

## MAJOR-GENERAL SIR THOMAS SHIRLEY, SON OF GOVERNOR WILLIAM SHIRLEY OF MASSACHUSETTS



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Like Payne and Burt, his immediate predecessors as the Governor of the Leeward Islands, Thomas Shirley was born in the West Indies — in the Bahamas in his case — and came from a distinguished military family.

His father, Major-General William Shirley, was Governor of Massachusetts from 1741 to 1757 and planned the Cape Breton expedition of 1745. He was then appointed Commander-in-Chief of North America in 1755 and returned to the Bahamas as an able and popular Governor from 1758 to 1768. He died in 1771 at the age of 77 after 40 years of active service having refused a Knighthood.

Of his three sons, two died on active service in North America leaving only Thomas who joined the Army in 1745. He served at Louisburg, Minorca and Belle Isle, and then as a Lieut-Colonel in Portugal. He married Anne, granddaughter of Mary who was the sister of Sir Richard Shirley and a direct ancestor of Thomas. He later asked for the revival of the title in himself and was created a Baronet in 1786.

Thomas followed his father as Governor of the Bahamas from 1769 to 1774 and then replaced Sir William Young as Governor of Dominica. When the French took that island in 1778, he managed to escape and was appointed Captain-General & Governor-in-Chief of the Leeward Caribbee Islands on April 4, 1781.

He gallantly went to the assistance of the heavily out-numbered British troops at St. Kitts in 1782 taking men from the Antigua militia with him. Article 17 of de Bouille's terms of capitulation to the French read:

"Out of respect to the courage and determined Conduct of Generals Shirley and Vaughan ... they will not be considered as Prisoners of War ... a mark of our particular esteem".

Allowed to return to Antigua, he remained there until 1788. As a last duty, he reviewed the troops on May 29:

"The manoeuvring was well performed; and notwithstanding the many disadvantages they must necessarily lay under from the heat of the climate, went through their evolutions much to the satisfaction of the General, the officers and numerous spectators"

*John Luffman*

He returned to England and died at Bath in 1800 aged 72. Always a tolerant man, an amusing story is told of an incident with Nelson when he rebuked him for being perhaps too zealous in blockading trade with the newly independent American colonies. "Old and respectable officers of high rank resent being dictated to by 'very young gentlemen' " said the General. Nelson retorted that he was as old as the Prime Minister, and as capable of commanding his ship as Pitt was in governing Britain.

# Selina Hastings

by Judy Groff



*The Countess of Huntingdon used her noble rank, her wealth, and her influence for the Lord*

In eighteenth-century England, the time was right for God to move. Conditions were so bad that many despaired for the country. Upper and lower classes alike had given themselves over to sin. Drunkenness, lewdness, violence, and wickedness of every sort abounded.

Efforts were made to bring about reform. Penalties for crimes were made increasingly severe and were strictly enforced. The death penalty was meted out for some 160 offenses, and prisons were packed. Laws were passed against the sale of gin. Societies were established for improving morality and for educating the people. But instead of improving, conditions became worse. Men's efforts were valiant and commendable, but futile. Their failure proved once again God's word: "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit."

And God did move by His Spirit to bring revival. In the process, He raised up two men and one woman as especially useful instruments in His hand. The two men were the evangelists George Whitefield and John Wesley. The woman was Selina Hastings, Countess of Huntingdon.

Born Selina Shirley, on August 27, 1707, she was the second of three daughters of Washington Shirley, second Earl of Ferrars. Her serious nature kept her from some of the vanity and sin many of her rank indulged in. By the time she married Theophilus Hastings, ninth Earl of Huntingdon, in 1728, she had a reputation for being virtuous, courteous, prudent, and religious.

But her religion was only an appearance. Her prayers, fasts, and works of charity were attempts to quiet the nagging voice in her heart, the voice that had first begun to speak when she was nine

years old. It was then at the funeral of a girl her own age that Selina first pondered the sin of her heart and thought on eternity. For many years she was burdened with the knowledge of her sin. She tried to change her own heart, and at times she believed that she had.

But soon the Holy Spirit again worked conviction in her heart, and during one period of special unrest that even affected her health, He pointed her to the answer to her problem of sin.

Her sister-in-law, Lady Margaret Hastings, who had recently been saved, came to visit. Lady Margaret testified to an experience of the "new birth" and said that she was as "happy as an angel" since she had found salvation in Christ. Selina saw for the first time the emptiness of her works and recognized that it was Christ and His work alone that could save her. When she looked to Christ, she finally found the peace she had been seeking for so many years.

Though Lady Huntingdon had lived a very exemplary life before her salvation, her friends and family noticed a marked change after her conversion. She became an outspoken witness for Christ. Wherever she went, she testified of her salvation. She soon developed an acquaintance with the Wesleys and Whitefield, identifying herself with the Methodist movement. She and Lord Huntingdon attended the evangelists' meetings. Lord Huntingdon apparently was never saved, but was tolerant toward the beliefs of his wife and resisted the suggestions of friends that he "unconvert" her. He died in 1746, leaving Lady Huntingdon a widow at the age of 39.

After the death of her husband, Lady Huntingdon wanted to serve the Lord more actively than she had before. Since Whitefield was in America at the time, she sought advice from Howell Harris, another evangelical preacher. Harris says, "She consulted me about which was . . . best, to live retired and give up all, or fill her place, and I said the latter I thought was right."

Lady Huntingdon took Harris' advice to "fill her place," and it soon became evident that the Lord had put her in that place and had prepared her and provisioned her to fulfill His special purposes. Like Phebe described by Paul in Romans 16, Lady Huntingdon became "a servant of the church" and "a succourer of many."

The church in her time needed much help. The Church of England was fast succumbing to apostasy. Most of its clergymen were unprincipled and ungodly men who cared nothing for the souls of their parishioners. Very few of them knew anything of Christ. The Nonconformist churches (Baptists, Presbyterians, and Independents) had lost most of their vigor and were further weakened by strife and division.

The Lord began His work of revival within the Church of England with Whitefield and Wesley,

*continued*

both ordained Anglican priests. It was not long, however, until they faced opposition from within the church. Pulpits were closed to them, and they had to take to the open fields. Young men of their persuasion who were studying for the ministry found it difficult to get a bishop to ordain them, and some were expelled from school for their evangelistic activities.

