country store.

Hornback also credited John Shirley with ownership of Lots 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, and 96, covering the entire block due north of his northside of the square holdings and reaching to Central Avenue. Clearly Shirley was the dominate real estate owner of ante-bellum Carthage.

His property also included Lots 132 and 133, embracing the area bounded by Sixth, Seventh, Lincoln and Fulton Streets. Other reports indicate the Shirley family owned a residence in that vicinity at one time.

Shirley's real estate was evaluated at a total of \$1,230 for tax purposes. It is worth recording that Lot 132 was 200x200 feet, Lot 133 was 200x285 feet and all the others measured 50x200 feet.

A.M. Shirley also owned Lot 114 on Garrison Avenue from Sixth to Seventh Street, site of today's Carthage Public Library.

[More about Belle Starr in a future issue].



ASTWELL



ASTWELL

[photo by David Bellamy]

ELIZABETH WASHINGTON SHIRLEY

[Wife of the First Earl Ferrer]

Elizabeth Washington, daughter of Lawrence Washington of Garsdon, in co. of Wilts. England brought into the family of SHIRLEY the manor of Garsdon, purchased by Sir Lawrence Washington from the family of Moody and lands in Braydon, Bulford and Great and Little Amesbury in the co. of Wilts. including the site of Stonehenge. The estates of Bulford and Amsebury were sold in 1678.

GARSDON...A village set in the hills around Malmesbury.

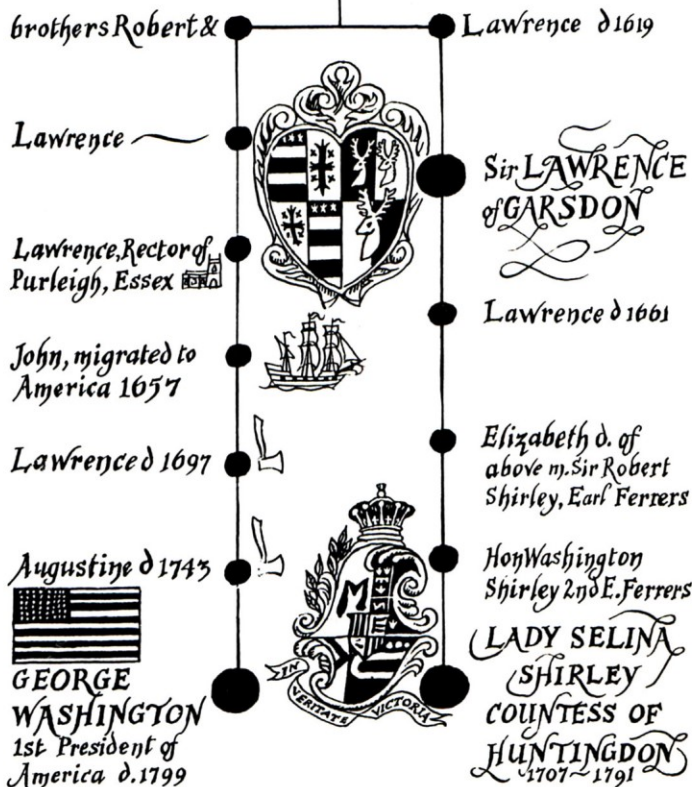
The church is reached by a long path between yew hedges. The bells in the tower were given by Richard Moody, a servant of Henry the Eighth, who was given the manor of Garsdon because, it is said, he helped his majesty up one day after he had fallen in the mud, such deep mud that he was unable to extricate himself from it on account of his mighty bulk.

Richard Moody sold the manor to the Washingtons. Their gabled house stands on a hill with noble views, with its gables and its groups of square chimneys, but a manor house no more. Here lived Washingtons for generations, and in due course came Lawrence Washington, whom they brought here in 1640 when he died, setting on the wall a heraldic monument with a shield painted with gold stars and red stripes. Centuries before they came on the American flag the stars and stripes were on this wall, with a winged cherub guarding them below and above a pair of the most extraordinary figures we have seen, loosely draped and lounging on cushions over the top of this odd sculpture. The memorial was found broken long ago and was restored by the Bishop of New York and American Friends, Lawrence Washington having been a cousin of the great-great-great grandfather of the President. It was Lawrence Washington's wife who gave the plate for the altar; she is buried here.

[several of the items in the NEWS are from material sent to me by David Bellamy...He continues to be of help to the Shirley Association].

