

SHERLEY • SHIRLEY • SHURLEY



1989

SHIRLEY NEWS INTERNATIONAL EIGHTH EDITION



**FIRST INTERNATIONAL SHIRLEY CONVENTION
MAY 13, 1989 AT STAUNTON HAROLD IN ENGLAND**

The first International Shirley Convention was held at Staunton Harold, (the ancestral home of the Earl Ferrers family for generations), on May 13, 1989. A group of approximately 100 people attended this special event. They were very interested in learning about the history of the Shirley family.

The day started with registration at 9A.M. By 9:30 everyone had taken their seat and Mr. Oliver of Staunton Harold introduced Betty Shirley. The Shirleys heard the story about the Shirleys starting in 1086 and how the lineages have descended. A large family group chart was on display and used to explain the families through the generations. Also on display was a large map of England showing where the Shirleys had lived in 1500's & 1600's.

Before the lunch break, each Shirley descendant at the convention stood and introduced themselves and gave the name and location of their earliest Shirley ancestor they knew of. On more than one occasion, someone would ask the one speaking about their ancestor. Later they discovered their connection to that branch of the family. The excitement was really growing when they all began to see the possibilities of meeting other families who might be related to their own.

As each person took their turn telling about their Shirley ancestor, one came to the front of the room...as we had now come to those sitting in the back of the room. He asked everyone to be sure to look him over...he wouldn't mind. He was wearing a T-Shirt with writing on it. As he approached the front of the room...everyone was laughing!!! On the back of his shirt was: YOU COULD BE MY LONG LOST COUSIN, SEE THE OTHER SIDE FOR DETAILS. The front side gave the names of the families he is researching. It was a very clever idea and everyone had fun with this. He was a hit!

Following this everyone went outside to get a group photograph taken in front of the manor house. Then on down for another group photo in front of the church. Just as the group was walking down to the church, the Earl and Countess Ferrers arrived. They are in those pictures

Lunch was served and after a relaxful visit the afternoon portion of the Shirley convention resumed. The afternoon speakers were the Earl Ferrers and Major John Shirley. The audience was given a chance to ask questions of both gentlemen. A great time was had by all.



During the breaks the Shirleys spent great deal of time looking at the books and displays brought over by Betty Shirley from the USA. Several reported finding material on their family and wrote down their information in their notebooks etc.

It was great to see their enthusiasm. Several who were not members of the International Shirley convention joined. We all felt a close kindred in spite of the miles difference from England, New Zealand, Australia and U.S.A. They are one terrific group of people.

SHIRLEY TOUR OF ENGLAND

The rest of the tour went very well! The weather was good to us and we had a great time. Wished you could have been with us.

I won't take space here to go into the details but just wanted to mention we had a great time and we would all like to do it again... I think!

IRELAND TRIP!

I, Betty Shirley, went over to Ireland for 4 days following the Shirley tour of England. I must say that I was well treated while there.

We held a meeting just for the Shirleys of Ireland. We expected about 25 people and were pleasantly surprised when about 60 people showed up to hear and learn about the Shirleys.



*Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness
The Duke of Edinburgh will be present*



The Governor and Lady Woodward

request the honour of the company of

*Mr and Mrs G. F. Shirley
at a Garden Party*

on Saturday 2nd March, 1963, at 3 p.m.

M.B.E. HONOUR JUST POINTER

When the Queen announced her birthday honours list last week, included among the names of those awarded the MBE was that of **Graham F. Shirley** "for services to the livestock industry of Australia."

However, this citation is only a scant pointer to what has been a life of marked voluntary community service.

Mr. Shirley (pictured), who lives in Narrabeen Park Parade, Warriewood Beach, was born in 1895 and educated at the Sydney Church of England Grammar School, North Sydney.

After a short business career he enlisted in the 1st AIF and served overseas as a machine gunner from 1915 until he was invalided back to Australia in 1918.

Exhibitor

As the owner of "Camelot" stud farm at Penrith, Mr. Shirley bred pigs and Illawarra Shorthorn cattle. He was a very successful exhibitor at major agricultural shows from 1930 to 1954.

He was the first to import Canadian Berkshire pigs to Australia and in the course of experiments into the production of improved

bacon carcasses, evolved an entirely new Berkshire pig with two extra ribs.

This has become the standard type of Berkshire pig now bred throughout Australia.

He has been the Federal President of the Australia Illawarra Shorthorn Society for 20 years and the Federal Treasurer for 30 years.

