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CUPERTINO, CALIFORNIA 95014

Spring 1994

## ***Shirley's Railroad Comes to Town***



### ***Betty Shirley meets Danny Shirley***

Several weeks ago I learned DANNY SHIRLEY AND THE CONFEDERATE RAILROAD, a popular county music group, would be performing in Mountain View, California on Sunday, May 22, 1994. Since this is only 5 miles from my home, I decided it might be fun to go.

Danny's uncle, Paul Shirley, is a Shirley Association member from Tennessee. I called to see if he could arrange for a ticket. I received a letter soon after saying there would be eight passes for me and my family at will call.

The Country Festival began at 1PM

and since it was general admission we decided to go early to get a good seat.

My family and I anxiously waited at the "Will Call" window for three hours for the guest list to arrive. Then we learned that the Confederate Railroad were not scheduled to appear on stage until 7PM. After very enjoyable show, we were invited backstage to meet Danny. I teased him, "this was the longest I had waited to meet a Shirley!"

Danny Shirley is not only a talented musician, but a very friendly and delightful person to meet. He said he wanted to get on our mailing list so

he could receive the Shirley NEWS and showed interest in next years convention. I took him the two copies of the NEWS that had clippings from newspapers about him and his group. (Spring '92 and Summer '93). His uncle Paul said he had not seen these clippings and asked if I would bring them. My thanks to Paul for arranging for the passes for myself and family members.

When I visited Paul Shirley in Tennessee in 1990, he took me to Red Hill cemetery where his ancestors are buried. We drove across a pasture to an old railroad



track and walked a few yards along the track to where a sign stood hidden behind some trees. The name SHIRLEYTON was on the very old sign and it was the only evidence left of a village that had once been there.

On page 7 of the April/May 1983 issue of the NEWS, we wrote about this branch of Shirleys. The article tells about a John Shirley born in South Carolina who married a Miss. Frost.

John (and his brother Thomas Shirley) migrated from South Carolina to White County Tennessee. About 1818 he settled on a farm near where Whitwell in Marion County Tennessee is now. Five years later John moved to Jackson County Alabama where he died in 1845. He fathered eleven children.

One of John's sons was William Carroll Shirley who was the postmaster at the village of SHIRLEYTON.

Another son was Jesse born March 18, 1808 in White County Tennessee. He was married first to Miss Brandon and had one child. Jesse married second to Sarah Grayson and they parented ten children. They were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. They are buried in the Red Hill Cemetery as is William Carroll Shirley and other family members.

Francis Marion Shirley "Buck", was the son of Jesse and Sarah. He married Emma King and they are the great grandparents of Danny Shirley.

Paul said Danny recently did a country music video partially shot on location at the Red Hill cemetery, Whitwell, Marion County Tennessee with the Shirley tombstone of his ancestor in the background. I would like to see it.

Thomas Shirley, brother of the above John Shirley, is written about in the July 1983 NEWS page 5. Thomas was granted 640 acres of land in South Carolina in 1785 in the 96th District on 18 Mile Creek. He is

listed in the 1790 census: 2 males over 16 and 3 males under 16.

In 1792 Thomas Shirley sold the above land to Bennett Combs and Thomas moved to Rutherford County North Carolina. (Bennett Combs was from St. Mary's County Maryland). In the 1800 census of Rutherford Co. NC: Thomas Shirley 1 male 26-45 years of age and 2 males under 16.

November 11, 1811 Deed Book D, pages 88 and 89, Thomas Shirley had moved to White County Tennessee.

In 1819 Hamilton County, Tennessee was formed and we immediately find Thomas trading in real estate there. He is listed as one of the first settlers of the new county.

In 1825, Thomas and his wife Margaret appointed their son, Thomas Jr., power of attorney to settle accounts for them in Guilford and Orange County North Carolina.

While living in Marion County Tennessee, Thomas and his sons ran a trading post. One morning some Indians came into the post and among other things purchased a knife. Something happened to raise the Indians ire and they left. Some time later in the day they returned, pulled the hunting knife and slew William Shirley, son of Thomas.

[I wonder if the trading post was in the village of SHIRLEYTON?].

Thomas Shirley spent the rest of his life in Hamilton County except when he refuted to South Georgia during the Civil War.

RUTHERFORD COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA

June 1, 1789, Surveyed for JOHN SHERLEY 300 acres in Rutherford County on little Broad River including the Rock house bottom.