WASHINGTON FAMILY TREE

showing the connection between Sir Lawrence Washington of Garsdon & Lady Huntingdon and George Washington
Lawrence Washington ♂ Sulgrave Manor 1538



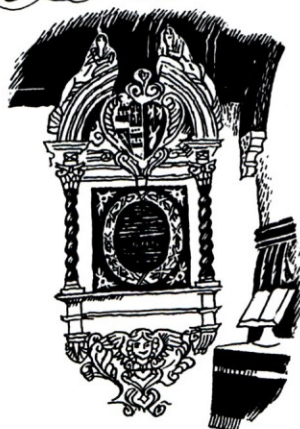
GARSDON PARISH CHURCH

3 miles east of Malmesbury, the tiny parish of Garsdon adjoins the neighbouring village of Lea. Deep in the country, each has its little church where Sunday worship is led by the Rector alternately at one place in the morning & the other in the evening.



THE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL

Both churches have a quiet charm but Garsdon has an additional attraction in the 17th century memorial to Sir Lawrence Washington & his wife Anne. He purchased Garsdon Manor in 1641.



GEORGE WASHINGTON

Sir Lawrence of Garsdon was the grandson of Lawrence Washington to whom Henry VIII granted Sulgrave Manor in 1538, and from whom George Washington, 1st President of USA was descended. In the Washington Arms shown on the memorial the stars and stripes afterwards used in the American flag are seen.



LADY HUNTINGDON

Sir Lawrence Washington of Garsdon was also the ancestor of Lady Selina Shirley who married the Ninth Earl of Huntingdon. As the famous Countess of Huntingdon she played a leading part in the Evangelical Revival under the preaching of George Whitefield and John Wesley in the 18th century which changed the life of the nation.



ENGLISH ESTATES OF AMERICAN COLONISTS

1610 - 1699 by Peter Wilson Coldham

Ralph Shurley of White Chapel, Middlesex England who died in Virginia.
Adm. to relict Elizabeth Shurley
Nov. 1694.

1700 - 1799

William Shirley of Eaton, Buckinghamshire England who died in Virginia on ship JAMES.
Adm. to relict Catherine Shirley Feb 1708.

William Shirley of Virginia, bachelor.
Probate to Edward Bottehurst

William Shirley, secretary to General Edward Braddock who died in America, bachelor.
Adm. to father William Shirley, Jan 1757.
[Governor William Shirley's son].

1800 - 1858

Thomas Frederick Shirley, formerly of Carlisle Lane, Westminster Road, Surrey, England, died with his wife Hannah and children Emma and Hannah, as passengers on American ship "Charles Bartlett" when she was run down on passage to New York by steam ship "Europa".
Limited adm. to Joseph Eugene Shirley
Sept. 1849.

[information sent by Florence Hodges]

NORFOLK, ENGLAND

James Shirley b. ca. 1802 London
m. Katherine Louisa Dalphin Dec. 29, 1831.

Children

1. Horatio Henry b. Jan 6, 1834
2. Katherine Frances b. Oct 15, 1836 Norfolk.
3. Georgiana Louisa b. Nov. 13, 1837
4. Evelyn William b. Nov. 30, 1840
5. James Clarton b. Aug 30, 1843
6. Mary b. Nov. 4, 1844
7. Selina Caroline b. Mar. 23, 1850



Garsdon: Home of
Lady Eliz. Washington
who married Robert
Shirley, First Earl
Ferrers.

PARISH CHURCH
GARSDON.



WASHINGTON
COAT OF ARMS

[Photos taken by
David Bellamy]

STARS OF AUSTRALIAN STAGE AND SCREEN

[Ref; *Stars of Australian Stage and Screen...Rigby Ltd. Adelaide, 1965*]

ARTHUR SHIRLEY was born on August 31, 1886 in Hobart, Tasmania, of an Irish father and Australian mother of English parentage, and was educated at a Roman Catholic private school in his native city.

On leaving school he worked in the dispatch room of Tattersall's (Australia's famous sweepstake); then as a junior clerk in a solicitor's office. At sixteen, stagestruck, he joined a semi-professional troupe of entertainers which toured Tasmania in a two horse caravan.

In 1904 he sailed for Melbourne, hoping to break into theatre of a more stationary sort. Biding his time, he was door-to-door salesman for a wholesale grocery firm, meantime nourishing his large frame- film posters later billed him as the Big Australian-on the sixpenny meals to be got in 1904 in the restaurants which lined Bourke Street from Swanston Street to Spring Street.