He has also been the President of the Federal Council of the Australian Stud Pig Breeders' Association and the President of the United Pure Bred Dairy Cattle Breeders' Association.

For many years Mr. Shirley has been interested in the Royal Society for the Welfare of Mothers and Babies during his term as President of the



Society over the past six years, and has devoted his organising ability to the modernisation of four Trespilian hospitals and mothercraft training centres.

Was met by a lovely young couple, Ivan and Susan Shirley and Sophie, Ivan's sister. They picked me up at the Dublin airport and drove me to their parents house where a lovely lunch had been prepared by Mrs. Shirley. Many of their family was there. Following lunch, we left immediately so we could arrive on time in Kilkenny where we held the Ireland Shirley meeting. Some had already arrived. I quickly met them and dashed to set up my displays etc. After my talk, we heard from each of them. Several were there who were related to one another and did not know of the other prior to the meeting. Needless to say...I was riding high!!! I thrive on first time family introduction!

I stayed on in Kilkenny and that night we had a horrible thunder storm. Next morning rain was gone and overcast. I went walking alone thru the town. After breakfast I was met by another group of Shirleys and shown around the places their Shirleys had lived nearby. Later, I was taken to a church where Ivan, Susan and Sophie once again met me and I said my good byes to the other lady who I had spent the evening and that morning with. Ivan took me around to see their Shirley places and we met an interesting Shirley living on an OLD back farm in the country. We learned about his Shirleys. What a time I was having!!!

After dinner back at Ivans folks house, we left for Ivans house where I stayed the night. The next morning he took me to the bus and I rode for more than an hour to Carrickmacross. Here I was met by Judith Shirley, wife of Major John Shirley of Ettington Park, England. She took me to their Ireland estate.

The Shirley estate is less than 2 miles from Carrickmacross. We turned into a gate in a long rock wall that fences off the property from the road. The road back to the house is a dirt and rock combination and it is about a mile back to the house. Lovely trees

and greenry as far as you can see. They farm the land and raise cattle. I asked how much property they have and the answer is 950 acres. I learned that they still own one side of the street of Carrickmacross and the other side of the street was inherited by the Essex family...many generations ago. The places of business...and we are talking the main street with various businesses, rent from the Shirleys.

I must admit it was some feeling driving up to the front door of this place I have read about so much. Then to step in through the doors and to actually be in LOUGH FEA! It was like a dream. Judith took me up to my room and invited me down for tea after I had freshened up and caught my breath. Major John Shirley was out with his workman about some farm business.

Judith and I had a nice talk about the estate and its past and the Shirleys. In a little while, John came to greet me. After a bit of conversation, he told me to make myself at home. I asked about taking some pictures and he said "You may take any pictures you wish and look at anything you would like to look at, and go where ever you want to explore".

I asked how many rooms in the house. They did not know as they never had counted them. I thought...I will do this as I browse around. Well...I never got them all counted! I don't know what ones you would or would not count. There were rooms out in back in the stable areas and rooms here and there. I can see why it would be a task to try and figure out how many rooms at Lough Fea.

The sad part about my visit there is to see how fast this lovely old Shirley home is falling into decay. I could visualize how beautiful it was in its prime time.

Judith took me for a walk back behind the house. Several hundred yards away is a tall cross built to the memory of one of the Shirleys a few generations back. We went thru an iron gate and fence to get to it. The gate had the Shirley coat of arms on the top of it.

We walked in another direction across an open field and there was a herd of about 60 deer. We came back and sat on the bench outside the house and watched them. Every morning I could see them from my window.

That evening they had invited dinner guests. Judith prepared the meal and the evening was spent in conversation in the library before retiring for the night.

I went up the stairs to my room in the dark. It is a very long hall way. I was sure if I just followed the wall, I would get there alright. I was so tired and I didn't want to wait for them to show me up. My room was at the very end of the hall. How simple to get there I thought. Finally I thought I had arrived. It was pitch black. I felt a doorjam and this had to be the end room. Well, it wasn't! I found the light switch and it was one room short of mine. Somehow I had gone sideways into a room opposite the wall I was following by the touch and feel method. I never did figure out how I ended up in THAT room. It was a very STRANGE feeling when I flipped on the light. I couldn't figure out how I did it! The next evening...I had my purse and in it I carried a flashlight. So, this experience was not repeated! HA!

Day 2 at Lough Fea! We had breakfast in the kitchen this morning. John and Judith decided to take me on a picnic and had a trip planned out for the day. We left for a place called Flagstaff. It is a hill that sits high overlooking a river. It was quite some sight as we watched a ship pulling in to dock way below. The river comes in from the ocean...which we could see also. I was told that last year (I think it was), several people had been killed on the road just across the river that we could see from Flagstaff.