It was to aid His ministers in such difficulties that the Lord especially prepared Lady Huntingdon. She was often known to quote Paul's words in I Corinthians 1:26, "Not many mighty, not many noble, are called." And then she would say, "I bless God that it does not say, 'Not any!'" Among those few of noble rank whom the Lord has called, the Countess of Huntingdon served her Saviour well. As an English peeress she had influence, opportunities, and wealth available to few.

One of her privileges as a peeress was to appoint men as her chaplains. She used this privilege to provide the evangelical clergy with places to preach when many others were closed to them. Over the years, she opened chapels in almost 60 locations, a number of them in favorite vacation spots of the wealthy. The chapel in Bath had a curtained recess near the door where bishops and other clergy could sit in secret and hear the gospel. It was dubbed "Nicomodemus' Corner."

Lady Huntingdon often used her influence at the Court to good advantage for the work of Christ. At times the mobs became especially unruly—stoning the evangelical clergymen, pelting them with mud and throwing them into ponds, breaking into their houses and ruining furniture—and the magistrates were doing nothing to stop them. Lady Huntingdon wrote a letter that found its way to the king describing the behavior of the magistrates. The king ordered the magistrates to give protection to the preachers.


On another occasion when Charles Wesley and others were in Ireland and were charged with being vagabonds (a serious offense with serious consequences), Lady Huntingdon's influence at Court saved them from being "transported." In Wales, a magistrate was fining people for attending services. When Lady Huntingdon made the government aware of this persecution of the people, the magistrate was ordered to stop harassing the people and was forced to refund their money.

The Lord put Lady Huntingdon in her position not only to help the ministers of the gospel, but to spread the gospel herself. Her zeal for souls was one of her most striking qualities. One who has studied her life says, "For intrepidity in the cause of God, and success in winning souls to Christ, Selina, Countess of Huntingdon, stands unequalled among women."

## Pennsylvania Profiles

by Patrick M. Reynolds

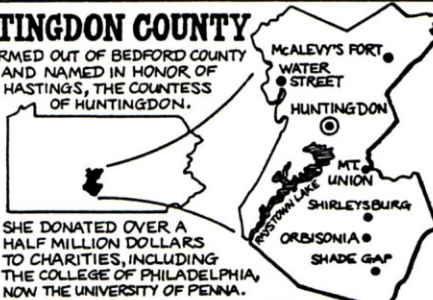
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### HUNTINGDON COUNTY

WAS FORMED OUT OF BEDFORD COUNTY IN 1787 AND NAMED IN HONOR OF SELINA HASTINGS, THE COUNTESS OF HUNTINGDON.


SHE DONATED OVER A HALF MILLION DOLLARS TO CHARITIES, INCLUDING THE COLLEGE OF PHILADELPHIA, NOW THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNA.



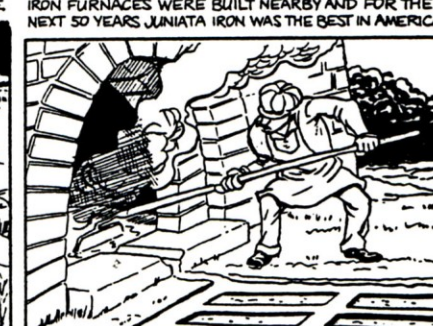
THE COLLEGE'S PROVOST, DR. WM. SMITH, OWNED LAND IN THE COUNTY AND, IN 1767, LAID OUT THE TOWN OF HUNTINGDON ON THE SITE OF STANDING STONE, AN INDIAN VILLAGE.




GEORGE CROGHAN BUILT FORT SHIRLEY (NOW SHIRLEYSBURG) IN 1755 AS A LINK IN THE CHAIN OF FORTS ALONG PENNSYLVANIA'S FRONTIER. IT WAS NAMED AFTER GENERAL WILLIAM SHIRLEY, THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE BRITISH FORCES.



BEDFORD FURNACE, THE FIRST IRON FURNACE IN THE JUNIATA REGION, WAS ERECTED IN ORBISONIA IN 1785 BY GEORGE ASHMAN AND COMPANY. OTHER CHARCOAL IRON FURNACES WERE BUILT NEARBY AND FOR THE NEXT 50 YEARS JUNIATA IRON WAS THE BEST IN AMERICA.



RAYSTOWN LAKE, WITH A 110 MILE SHORELINE, IS THE LARGEST LAKE WHOLLY WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH, AND A PRISTINE RECREATION AREA. THIS 2.7-MILE LONG DAM WAS DESIGNED TO CONTROL FLOODING ALONG THE JUNIATA RIVER.



Her efforts to win those of her own rank were tireless. Some have credited her with bringing the revival off the streets and into the drawing rooms of England's nobility and princes. Besides holding Bible studies and prayer meetings, she gathered the nobility together in her home and invited Whitefield and other Methodists to preach to them. It was an audience very different from what the preachers were used to. Here was "a glittering array of the great and rich of England."

Few of the aristocracy appreciated Lady Huntingdon's concern for their souls. When the Countess invited the Duchess of Buckingham to hear Whitefield preach, the Duchess replied, "It is monstrous to be told that you have a heart as sinful as the common wretches that crawl on the earth. This is highly offensive and insulting; and I cannot but wonder that your

Ladyship should relish any sentiments so much at variance with high rank and good breeding." But in spite of such misgivings, the Duchess and many others like her accepted Lady Huntingdon's invitations, and many of them were saved.

Among those who listened to Whitefield was Lady Chesterfield. For years she had enjoyed the worldly pleasures of high society along with her husband, the infidel Earl of Chesterfield. But at Lady Huntingdon's she came under the sound of the gospel and was saved. The "fashionable follies" lost their appeal to her, and she gave over her fortune, honors, and talents to Christ. Along with Lady Huntingdon she became a staunch supporter of the evangelical ministry in England.

Another aristocrat affected by Whitefield's ministry at Lady Huntingdon's was Lord St. John.

*continued*

He died a few months after he heard Whitefield preach for the first time. After St. John's death Lady Huntingdon wrote to Whitefield: "His Lordship enquired for you, to whom he said he was deeply indebted. His last words to Mr. Bateman were, 'To God I commit myself. I feel how unworthy I am; but Jesus Christ died to save sinners; and the prayer of my heart now is, God be merciful to me, a sinner!'" Lady Huntingdon continued to Whitefield, "This, my good friend, is the first fruits of that plenteous harvest, which, I trust, the great Husbandman will yet reap amongst the nobility of our land."