A devout youth he next became a novice in a Sydney seminary. The lure of stage proved, however, stronger than that of priesthood. In 1905 he left the seminary and returned to Melbourne and stage-door-haunting.

His professional debut was made in 1905 as a three-line Lord-in-Waiting, with Nellie Stewart in *Sweet Nell of Old Drury* at the Princess Theatre, Melbourne. He appeared in several other roles and spent two years touring the back blocks of Victoria and New South Wales as leading man and all-parts-player with the John Cosgrove Company and similar versatile groups. He then went back to working in the Theatres.

In 1912, Arthur Shirley made his screen debut, with silvered hair, in the title role of Cozens Spencers sickly opus *The Shepherd of the Southern Cross*.

A couple years later George Willoughby, enthroned manager, resentful that Arthur Shirley, mere actor, had not signed a contract to tour New Zealand in *Mr. Wu*, served an injunction on the firm restraining them from continuing to employ Shirley.

It is necessary to recall that no actor then dared be independent. Shirley had dared, and

now dared further. He sued Willoughby for crippling his J.C.W. engagement. This defiance of the gods drove the gods together. In court, E.J. Tait, manager, sided with George Willoughby, manager. There was the clearest revelation that managements intended to keep actors suppliant. E.J. Tait denied that he had engaged Shirley. The judge castigated Tait for "deliberate and malicious perjury". Arthur Shirley got five hundred pounds damages, but his career as a stage actor in Australia was over.

In June 1914 Shirley sailed on the *Niagara* for America and Hollywood. He and his wife were living just off Broadway in an hotel behind the Astor Theatre when war broke out on Aug. 4, 1914.

In the still primitive film industry podgy heroines of the Mary Pickford type were fashionable and, to support them, tall heroes with mobile faces. Shirley, over six feet tall, blue-eyed and handsome, filled the bill and played the hero in a series of two-reels for Kalem Pictures. Ultimately, he appeared for most of the companies then powerful: Universal, Paramount, etc...

Perhaps Shirley's most famous part was that of John Vassar, the soldier-politician hero of *The Fall of a Nation*, a 1917 Vitagraph production written by the Rev. Mr. Thomas Dixon, author of *The Clansmen* from which D.W. Griffith made his masterpiece *The Birth of a Nation*. A special musical score for *The Fall of a Nation* was composed by Victor Herbert.

A dramatic photograph of Shirley as John Vassar was used as a patriotic poster in America during the Great War.

Side by side with movie-acting Shirley ran a photography business at 6040 Hollywood Boulevard, and was a pioneer in the use of artificial lighting for portraiture, and three-dimensional rather than painted backgrounds. His portrait of Rudolph Valentino, then a dancing partner to Jean Acker in the Rose Room at the Alexandria Hotel,

induced Rex Ingram to screen-test Valentino in *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse* for Metropolitan-Mayer, forerunner of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

After seven years of Hollywood experience and fame, Shirley returned to Sydney in 1821. He was thirty-five, and anxious to invest his money, talents, and knowledge in film production. He formed a company, Arthur Shirley Productions, and began to direct *The Throwback* in a studio at Rose Bay, Sydney. The company went into liquidation before the film was completed. An attempt by Earnes Higgins, the photographer, and Shirley, to finish the film -- with Higgins as the financier -- failed. Higgins, religious to the point of Holy-Joe-ism, objected to the semi-nudes of a mural that gifted scenic artists, the Clint Brothers, had painted for a cabaret scene. He was equally aghast at the screen antics of Minnie Hooper's dancing girls. Litigation began. Shirley and actress Vera Remee sued Higgins for salary. Higgins, in retort, kept the reels of film which have never been shown. Shirley's efforts to get the reels reduced him to a second bankruptcy. From the Hotel Australia he moved to less glamorous Cathedral Street. Woolloomooloo, where he took a room in a theatrical boarding-house run by character actress, Cora Warner, who was to give a fine performance as Mother Guttersnipe in Shirley's next film, *The Mystery of a Hansom Cab*. Despite the vicissitudes of *The Throwback* company, *The Mystery of the Hansom Cab* was substantially backed by a new company, Pyramid Pictures, and had its premiere at the Crystal Palace Theatre, Sydney, in 1925. Shirley wrote the scenario, directed the film and played two parts. The film took five months to photograph, many of the scenes being in Melbourne on the steps of Parliament House, in the Fitzroy Gardens, and also St. Kilda Road. The film was Australia's first ten-reeler, and the first to use double exposure. It cost 2500 pounds to make, and made a profit of 15,000 pounds.