Next, John and Judith took me to Newry and another town across the border. The streets still have the signs up saying not to leave cars unattended on the main streets of the city. They had had bombings there last year and several had been killed. I was relieved when we returned back to the Shirley estate. I did however enjoy the days outing.

That evening they took me to their country club in Carrickmacross where we met some very nice people for dinner. We had a very pleasant evening.

The next morning I strolled the grounds along to explore and to take picture. I cannot tell you what an experience this was for me.

In the Shirley Chapel I found very old things covered with dust. The Bible on the pulpit was from 1849 I think it was. Shirley coat of arms on everything. Big books, little books, just about everything and everywhere I looked it seemed some little item would have the coat of arms on it.

I saw old Shirley family furniture that was no longer usable and sitting in cob webs and much much more.

The walls are covered with oil painting of Shirleys as well as other people and things. All probably very valuable! The library has hundred and hundreds of books and the most of them have to do with Ireland. They are old and no doubt most of them would be real collector items.

John Shirley brought me 2 scrap books to look at. They were very old themselves. They contained newspaper clippings from the 1800 era. Artist sketches of Ettington at different periods. They were different in appearance than the Ettington we see today. This was before the last remodeling and in another era. There were sketches of many Shirley places we have not seen.

I spent a most fascinating time looking at the various memorabilia that has been saved thru the generations relating to not only Lough Fea but other places in England. Not only Ettington Park but several other locations Shirleys had lived.

The ceiling in the library came from Wiston house. Sussex England.

I learned that Major John and Judith lived at Lough Fea for about 20 years and that they raised their children there. They have a strong attachment to the Ireland estates even though they live on Isle of Man.

Thank you for inviting me, John & Judith!

feel kind of strange but wasn't sure why or even to describe how I felt. In about another minute I was itching like crazy. I thought it was the soap I was washing with. I immediately began rinsing off. I continued to itch and noticed big welts on my body. All of this happened in less than 30 minutes of the time I ate as it was a short ride to the hotel. Next I noticed my eye lids were puffing up and my throat began swelling. In 5 minutes I had gone from not feeling very well to itching, welts, eyes puffing and now my throat was swelling closed! I began to panic just a little!!! I tried drinking some water...didn't help. I said to myself...I can't shake this and I'm headed for trouble and better get medical help and FAST! I stepped out of the bathroom and said to my sister-in-law, Evelyn, call the hotel desk and have them get a doctor QUICK! My throat is swelling closed and I need help. Wellllll....this surprised her as I never go to a doctor. He called me on the phone at once and said he was sending an ambulance. This scared me abit more and I said, wait, what do you think is happening? He said you have eaten something you are allergic to and you must get to the hospital at once. I said I would prefer the hotel to drive me over. They did this and I was rushed into emergency. I was placed on a monitor, had about 6 people working on me at once! They gave me two shots and in about 5 minutes the itching had stopped and after about 30 minutes I was put in a recovery room for observation and one more hour, I went back to the hotel. The next morning I was fine except for the sore throat which was with me for another few days. Couldn't believe this happened to me and...the first day of my trip!!!

We had just flown in from Los Angeles where the plane was delayed by 3 hours because they couldn't find a small little part they needed. We were about to unload from the plane and be put in a hotel when the announcement came to hold on for a few minutes more as they thought they had found the part. Sure enough, and everyone had to put their luggage back overhead etc. and about 45 minutes more and we finally departed Los Angeles for N. Z.

I am happy to report the rest of the trip went well except in Queenstown where the weather turned nasty and we could not fly to Milford Sound...the reason we were in

in that area was for that tour. But... we did meet some more Shirleys there who drove more than 2 hours to be with us.

At Queenstown we took a Gondola up a 3000 foot mountain to a restaurant on top. What a view!

At Christchurch NZ we met with more Shirley descendants. It is wonderful to meet Shirleys all over the world! Thank you to all of you who came to meet with us in every location we announced we would meet.

This article will run in both the National and International Shirley NEWS.

from your editor...

Some news to report about some results of the last issue of the International NEWS.

One of our readers found information on the Shirley chart published on page 7 of last issue and realized it was the ancestor of a lady he had been corresponding with for sometime. She couldn't believe her lineage was handed to her on a silver platter so to speak. Seems she heads a genealogy Society in Tasmania.

Good work David and Henry!