Lady Huntingdon was concerned about the needs of souls, no matter what their rank. She was a merciful woman in the truest sense of the word, "reaching forth her hands to the needy" with physical as well as spiritual help. She once said, "I can do but little and am often obliged to be a spectator of miseries which I pity, but cannot relieve." But she did what she could, and she began with her own household. She gathered together those in her employ and taught them of Christ. Then she took every opportunity to deal with them individually as well, sometimes stopping on a walk about the grounds to question the gardener about his soul, or pausing in the hall to speak a word of spiritual encouragement to a maid.

From her own household, her soulwinning efforts reached out to her neighborhood and beyond. Once when in Brighton, Lady Huntingdon visited a poor soldier's wife who had just given birth to twins. She gave the woman the temporal help she needed and then began to talk with her about her need to be saved. The woman came

under great conviction of sin and begged the Countess to visit her again. Some women in the bakery that adjoined the poor woman's room had overheard the conversation of the Countess and asked to be allowed to listen when the Countess returned. More and more women became interested, and soon the Countess had quite a large congregation of women hungry to hear the gospel.

One day a blacksmith who was notorious for his wicked life found his way to the meeting and would not leave. Lady Huntingdon decided to go on as if he were not there. The Lord worked in the man's heart and saved him. He went on to live for the Lord almost 30 years before he died.

Lady Huntingdon even went on missionary excursions in the summer. She and one or two of her daughters would travel with several preachers in a cavalcade about the English countryside and into Wales, stopping in village after village. As the people gathered about them in the fields, the men preached the gospel and many souls were saved.

When the Lord gave Lady Huntingdon a position to be used for His glory, He also gave her great wealth. She once said that the Lord had not given her anything. When someone rebuked her for the remark, she explained, "He has only lent it to me, and I am determined to repay Him." Her purse was always open to support the Lord's work. She built chapels, supported ministers, contributed towards the establishing of Dartmouth College in America for the training of Indians, heavily supported students in her own college in Wales, helped Whitefield with his orphanage work, and on and on. One time when she was out of

funds, she sold her jewels to build another chapel. Truly she did her best to give back to the Lord all He had lent to her.

In her later years she lived very simply, allowing herself only one new dress a year. After visiting her, one man exclaimed, "What a lesson! Can a person of her noble birth, nursed in the lap of grandeur, live in such a house, so meanly furnished? and shall I, a tradesman, be surrounded with luxury and elegance? From this moment I shall hate my house, my furniture, and myself for spending so little for God, and so much in folly."

The Lord used the Countess to bless the lives of many whose names are familiar to us, among them the hymnwriters Augustus Toplady ("Rock of Ages"), Isaac Watts ("When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"), and Philip Doddridge ("O Happy Day"). Toplady said of the Countess, "She is the most precious saint of God I ever knew." And Doddridge testified, "I never saw so much of the image of God in any woman upon earth."

Certainly Lady Huntingdon was a remarkable woman. This brief story of her life has already established that fact though it has said nothing of her founding a college to train ministers, her role in reconciling differing brethren in the Methodist movement, her eventually establishing the chapels as a denomination separate from the Anglican Church. But it was not really the woman who was remarkable, but her God. He made her what He needed her to be for her time. □