He continued in the business and made a name for himself.

Arthur Shirley became involved, as the main stock-in-trade, with Australian National Feature Films (From Australia to the World was their slogan), the directors of which tried to whip up public support "to develop the Motion Picture Industry in Australia". Their efforts also failed, and with them Shirley's interest in films.

Now living in Sydney, Arthur Shirley has few regrets for his defeat by the forces of stage and movie cornering-his fate has been the fate of many talented Australian who had hoped and laboured to make good films in Australia. His main interests are archaeology, and ancient Egypt.

Info sent by Graham Shirley of Australia.

from your editor.....

BETTY SHIRLEY PLANS TO TRAVEL

To England, Australia & N.Z.

in 1989 !

Yes, I am coming to England for our first International Shirley Conference. Because plans are in the early stages, exact dates cannot be given. But, it does appear that the conference date would be on Saturday, May 20, 1989 in the Leicester area of England. I will confirm this in the next issue of the NEWS in Jan/Feb. In the mean time, PLEASE begin making plans to attend and to spread the word to your families. We want to meet alot of Shirley descendants from England and elsewhere that can attend.

I will be bringing a smaller group with me from the USA and we will be touring some of the previously owned Shirley areas and sight seeing. If you would like to take the tour of England with us, please write me for details and costs. We would be delighted to welcome travelers from other countries to travel on our coach and we will be happy to make your arrangements as we do for the rest of the group.

I plan on coming to Australia and New Zealand in late Oct. or early Nov. 1989. I may bring a few travelers with me there too! More in next issue of the NEWS.



PHOTO: (standing L to R) Dorene, Delaine, Debbie Shirley, (sitting L to R.) Johnnie Shirley (one of our travelers), and Betty Shirley, your editor. Dorene, Delaine, and Debbie are my daughters. This photo taken in London on our historic 1986 visit. [Photo taken by Peter P. Shirley]

I have been asked to tell about our branch of Shirleys and to include a photo of myself.

First, my husband is the Shirley, not I. We believe he is descended from a John Shirley born Nov. 17, 1728 d. 1821 and married Charity...last name unknown. They are residents of Bedford Co. Pennsylvania USA from mid 1700's. They were of the Antietum Maryland area before going to Pennsylvania. Where they were before this is unknown. Was this the imigrant or was he born the son of an imigrant? My husbands great great grandfather was George Shirley and was born in 1761 Pa. He married Ruhannah Norris. She was the daughter of Joseph Norris born Jan. 11, 1729 Washington County, Maryland and Mary Moody born Dec. 11, 1730 in Wales.

The interesting thing to me is the name Moody...[read the story in this issue about Garsdon, the home of Elizabeth Washington Shirley, wife of the First Earl Ferrers. They purchased their place from a Moody. Also in many places the name of Norris has popped up. I would like to persue this sometime...but when will I get that chance??].

The son of George Shirley was John Shirley born in 1787 Pa. The son of John was Silas Shirley born in 1836 in Morgan County Ohio. His son was Owen Parmer Shirley, father of my husband, Guy Murray Shirley who was born in 1932 Oklahoma USA.

When Guy was 4 years old, the family moved to California.

married 3rd. Lucy Ashton (no children listed)

INTERESTING MATERIAL ABOUT THE EARLY DAYS AT ETTINGTON!
[Copied from a book in the Sussex Library, ??? book]

SHIRLEYE, S^r James de, Kt. He is to arrent all K's void places in Esseburn and Leas, Derb., and let same to good men, 7 May 1275 (P.R.). S^r Jas. de S., Kt., grants rents at Shirley, Halington, and Bubbedon, Derb., to Ric. Foun for 1 lb. of cummin p.a., 24 Feb. 1276, owes 144 m. to said Richard, and has given to him the lands he had of him at Shirley till he be repaid, 4 Sep. 1276 (C.R.). Another Jas. de S., probably his g.s., was a lord of Burnham, Suff., 5 Mar. 1316 (P.W.).