Another breakthru!!! We ran a story in the third issue of the International NEWS on the cover. The will has been found by one of our readers in England, for the father of this William. He refers to his son, William of Staines. Not only did our reader find the will but went up to Brill and photographed the farm house referred to in the will, & he so kindly sent this to not only Poppy in N.Z. but also to me. I really appreciate this as I must tell you...sometimes people forget to share their finds and information with me.

THANK YOU HENRY!

EXTRACT FROM THE "KILKENNY PEOPLE"
May of 1912 in IRELAND!

Death of Mrs. Shirley, Garnaman
House, Kells on May 29th, 1912.

The death, which occurred last week, of this most estimable lady, at the advanced age of 86, created feelings of sorrow and sympathy, such as have not been occasioned in a bereavement in the community within living memory.

One circumstance in the late Mrs. Shirley's life is of such a unique character that it may be described as an episode in an epoch. It occurred in the 1850's during the land agitation under the League of the North and South, which entitled her to the honour of being the lady proto-martyr of Agrarian agitation in Ireland

In the early fifties, Mrs. Shirley and her family held the fertile and extensive farm at Burnchurch on the Floodhall Estate, now in possession of Mr. Mackey. They were evicted and the eviction possessed every element calculated to arouse popular sympathies. The Shirleys had been Protestants, but were converted to the Catholic faith and their change of religion was the occasion of disfavour and persecution from the landlord. A new tenant took possession of the farm. Vehicles loaded with furniture, farm implements, straw, unthreshed corn and hay arrived at the Shirley's farmhouse and a hostile crowd was attracted. A pyrotechnic reception was accorded the Holohan party—the material of the display being the loads of inflammable articles mentioned.

Criminal proceedings were promptly taken by the authorities and at the ensuing Kilkenny Assizes of the prisoners indicted. Mrs. Shirley, her brother, James and Doran, a ploughman in their employment, were convicted and sentenced to long terms of transportation to the Australian penal colonies. James Shirley and Doran were sent from Ireland without delay. Miss Shirley, whose participation in the aggressive proceedings of the crowd, was possible but to a certain extent sympathetic, exercised her influence with the excited people in restraint of personal violence. She was detained in a conduct on the occasion consisted properly with the character she bore throughout her life, exhibiting in the exciting circumstances that femininity of behaviour and

refinement which was so distinctive of her social and business acquirements. Of course the conviction and severity of the sentence on Miss Shirley, provoked an indignant and influential protest. After twelve months agitation for her release the Lord Lieutenant remitted the sentence. It should be mentioned that Holohan in fear of peoples popular wrath more than in a spirit of reparation or repentance, gave up all claim to the Shirley farm. All these events, eviction, scene of the grabbers attempt at residential occupation, trial, conviction, etc. inspired a plentiful crop of ballad poetry which was sung and recited at all local festive gatherings for a generation, and one heard occasionally up to the present time.

Soon after her release from prison, Miss Shirley married her namesake, the late Mr. James Shirley of Garnaman House, Kells, a gentleman who, during his life was held in the highest popular esteem. He was for many years an active and useful member of the Callan Board of Guardians, and was also prominent in every local movement of a charitable and philanthropic character. There could be no more striking evidence of his his unexampled popularity than his unopposed election to the Coronership of South Kilkenny, but it may be said without any disparagement to his own personal merits that popular admiration for Mrs. Shirley's patriotic and heroic participation in the events connected with the Burnchurch eviction twenty years before the coronership vacancy occurred, contributed materially towards making his claims overpowering to any opposition however favoured. There were at first a number of candidates in the field but the direction of public favour was so unmistakable that no contest took place.

The late Mrs. Shirley was in her friendships sincere and candid, in her charities she was generous.....

from a Shirley descendant now living in Tasmania.

JAMES SHIRLEY b. 1816
died Feb. 23, 1888



JAMES SHIRLEY
[coroner]

married

ELIZABETH SHIRLEY
a daughter of John &
Mary Rice Shirley

children

1. Thomas J.
2. William
3. Henry Patrick b. 1861
4. Richard Joseph b. 1862
5. John
6. Francis
7. James
8. Elizabeth
9. Jane
10. Marion
11. Susan



ELIZABETH SHIRLEY
[see 1912 article]

John Shirley, a Protestant of Burnchurch, County Kilkenny Ireland, married Mary Rice of Newlands who was a Catholic. They had three sons and five daughters. The boys were baptised Protestants and the girls Catholic. Due to the influence of the mother, Mary, the father and sons became Catholics, and were then evicted by their landlord, Lord Farmley. They resisted and James and Richard were sentenced to 21 yrs transportation to Van Dieman's Land. Elizabeth and Catherine were also sentenced to transportation but while waiting ship were imprisoned on Spike Island in Cork harbour. After two years there were released. Elizabeth later married a cousin, James Shirley, coroner for County Kilkenny. James Shirley son of Richard the transportee married in Hobart about 1886.