**Faith** SEPTEMBER 1985

BERRYMAN SHIRLEY, SR.		BERRYMAN SHIRLEY, JR.		Mary Ann "Polly" Shirley		Mary Lydia Shirley		Elizabeth Ann Shirley		Susannah Shirley	
b. 3-18-1795 SC		b. 12-19-1825		b. 10-23-1822		b. - -1824		b. - -1828		b. - -1832	
d. 3-3-1875 HCG		d. 11-22-1864		d. 2-25-1909		d. 12-30-		d. - -1860		d. 1- -1860	
m. Susannah Starnes		m. Bashaba Jones		m. Christopher R. Smith		m. Ashberry Watkins		m. Joseph E. Beatty		m. Benjamin Ellar	
b. 4-8-1790 SC OK, 1797		(1) Malinda Jones		b. - -1814		b. - -1814		b. - -1814		b. - -1814	
d. 7-13-1877 HCG		(2) Vesta Mix		m. - -1814		m. 12-30-1851 HCG		m. 3-29-1852 HCG		m. 2-20-1853 HCG	
m. 7-13-1818 Rabun Co., Ga.		(3) Mary E. Morris									
		(4) Margaret E. Crow									
		d. 6-28-1854									
		m. 6-2-1839 RCG									
		(2) b. 2-24-1822 GA									
		d. 11-20-1873									
		m. 1-2-1855 HCG									
YOUNG JACKSON SHIRLEY		BEVERLY V. SHIRLEY		BERRYMAN SHIRLEY, JR.		Mary Ann "Polly" Shirley		Mary Lydia Shirley		Elizabeth Ann Shirley	
b. 8-26-1817		b. 2-14-1820 GA		b. 12-19-1825		b. 10-23-1822		b. - -1824		b. - -1828	
d. 9-13-1898		d. 6-14-1877 PCA		d. 11-22-1864		d. 2-25-1909		d. 12-30-		d. - -1860	
m. (1) Sara A. Jordan		(1) Malinda Jones		m. Bashaba Jones		m. Christopher R. Smith		m. Ashberry Watkins		m. Joseph E. Beatty	
(2) Caroline Loggins		(2) Vesta Mix				b. - -1814		b. - -1814		b. - -1814	
(3) Mary E. Morris		(3) Mary E. Morris				m. 12-30-1851 HCG		m. 3-29-1852 HCG		m. 2-20-1853 HCG	
(4) Margaret E. Crow		(4) Margaret E. Crow									
d. 6-28-1854		d. 6-28-1854									
m. 6-2-1839 RCG		m. 6-2-1839 RCG									
(2) b. 2-24-1822 GA		(2) b. 2-24-1822 GA									
d. 11-20-1873		d. 11-20-1873									
m. 1-2-1855 HCG		m. 1-2-1855 HCG									
William B. Shirley		Leonard Calvin Shirley		Coby Shirley		Starnes Shirley		B. J.		YOUNG JACKSON SHIRLEY	
b. 4-9-1841		b. 11-26-1844		b. 1-20-1847		b. 2-1-1849		b. 6-18-1854		b. 3-14-1858	
d. 1-18-1900		d. 4-10-1896		d. - -1949		d. 11-4-1954		d. As an infd.		d. 8-26-1913	
m. Sara L. Hendrix		m. Martella Ford		m. Mary Wilbanks		m. John T. Garrison		m. (1) Mattie Grovelia Oavalt		m. (1) Mattie Grovelia Oavalt	
b. - -1949		b. - -1949		b. - -1949		b. - -1949		b. 10-6-1868		b. 10-6-1868	
d. - -1949		d. - -1949		d. - -1949		d. - -1949		d. 8-20-1900		d. 8-20-1900	
m. - -1949		m. - -1949		m. - -1949		m. - -1949		(2) Ella Frances Branyon Smith		(2) Ella Frances Branyon Smith	
								b. 11-16-1880		b. 11-16-1880	
								d. 2-25-1957 PCA		d. 2-25-1957 PCA	
								m. (1) 4-20-1885		m. (1) 4-20-1885	
								(2)		(2)	
Fenton Jackson Shirley		Felix Leonard Shirley (SR.)		Hester Shirley		Fannie Earline Shirley		Flora Alice Shirley		Virgie Lee Shirley	
b. - -1888		b. - -1896		b. 12-30-1886		b. - -1890		b. 12-31-1891 PCA		b. 3-22-1894 PCA	
d. - -1949		d. - -1949		d. 11-4-1954		d. - -1942		d. - -1958		d. 9-23-1883 PCM	
m. Maggie Aycock LCA		m. Ines Reeves		m. John T. Garrison		m. J. Marion Williamson		m. Thomas Leonard		m. Thomas Warren	
b. - -1949		b. - -1949		b. - -1949		b. - -1949		b. 12-4-1868 PCA		b. 8-9-1893 WCM	
d. - -1949		d. - -1949		d. - -1949		d. - -1949		d. - -1952 PCA		d. 1-31-1959 PCM	
m. - -1949		m. - -1949		m. (1)		m. - -1949		m. - -1910 PCA		m. 5-31-1918 PCA	
Thomas Warren Patten (JR.)		Charles Young Patten		Virgie Shirley Patten		Joseph Paul Patten		Joseph Paul Patten		Joseph Paul Patten	
b. 12-28-1925 PCA		b. 7-21-1928 TCA		b. 3-22-1924 PCA		b. 11-3-1927 CCA		b. 11-3-1927 CCA		b. 11-3-1927 CCA	
d. 3-26-1950 CPL		d. - -1948		d. - -1948		d. - -1948		d. - -1948		d. - -1948	
Never Married											
Thomas Warren Patten (JR.)		Charles Young Patten		Virgie Shirley Patten		Joseph Paul Patten		Joseph Paul Patten		Joseph Paul Patten	
b. 12-28-1925 PCA		b. 7-21-1928 TCA		b. 3-22-1924 PCA		b. 11-3-1927 CCA		b. 11-3-1927 CCA		b. 11-3-1927 CCA	
d. 3-26-1950 CPL		d. - -1948		d. - -1948		d. - -1948		d. - -1948		d. - -1948	
Never Married											

#### Abbreviations:

SC South Carolina  
GA Georgia  
HCG Habersham Co., Ga.  
RCG Rabun Co., Ga.  
PCA Fayette Co., Al.  
CCA Clarke Co., Al.  
TCA Tuscaloosa Co., Al.  
LCA Lamar Co., Al.  
CPL Concordia Parish, La.  
FCM Forrest Co., Ms.  
WCM Wathall Co., Ms.

## HABERSHAM COUNTY GEORGIA SHIRLEYS

*The following material comes from Charles Young Patton, son of Virgie, daughter of Young Jackson Shirley.*

Letter to: Young Jackson Shirley (b. Aug 26, 1817), son of Berryman Shirley, Sr.

Mr. Y.J. Shirley

Newport or Mugent, AL  
January 31, 1897

*Dear Uncle it has been some time since I heard from you. All are well at this time. Hope the same blessings of God are resting on all of you. I made a good crop last year and went to Texas last summer. Spent three weeks on an excursion. I saw one J.W. Tary (sp) & son there & there familys going to Texas the same time I went on the train. I saw several of my old acquaintences. Was at brother Cosbys. My wife was a good help to me, my health has improved, my mind much better reconciled. I am now able to do hard work. Am cleaning up my heavy timbered. Have about ten acres cleared. Am to clear about 4 more.*

*My oldest daughter is married, has 3 children. My second daughter is now in school. I aim to send my oldest son next year. I aim to give my children an education if possible. They are all grown in size but 2. The youngest is past seven years of age. I will give you all there names.*

*Vesta Malinda, Berryman Beverly, Sarah Frances, Annie Delitha, Elizabeth Ellen, Josiah Jonah, Ethel.*

*You see they all have double names except the last. They will all soon be grown. I can not tell what will become of them. All of them belong to the church except the three youngest. You can see if I give them an education it will keep me busy. I would have moved to Texas last fall if I could of sold out but the time has come when it is impossible to sell land hear for anything like it value. We made near nine bales of cotton last year, plenty of corn and oats and meet to do us. Sold cotton at a fraction over 7 cents per pound which brought about \$280. I am making all I can and buying as little as I possibly can so as to get through without having to go in debt. I have just made 2 sadles that would have cost \$20, was offered \$4.50 my holm made saddle pockets. I have enough old tan leather to make our shoes. Well uncle, church is cold and religion is at a low ebb. I have not got the call of any church this year. I aim to visit the churches this year and spend the sabbath in God's service. Pray for me that I may do duty. I am fully determined God being my helper to live nearer up to duty. I would have wrote sooner and oftener but I have so my (cares) on me I find my self neglecting mutch. When you get this let me hear from you soon. If we shall not be permitted to see each other hear, I hope we will soon meet where parting will be no mor. Your affectionate nephew.*

J.S. Shirley (Josiah Starnes Shirley)

Charles Young Patton writes the following:

*My lineage from Berryman Shirley Sr. is through his son, Beverly V. Shirley born Feb 14, 1820, probably in South Carolina, and Vesta Nix, his second wife. They are buried in Fayette Alabama.*