SHIRLEYE, S^r Ralph de, Kt. (Shirlegh). Palee de or e de sable. Warw. (Parl.). Sealed, 1311: Paly of 6, a quarter erm. (Birch). S. h. of the last. Ralph fil. Jas. de S. owes 144 m. to Ric. Foun for quittance of lands at Shirley, Olinton, and Bubbeden, that James mortgaged. If this be not paid, the charter of quitclaim that Ralph had of James for Etindon Manor shall be annulled, 7 Feb. 1277 (C.R.). Enrolment of grant by Ralph fil. Jas. de Shyrleye to Jn. de Ubbeston of his tenement at Bernham near Thetford, Suff., and advowson of St. Gregory's church there, rendering 1*l*. for all except foreign services, 2 Ap. 1277 (C.R.). He is a serviens for Hugh de Braundeston 2 Aug. 1282 (P.W.), and owes to Exors. of Henry de Brandeston, Bp. of Salisbury, £105 in Warw. and Derb., and £40 11s. in Warw., Ap. 1288 (C.R.). Assessor, etc., of subsidy, Warw., 12 Nov. 1294 (P.R.), Notts. and Derb. 1301 (C.R.). Kt. of Shire, Warw., 13 Nov. 1295, and 1311 (P.W.). Gift of 4 does from Cannock Forest 17 Nov. 1296 (C.R.). Having £20 lands in Notts. and Derb., sum^d to serve agst. Scots 7 Jy. 1297, and from Warw. and Leic. 24 June 1301 (P.W.). He holds Schirle, Hogam, Bradele, Yeolegreve, Hoppewell, Yldrisle, Edensoure, and Irton as 5 Kt. Fees in Derb., Etindon, Warw., and Tichemers, Northants., together 2 Fees, late of P. Edm., 3 Jy. 1297, and Bernham Manor, Suff., as ½ Fee, late of Giles de Plays, 15 Oct. 1302 (Inq.). Com^r in Staff. 26 Jan. 1298, Derb. and Notts. 1299 (P.R.), Sheriff of Notts. and Derb. 18 Mar. 1299, and in 1300-3 (C.R. and P.R.), Warw. 1309-10 (P.R.), Const. of Horeston Cas., and to have 12 oaks for timber from Horeston wood for repair of houses in the castle, 23 June 1301 (C.R.), Com^r *re* supply of grain from Notts. and Derb. 18 Dec. 1301 (P.W.). As Sheriff of Notts. he is to choose 120 woodmen from Sherwood Forest for the army agst. Scots 22 Ap. 1303 (P.R.). S^r Ralph de S., Kt., owes 40 m. to Master Simon de S. in Warw., Oct. 1307. He gave Mudle Manor, Salop, to Jn. Lestrangle of Knokyn and w. Matilda, 5 Oct. (C.R.), and is attorney of said Master Simon 26 Oct. 1309 (P.R.). Order to elect Coroner for Warw. *vice* him incapacitated by infirmity 5 Oct. S^r Ralph de Shirlegh, Kt., witnesses deed of Henry de Braundeston, 25 Aug. 1312, owes 20 m. in Derb. 5 Oct., and his s. James owes £64 in Suff., Dec. 1313. He owes 500 m. in Derb. and Warw. 21 May 1316, and Jas. de Shurleye owes 1,000 m. to him in Notts. 15 May 1321 (C.R.). K. ordered him when Sheriff of Notts. to buy and provide 20 carts fitted with iron and with 3 horses each and harness, and send them to Berwick for Scots War. He made an indenture which has been lost and the Exchequer refuses to pay him. The other part of the indenture is now to be sent by a K's clerk 16 Feb. 1316 (C.R.). Conservator of Peace, Warw., 28 May 1320, Assessor, etc., of subsidy there, 2 Dec. 1322. Lic. for Walter Waldeshof and w. Joan to grant remainder of certain lands at Hope, Derb., to Ralph fil. Jas. de S. and Margaret, d. of said Walter and her heirs corp., 5 Jy. 1322 (P.R.). Sum^d as a Kt. of Suff. and of Warw. to Great Council at Westminster 9 May 1324 (P.W.). Dead 16 Jy. 1326 (F.R.).

U.S.A.