There is no information on when or where John Shirley of Burnchurch died or where he was buried. His son, Henry Shirley, was in Rath Clouch, Danesfort and it is possible John and his family may have gone to live there.

John Shirley and Mary Rice, children:

1. James
2. Richard
3. Henry
4. Elizabeth m. James Shirley, coroner.
5. Catherine
6. daughter
7. daughter
8. daughter

[Taken from a letter written by one of our Ireland members in reference to the 6th edition of the NEWS p.4-7].

"I felt I should have no trouble fitting the pieces into place. The more I read the more confusing it all became.

KNOCKABRANNA I found was only 2 miles from COOLCULLEN and that a John Shirley came to BURNCHURCH from there.

I did not find the name PAUL in his family and in reading your 'Newsletter' took off on the John Shirley of CROAN who in 1761 leased 398 acres in Bellmount. I followed my own imagination last Sunday and to my surprise, I discovered the headstone in a remote graveyard ACHAVILLAR in the KNACKTOPHER BARONY and a Shirley was known to have had land near KNOCKTOPHER and BELLMOUNT.

The headstone is in very bad shape and the writing is almost worn off. No year could be found there, just the words ERECTED BY PAUL SHIRLEY of CROAN IN MEMORY OF HIS FATHER JOHN SHIRLEY, ESQ.

There more Shirley names but the Christian names missing from the rain etc. We hope to go back there prepared to use elbow grease and we may find more words to piece into place. CROAN is in the Parish of DUNAMAGGIN.

I did meet a man who told me that Thomas Shirley was in Garnamon in 1830-1850's and he took for granted that James

Shirley, the coroner, was his son.

The lands of Garnamon were 345 acres and April 25, 1860 James Shirley became legal owner. Some of this acreage was leased to tenants leaving 213 acres with Garnamon House."

NOTE: George Shirley, Lord Chief Justice of Ireland....leased land in 1630 near CROAN. George was from Isfield in Sussex England.

from your editor...

Mary Shirley and her niece, Susan Smith, were very helpful in escorting me to the various places such as Burnchurch etc. One stop we made was to the home of a gentleman who works in one of the Societies. He had brought home some papers about some of the Shirleys since I was there on Sat. and Sunday only. I asked for a copy of them and he so kindly made them and Mary has forwarded them on to me.

It is an indenture made in 1838 in regards to leasing of land and shops.

Thomas Shirley of Garrynaman County Kilkenny gentleman, and John Shirley of city of Kilkenny grocer and shop keeperMr. _____ let the shops on High st. to John and Thomas Shirley.

John and Thomas Shirley signed and delivered it and Paul Shirley was a witness on the document.



This shows Thomas Shirley also a grocer.

COUNTY CARLOW, IRELAND

OLDLEIGHLIN

William Shirley married Elizabeth Kidd
Dec. 15, 1806

Mary Shirley married Richard Daly
Dec. 18, 1845

Anne Shirley married John Wilson
Dec. 17, 1860

Mary Shirley born in 1858 to
James and Catherine (McDonald) Shirley

CARLOW

James Shirley born 1835 to James Shirley

John Herman Shirley born Jan. 12, 1856 to
James & Catherine (McDonald) Shirley

LEIGHLINBRIDGE

James Shirley born Jan 30, 1865 to
Richard & Catherine (Mara) Shirley

CLOYDAGH

Mary Ann Shirley married Samuel Walters
April 10, 1845

Paul Shirley born 1859 to
James & Catherine (McDonald) Shirley

DUBLIN, IRELAND

Abigail chr. 1649 to John Sherley

Mary Shurley married George Adams
June 7, 1661

Phil chr. 1671 to Christian & Barbara
Shirley

Sarah chr. 1693 to John Sherley

Paul chr. 1695 to Paul & Catherine Sherlye

John chr. 1696 to James and Susanna Shirley

We could use some additional research like the above for Ireland !

Can you help us?

THANK YOU !



GARNAMON HOUSE, KELLS



HOUSE AT BURNCURCH WHERE THE SHIRLEYS LIVED WHEN EVICTED