*My records indicate Berryman Shirley, Sr. and Susannah Starnes were married July 13, 1818 in Rabun Co. Georgia. I feel Susannah's father was either Aaron or Ebenizer Starnes and probably traces back to Shubel Starnes, an evangelistic Baptist preacher born in Boston Massachusetts, about 1715 was converted in Conn., migrated to Cacapon, VA for a short stay and then to Sandy Creek, Guilford Co. North Carolina...(now Randolph County), and was active in the Baptist movement in VA, NC, GA, SC, TN areas until his death in 1771. He is buried at Sandy Creek Baptist Church in North Carolina. He had a son that came to NC with his group in 1755, son's name was Shubel, Jr. He appeared as the plaintiff in a suit involving Rebecca Shirley's settlement of estate in Laurens Co., South Carolina May 2, 1825.*

*I have studied with interest the three pages from the book "OUR FAMILY BOOK OF BOOKS" written by Louise Dale Ray Jones of Jasper Georgia. On page 39, the author writes "According to tradition, Beverly's father, Berryman Shirley, SR. had traveled to the colonies from Devonshire, England and had settled in South Carolina." Then someone has penned in that "In 1820" Berryman, Sr. and Susannah moved to Habersham Co. GA. Somewhere here there is a question. I see where records say they had a son, Young Jackson Shirley with a date of birth of Aug 26, 1818. We all know from history that in many cases, it was necessary to get "married by a circuit preacher or judge...when he came by. This could be the case. I may have wrong information. Does anyone have documentation or information to straighten me out on this?*

*Beverly Shirley was a preacher. Family tradition says he added the middle initial to distinguish from another Beverly Shirley of the area.*

*There are two Beverly and Malinda Shirleys appearing in the 1850 census of Georgia. #1. Beverly and Malinda appear in the 1850 Walker Co. GA. census. (This is Charles Patton's ancestor). He was born 1820 GA and*

Malinda is born 1818 SC. Their children in the census are: Martha 1840 SC, Wm. B., 1841 SC, Lucinda F. 1843 SC, Leonard C 1844 SC, Crosby L. 1847, Isaiah, S. 1849. This Beverly married Malinda Jones in Rabun Co. GA., June 2, 1839.

#2 Beverly and Malinda Shirley appear in the 1850 census of Habersham Co. GA. Beverly was born 1815 GA. and Malinda 1820 SC. Living in their home in the census are: females...E.A. 1845 SC., P. 1849 GA., Juda 1764 SC., males.... C. 1848 SC., S.A. 1801 SC. This Beverly married Malinda "Shirley" in Habersham Co. GA., Oct 4, 1844.

Something to consider...My records indicate that Malinda Jones Shirley was the mother of an infant male, B.J. born June 14, 1854 and died as an infant in the same cemetery as Malinda b. Jan 28, 1854, wife of B.V. Shirley. Consider Beverly Shirley married Vesta Nix on Jan 2, "1855", with their first child born Oct 28, 1855 buried in the same cemetery as an infant, (un-named).

Would anyone know or have proof if Malinda Jones was the wife of someone else? (another Shirley?...making her Malinda Shirley when she married?).

Write: Charles Patton, 308 Windmill Ridge Rd, Gulf Shores, AL 36542. (He has reservations for ST Louis Shirley Convention next month).

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From Your Editor:

I have looked into our records of these families and would like to make a few comments.

In looking at the 1840 census of Rabun County GA we find, Berryman Shirley, also Beverly Shirley as head of house. Beverly had just married in 1839.

As to Beverly Shirley #2, looking back thru the census using process of elimination...etc. Here is my reasoning about who Beverly #2 might be the son of.

If you look at the 1820 Habersham Co. GA census, you will find: Berryman Shirley and Moses Shirley. In the 1830 census of Habersham Co GA: Riley 20-30 years old, John 20-30 years old, Moses 60-70 years old, and Aaron 50-60 years old. Each are head of household.

Moses is the likely father of Beverly #2 for the following reasons. In the 1830 census Moses and Aaron both have sons in the age bracket for Beverly #2 born in 1815. The reason I don't think Aaron Shirley is Beverly's father is that Aaron was still in South Carolina when Beverly was born. Beverly was born in GA according to the census. Aaron Shirley is listed on the 1820 Laurens County South Carolina census and he is 45+ years of age. Does anyone have info on this?

To add more confusion...There is yet another Beverly Shirley, #3, born 1775-1794 who can be found in the 1820 & 1830 census of Laurens Co. GA. By 1840 his name does not appear. In Tuscaloosa Co. AL Beverly appears on land records in 1835/36.

We need help in getting this straightened out. Can anyone help us? Contact the Shirley Assoc or Charles Patton or both!

I would like to make reference to Judah Shirley born about 1764 SC. living in the Beverly Shirley household in the 1850 census of Habersham Co. Ga. It has been passed to me that Juda/Judah was the wife of Moses Shirley. Two people have asked me if Judah is the daughter of Argeland Shirley who was born in Northumberland Co. VA. I don't think so as she would have been born in VA and I assume would have not married since her last name is still Shirley.

The name Beverly is really popular as in Tuscaloosa Co. AL in records of May 1850, Moses Shirley is mentioned in right of his wife Beverly.

Refer to back issues of the NEWS about these Shirleys and the areas mentioned above.

July/Aug (summer) 1990 pages 2-6 & Oct/Nov (Fall) 1990 pages 2-14

## DAVIS SHIRLEY FAMILY

*FROM YOUR EDITOR...Recently I was looking thru some data that was sent to me several years ago. I re-discovered a letter in one of our members file that I thought our readers would find interesting. I received some photographs from a related cousin and together this will make an interesting article.*

**DAVIS SHIRLEY** was born Aug 9, 1825 in Laurens Co. South Carolina. His father was Eli Shirley born Sept 1, 1797 Laurens Co. South Carolina.

In 1880, Davis Shirley purchased 53 acres in Texas. At the time he was a widower. His first wife, Elizabeth J. Anders died in 1879, four years after they had moved to Texas from Lee County Mississippi. Later, Davis lost the property then repurchased the same by Certificate of Redemption in 1893 at which time he was married to his second wife. She was the widow Emily Cassandra Slaughter Riley who had four children of her own, Cassie, Will, Linnie and John J.