OLD SHIRLEY TRADING POST
OKLAHOMA TERRITORY in 1800's

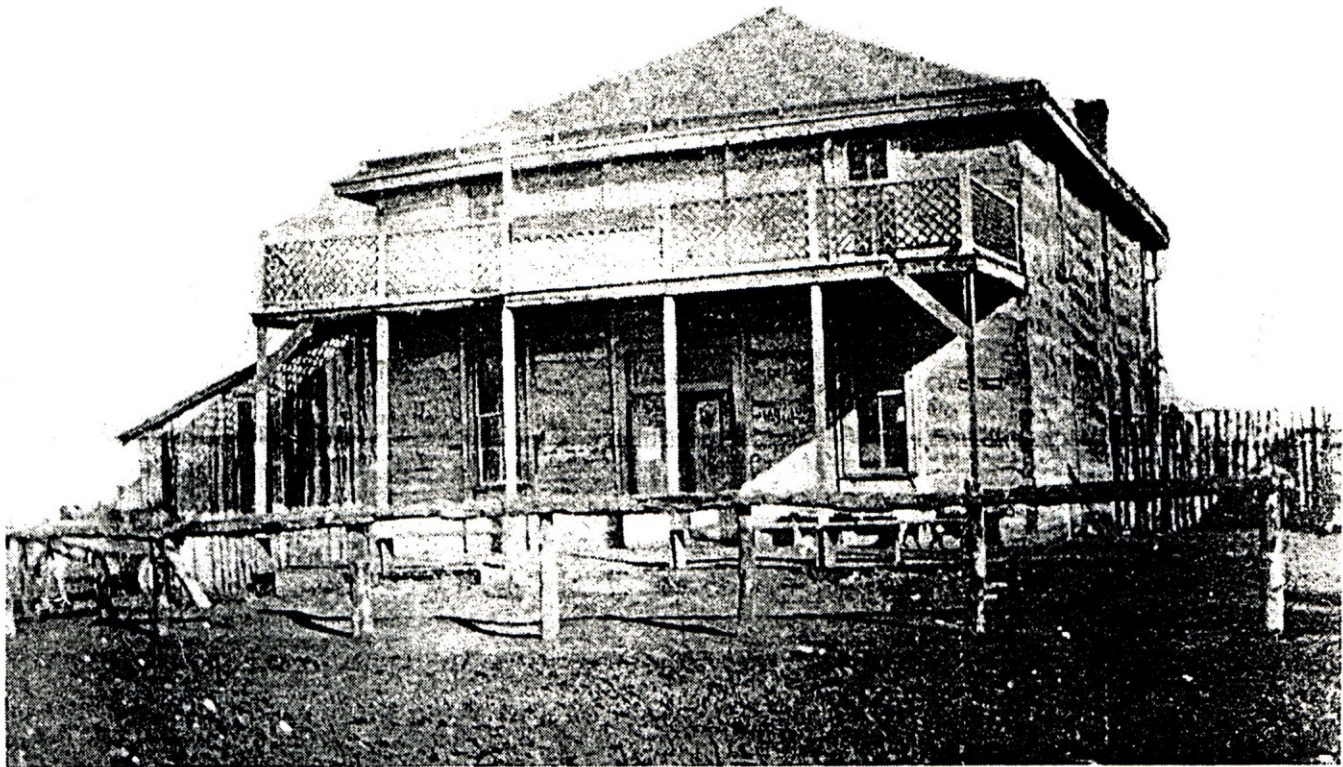


PHOTO FURNISHED BY: Anadarko Philomathic Museum

SHIRLEY'S TRADING POST

In 1875, the Government desired to establish a post office at the Agency, then called, "Shirley Trading Post", located just north of Washita River. Mr. William Shirley was the only white man, at this time, permanently located in this section. He was the first white Government Interpreter for the Indians and formerly a trader from New Orleans. He first came to the Indians as a trader in 1856. He moved with the tribes here, as interpreter, in August 1859. He married Habunista, a Nadarko Indian maiden, daughter of the old Chief Tomas, in 1867. Their only child, a son named Harry Edwards Shirley was born May 3rd, 1869. Habunista died in 1873. The first Agency established in 1859 near present site of Anadarko. (1901 History of Anadarko, O.T.)

This picture is from a calendar given to me at our Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, USA meeting of Shirleys in October 1986. It was given me by Vivan Shirley Williams, granddaughter of William Shirley. She is the daughter of Harry Edwards Shirley.

William Shirley came from Ireland and landed at New Orleans. He migrated west into Texas

The above picture is Shirley's trading post in what was then, Oklahoma Territory.

Harry Edwards Shirley was born in Anadarko, Caddo County, Oklahoma.

Wooton, Buckingham, England

Thomas and Anne Shirley

Known children:

1. Thomas Jan. 3, 1718
2. John Sept 13, 1721
3. Mary Dec 1, 1723
4. Eliz. Oct. ___ 1725
5. Anne Nov 6, 1727
6. Frances July 12, 1730
7. Sarah Dec. 3, 1732
8. Esther Aug 3, 1735