When Davis died in 1898, he left no will; therefore, the property passed to the hands of his second wife and his twelve children. Seven were by his first marriage and five children by his second wife.

In 1980 a letter was sent to descendants of Davis Shirley by an Engineering company. The company had been tracing the heirs of Davis Shirley for three years. The company had been securing oil and gas leases on the 53 acres of land that Davis Shirley had owned.

The letter reads...For the past seventy years, the taxes on the said property have been paid by Lewis Shirley, not 86 years old but, nonetheless, the youngest child of Davis Shirley; also. Lewis Shirley has farmed the land and, then, used the land for pasture and maintained fences thereon. Accordingly, it was Lewis Shirley who clarified to me that he had 4 sisters and 7 half-brothers and sisters and they should receive their due share of the property.

In all probability, it now appears that the 53 acres is to be considered Davis Shirley's separate property, in spite of the fact that it was repurchased with community funds, that is, the money that was his and his second wife's. At any rate, this assumption would give equal distribution of the estate to all 12 children, their heirs or assigns. Consequently, as one of Davis Shirley's 12 children, James Wilson Shirley's would have inherited 4.45 acres. As James Wilson Shirley died intestate, this part passes to be equally shared by his 10 children, of whom Jim (J.D.) Shirley was one. As one of Jim Shirley's 3 children, your father received 1/3 of .445 acres. Since your father left no will, 1/3 of his share goes to his surviving widow and 6 children.

I attempted to contact your father over a year ago, but Garland Shirley did not have the phone number for the House, New Mexico residence and as Prentis Shirley's home is even more remote than your father's, I had to drive out to New Mexico to make effective contact; that was last summer.

Through this date, I have accounted for and leased virtually all of the 53 acres. I realize that your interest in the Estate is fractional; nonetheless, it is necessary that I account for the whole estate. While I realize that the money, diluted as much as it is by the numerous heirs, is not much of an incentive, there will be a rather prodigious family-tree forthcoming.

I have met and /or corresponded with and received the signatures of, almost 150 heirs, and possibly this tracing of your kinsmen will be of particular interest to you. For example: Luther Shirley, a grandchild of Davis and Elizabeth Shirley, now resides at Alba Texas. Luther, now in his eighties, and whom it has been my pleasure to meet, was a true cowboy in his younger days, working on one of the largest ranches in Texas shortly after the end of World War I, in which he served as an infantryman.

**Genealogy from Buford Emerson, Sadie Ellis.  
Info taken from letter sent to Delbert and Eunice Shirley.  
Photographs from Sadie Ellis.**

**Children of Davis Shirley:** (and Elizabeth).  
[sent by Buford Emerson].

1. Martha (Melvina) E. Sept 21, 1849
2. Nancy Margaret Feb. 4, 1851 died young
3. Henry Milton Dec 29, 1852
4. Eli Anders Feb 3, 1855
5. James Wilson May 23, 1857  
m. Mary Elizabeth Hutto

**Children:**

- (1). Willie Lee
  - (2). Dora Lee
  - (3). Barney Franklin
  - (4). Sadie Idalee
  - (5). James Davis
  - (6). Duel Herman
  - (7). Archie Pope
  - (8). Mary Frances
  - (9). John Wylie
  - (10). Annie
- 
6. Fannie "Adeline" 1859
  7. Sophronice "Annie" Feb 21, 1861
  8. Ezekiel (Zeke) Davis Nov 9, 1865
  9. Benjamin April 24, 1867 died young

Children by: Emily, 2nd wife

10. Florence Etta June 17, 1885
11. Cloa A. Aug 2, 1887
12. Ruth Mae Jan 27, 1891
13. Ida Bell April 18, 1892
14. Lewis Jan 14, 1894
15. Gail died at birth



**JAMES WILSON SHIRLEY**



**JAMES WILSON & wife NARY HUTTO**  
with grandchildren, Ida Mae & Ruby



**BARNEY FRANKLIN & wife**  
**IDA RUSSELL SHIRLEY**

# She won't be a housekeeper without wedding bells

JOHN LOVES PEOPLE, *By John Martin*

Mary Evaline Turner was born on June 7, 1907. We know her as Maria Bemka.

Mary was born to Ida Leslie Turner and Sarah Ann Shirley in the State of New Mexico where her parents were homesteading. Her father, a Chef at the Modesto Hotel in 1903, moved to New Mexico in 1904 and filed homestead papers. Before daughter Mary came along, the patent was issued. When Mary Evaline was four years old, her family moved to Arkansas. Two years later they all moved again to Chillicothe, Texas. Mary's grandfather, John F. Shirley, operated a freight line out of Bakersfield, CA which ran all over the Southwest. He operated his own traveling blacksmith shop and cared for his horses and mules wherever they were when they needed attention. One of the memorable parts of this freight business for Mary was the transportation of tar from the LaBrea Tar Pits to

Bakersfield for roofing material for houses going up around the oil fields.

Mary started to school in Chillicothe, Texas. Shortly after this, the family moved from Texas to Mississippi. In 1918, she moved from Mississippi to Louisiana after World War I ended. In 1919, on the 4th of July, they moved back to Chillicothe, Texas. In 1924, they moved to Wheeler County, Texas. You wonder about Mary's schooling? She told me she did go some, but she loved to read and learned very early. She loved her *Comfort Magazine* and kept up on the happenings of the *Dapperlings*. For years, she also carried her *Linen-ABC's* books which she took with her everywhere.

Mary E. was the oldest child in the family, and she became a caregiver for a younger sister when she was 1-1/2 years old. She had three brothers and three sisters. Two of her sisters



Maria Bemka at 85.

and one brother are still living. She learned to sew from her father's sister and to cook from her mother's mother.

In 1930, she met Frank Bemka, a Milwaukee, Wisconsin native on January 4th and married on January 5th. That's right, the next day—she told him he wasn't going to get a housekeeper without wedding bells. They were

married in Yuma, Arizona. Her family moved to Modesto in 1958 and she worked in the sewing room at the State Hospital in Modesto. She worked there until 1969.

Mary E. has a daughter, Adrian Lee, four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren. Her husband, Frank, died in 1960.

Mary became a rock hound and joined the Mother Lode Mineral Society in 1960 and is still a member. They traveled together all over the southwest gathering stones with the Society. Mary gave me a beautiful polished ring some years back.

I asked Mary for some advice to help me get old and she said: "Keep your nose clean." "Don't gossip." "Drink lots of coffee" and "one glass of wine a day" and "one glass of port when you go to bed."

I'll see what I can do.

Material from: Shirley Vranes & Ida House

## SHIRLEY BROTHERS WIN SCIENCE AWARD IN CASPER WYOMING

### AWARDS

CASPER — Science projects by students in all grades were displayed during the Poison Spider School Science Fair and prizes were awarded to some students for their projects, according to a release.

Sixty-two students in fourth, fifth and sixth grade were interviewed and scored on their projects during the fair.

First-place winners in **Life Science** were: fourth grade, Glen Robinson; fifth grade, Brett Moore; and sixth grade, Riley Skogen.

**Physical Science** winners were: fourth grade, Brett Waters; fifth grade, John Coffey; and sixth grade, Brent Stalkup.

Award winners in **Earth Science** were: fourth grade, Greg Shirley; sixth grade, Michael Shirley.

**Consumer Science** category winners were: fourth grade, Dustin Park; fifth grade, Scotty Legerski and Heidi Findley, and sixth grade, Shantel Legerski.

### FROM YOUR EDITOR:

Greg and Michael are sons of my nephew, Carl Shirley and his wife, Julie. Evelyn Shirley, my sister-in-law, is the boys grandmother.

Many of our members have met Evelyn Shirley at various Shirley Conventions and meetings. She was with me on two trips to England. She also accompanied me to Australia and New Zealand in 1989.

### CONGRATULATIONS!



MICHAEL SHIRLEY



GREG SHIRLEY

**DEATHS: IRELAND RECORDS**

**ARMAGH**

**Patrick Shirley** died August 26, 1866 Workhouse Armagh. He had chronic bronchitis for 6 months. He was 66 years old, a bachelor and his occupation is listed as dealer.

**Mary Shirley** died Nov. 17, 1875 Workhouse Armagh. Had bronchitis for 3 weeks. She was 81 years old, a widow. She is listed as servant.

**BELFAST**

**Eliza Shirley** died Oct. 7, 1873 Workhouse in Belfast. She was 70 years old, a spinister, worked as a washer in the workhouse. Chronic Bronchitis.

**CARLOW**

**Jane Shirley** died Oct. 12, 1860 Coolcullen. She was 52 years old, married, farmers wife. Chronic Bronchitis 3 months. John Shirley present at death in Coolcullen.

**Mary Shirley** died Decmeber 29, 1870 Coolcullen. She was 87 years old, widow of farmer. Died of old age.

**CITY OF DUBLIN**

**Samuel Shirley** died Feb. 16, 1865. He was 64 years old, a bachelor. He had Dropsy for for 2 months. He has a Housesmith. Robert Shirley was present at death.

**Sally Shirly** died January 27, 1869 Workhouse So. Dublin. She was 87 years old, a widow, a pauper. Died of bronchitis.

**Elizabeth Shirley** died January 10, 1870. She was 86 years old, a widow and a servant. She had bronchitis 2 weeks.

**Maria Shirley** died Feb. 6, 1873. She was 70 years old, a widow. Chest affection.

**Alexander Shirley** died Nov. 24, 1878. He was 72 years old, married, labourer. Bronchitis 4 months. John Shirley present at death.

**CORK**

**Denis Shirly** died Dec. 13, 1878 in Wibbereen, 70 years old He was married, a labourer, had bronchtitis for 6 months.

**KILKENNY**

**Thomas Shirley** died May 5, 1874 CorryBally. He was 52, a widower and farmer. He had Pneumonia 8 days. John Shirley present at death.

**LONDERRY**

**James Shirley** died Feb. 10, 1871 Culerow, Aughadowey, Coleraine, 81 years old. Chronis bronchitis for 6 months. He is listed as bachelor and labourer. Ellen Shirley of Alcrow was present at death.

**Robert Shirley** died September 26, 1871 in Rhee, 92 years. Died of old age, labourer. Robert Shirley present at death.

**Nancy Shirley** died June 7, 1873 Rhee, Aughadowey, 79 years old. Cause of death listed as Debility Anasenca. She was a widow of the late R. Shirley, farmer. Margaret Shirley was present at her death in Rhee.

**Sarah Shirley** died Nov. 28, 1878, Mullahineh (?), Aughadowey, Coleraine, 85 years old. Death lished as Paralysis Right side 1 month. Widow of a Labourer. Nancy Shirley was present at death.

**Elizabeth Shirley** died November 1879 in Ballynakally, Auchadawry, Coleraine, Pnish(?) fever for two months. She was married.

**WEXFORD**

**John Shirley** died March 29, 1871 in Ballygawert, New Ross. He as 72 years old, had Asthma 4 weeks. Deborah Shirley present at death. He was a farmer and was married.

**WICKLOW**

**George Shirley** died Nov. 13, 1865 Punicking. He was 35 years old and single and was a grocer. He died of Dropsy.

**James Shirley** died Nov. 12, 1867, Punicking. He was 42 years old. He had bronchitis and paralysis. He was married and a hotel keeper.

**Have to try to find counties these are listed in!**

**Jane Shirley** (formerly Waopolo), died Feb. 2, 1867 Rakewdow/Raheendowore (?). She was 74 years old, widow. Bilious Cholera 2 1/2 days.

**Martha Shirley** died Dec. 29, 1867 Killme, Monvsyime (?). She was 65 years old, spinister, labourer. Chronic Bronchitis.

**James Shirley** died April 15, 1873, Ternisrath (?), 77 years old. Married, farmer. Heart Disease. William Shirley present at death.

**Joseph Shirley** died June 23, 1876 (must be Dublin as only street address is given). He was 74 years old, married. He was a Corporal Royal Aritillery. Had Bronchitis a long time.

**RESEARCHED BY YOUR EDITOR WHILE IN IRELAND, 1992.**

# SHIRLEYS IN IRELAND

## THE LINEN FAMILIES

The oldest name in the local linen trade is Shirley of the Rhee. It appears in the old session book and in the Presbytery minutes in various forms of spelling. John Sherclaw was representative elder from Aghadown to the Route Presbytery on 3rd March 1702, while a John Shirila Junr. appeared as commissioner in 1705.<sup>1</sup> In 1703 the Kirk Session of Aghadowey gave John Shirila the elder's district of Rusky, Milltown, Inshaloy and Agivey.<sup>2</sup> The 1725 Ironmongers survey gives:

Widdo Shirlough as a cotter in Drom Stapul;  
Geo. Shirlough in Ruskey;  
John and James Sherleck in Sgaltee;  
and James Shirlough holding the upper part of  
Bwalla Riagh next Culcrow with James Stewart.

In 1734 James Cunningham of Agivey set to James Shirila of Ree, yeoman, one third of the townland of Ree except the bleaching greens for 31 years at a yearly rent of £6. In 1737 Jas. Sherla of Ree, linen draper, obtained 5 acres of Scalpy next the bridge of Milltown with half the Moulter of Gowd's mill for 29 years at a yearly rent of £16. 17. 6. In 1737 he also obtained the bleach yard on part of Ree, and part of Drumstaples late in the possession of James Gould, for 29 years at £9 rental.<sup>3</sup> Shirila had been engaged in the linen business as early as 1722.

The family were still faithful members of Aghadowey Presbyterian Church. The Session book records in 1731 that "John ye son of James Shirlah of Ree gave one pound str. as an acknowledgment of God's goodness in delivering him out of a dangerous fever." In 1744 James Shirlah was appointed to collect stipends in Agivey, Rees, Milltown, Currogh, Drumstaples and Scalpy.

The 1765 survey opens another small window on the family.

The following names and rentals given appear:

Scaltee,	John Shirley, £20.
Culcrow,	Hugh Sheerly, £4.
	James Sheerly and Part* (Partners) £4.
Ballincagh,	Robert Sheerly and Bro <sup>rs</sup> (Brothers) £21. 12. 0.
	for part called the Ree, while William Gregg paid £13 for that part called Keelogs.
Lanagivie,	Revd Mr. Elder paid £21 for the upper part and Robt. Sheerly 5 guineas for the lower part.

Parnell's 1823 survey gives the following tenants:

Scaltee,	John Shirley,	£5. 10. 0. rent.
Culcrow,	Widow Shirley,	£9. 12. 6.
	Stewart Shirley,	£4. 16. 6.
	Joseph Shirley,	£4. 4. 0.
Keelogs,	Robert Shirley,	£12. 15. 0.
	Mary Shirley,	£21. 7. 6.
Rhee,	Mary Shirley,	£8. 6. 8.
	Alexander Shirley,	£8. 6. 8.

Shirleys are mentioned in the O.S. memoirs as one of the families who sub-divided their properties and so missed the opportunity of becoming small but respectable gentry. However that may be, they can be traced for well over 300 years as living in a group of contiguous townlands, Ruskey, Scalpy, Drumstepple, Culcrow and Ree. Ruskey may be the place of original settlement, as I find a Jo. Sherrilae in Ruskie in the hearth money roll around 1663. In the course of the centuries some branches of the family became poorer. In the middle of the nineteenth century there are Shirleys in Culcrow with only 4 or 5 acres of land each, and two daughters of John Shirley of Culcrow married Samuel Patton and Hugh Hamilton who were labourers. At the same period there was a James Shirley of the Rhee who was a shoemaker.<sup>4</sup>

Other Shirleys at the same time were tenants of substantial farms. The Griffith Valuation gives Robert (Alex.) and Robert (Robert) in Ree. These were distinguished in the family as "Roadman Robert," because one took roads to repair, and "Elder Robert," because one was an elder in the church. "Elder Robert's" father was Robert or Robin Shirley, who never did any farm work, but spent his life weaving. Robin married Betty Gray, and

they had a number of children who died young, while three survived, including the one who was to become "Elder Robert," and who married Margaret Harper of Tamneymore. An old tombstone in Agivey commemorates "Elizabeth wife of Robert Sherley late of Rhee died (1825?) aged 40. Also 4 of their children." This I take to be Robin's first wife, Betty Gray. He married as his second wife Nancy Millar, whose stories of her family were remembered by Elder Robert's children, one of whom was Catherine who married William Hull of Segorry in 1890. Nancy Millar's father was a United Irishman, and she told how he and another man had shot an informer near Ballymoney. The father disappeared at the battle of Antrim and was never heard of again. His wife Catherine Millar was left to bring up two children, Nancy (born 1795), and George (born 1797). George Millar is the man who wrote the list of inhabitants of Ballymoney in 1804-10, used in J. B. Hamilton's Records of the Court Leet.

"Roadman Robert's" father I take to be Alexander who had the larger of the two Rhee farms in 1853.<sup>5</sup> This may be the Alex<sup>R</sup> Shirley who has one of the seats in a group allotted to prominent local linen merchants and others who might be termed as "the quality".<sup>6</sup> This second Robert had a son John Mooney Shirley who married Rachel Cochrane and had a large family of 8 boys and 4 girls, one of the latter marrying David Kennedy and one John McKee of Camus.

Both Rhee farms once owned by the two Roberts are now in the possession of William Hull of the Rhee, at present treasurer of Aghadowey, and son of William Hull and Catherine Shirley.

Material sent by Michael Healey

## ANNOUNCING!

*Family  
Get-together*

### NATIONAL SHIRLEY CONVENTION

June 11 & 12, 1993

St. Louis Missouri

at  
EXECUTIVE INTERNATIONAL INN  
4530 North Lindbergh Blvd.  
Bridgeton, Missouri 63044

#### CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Fri., June 11th, 6:00 - 7:00 pm Registration  
7:00 - 9:30 pm Dinner/CONVENTION

Sat., June 12th, 9:00 - 11:00 am SHIRLEY CONVENTION  
11:00 - 11:15 am Coffee break  
11:15 - 12:15 pm SHIRLEY CONVENTION  
12:15 - 12:30 pm Group Photo Session  
12:30 - 2:00 pm Lunch  
2:00 - 3:30 pm SHIRLEY CONVENTION  
3:30 - 4:00 pm Break  
4:00 - 5:00 pm Group Discussions

PLEASE FILL OUT THE ATTACHED RESERVATION FORM AND MAIL TO:  
SHIRLEY ASSOCIATION, 10256 Glencoe Dr. Cupertino, CA 95124 Telephone: (408) 255-8511.