1790 census, Marian Shirly Thomas Shirly (Both head of house)

June 7, 1798 Thomas Sherly married Betsey Derring

1800 census Marian Shirley and Thomas Shirley

## **FROM "TRACES" OF SOUTH CENTRAL KENTUCKY Vol 13 Fall 1985...**

A muster roll of Capt. Thompson Crenshaw Company of Detached Kentucky Militia of the 11 Regt. Saml. Caldwell Coln showing the distance they had marched at the time of dismissal, by order of Governor Shelby.

Distance from place of residence, 42 miles. CALEB SHIRLEY is listed as being in this company and the date is May 8, 1813.

This roster was discovered in some old papers by Judge Shelly T. Riherd and contributed by James M. Simmons. This is the only known record of this company.

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SHIRLEY - COX: Newton Shirley married Caroline Polk Cox 1873. Did they divorce and each remarry ? George T. Shirley married Mary Ellen Cox 1882. Apparently neither couple had children. Would like to know what happened to these families. Caroline Polk Cox was half-sister and Mary Ellen Cox a full sister to my grandfather Robert Samuel Cox. Write: Louise Cox 205 Lanelle Cove, Senatobia, MS 38668. [Tell her you saw it in the Shirley NEWS].

Vol 22 Spring 1994

Sheriff's Delinquent Tax List...The amount shown to be owing was \$1.00, the date was 1st Monday of November 1850 in Glasgow KY. On the list was William Shirley, 9th Company.

BARREN COUNTY KENTUCKY, STRAYS BOOK I.

Note: A Stray Book was when someone found stray livestock. They would report it to the County Court Clerk and they would then be put on record for anyone that had lost one.

This record helps us to learn the



vicinity of the county in which our ancestors lived.

On Nov. 2, 1833, Richard Shirley, 10 mi E of Glasgow on the Columbia road.

On Nov 22, 1834 William A. Shirley, on the Great road about 1 mi S of Prewetts Knob.

### **BASEBALL AMERICA VOL 13 Jan 10-23, 1994**

ALVIN "TEX" SHIRLEY, a pitcher on the only St. Louis Browns team to reach the World Series, died of lung cancer Nov. 7th in De Soto, Texas. He was 75.

Shirley pitched five years in the majors for the Philadelphia Athletics (1941-42) and Browns (1944-46), going 19-30, 4.25 in 102 games. He pitched two scoreless innings in the 1944 World Series, which the Browns lost to the crosstown Cardinals in six games.

Shirley later certified gas flows for natural gas sales by the Valero Energy Co. in Texas. He was elected to the Texas baseball hall of fame in 1981. SENT BY: Alan Lamb

### ***John Shurly of England, New York, Canada, and Ohio***

I received the following letters from Nancy Oster that were written to her great great grandfather, Robert Muncaster, who was living in Massillon, Ohio. The letters are from his relatives, John & Eliza Shurly who came to New York from London in the 1830's. They are living in Albany New York at the time of the first letter. Nancy thought we'd like to have them.

I enjoyed reading the old letters. It's like looking through a window into the past. I think you will find it fascinating to follow the story of this Shurly family over a period of years as they struggle with life and their pursuit of happiness.

#### **Letter #1 Feb 1, 1838**

Dear Robert: Mother informs me you have wrote to me several times but I assure you I have never received a single letter from you yet, but should very much like to hear from you, for it is many a long day since you and I smoked a pipe together.

I should like to know what sort of a place that you live in. Whether there is plenty of bears and wolves to hunt. What sort of a country you inhabit, whether it is wild or tame, whether you live amongst Indians or Yankee devils. Tell us all about it, my gay fellow, whether you are married, if so, how many young Muncasters you have running around.

For my part, I have only got seven at present, and I am not exactly fettered here. If I can find a better place, I shall go to it, but I shall remain here at all events until spring or fall.

Eliza and my blessed self would like much to hear from you. I shall not say anymore, not knowing whether you get this letter or not. Providing you do, I will give you a quiver full next time to make up for the lost time.

Wishing you health, wealth, and prosperity, and a long live to enjoy it. Believe me and Eliza to remain yours for ever and ever, Amen. Written by John Shurly, watchmaker, 140 Washington St. Albany, New York State.

#### **Letter #5 Feb 12, 1839**

Dear Robert: I recovered your letter dated Feb 2nd and am glad to hear, at last, from you once. Going in business for yourself, I think is the best thing you can do for the way they pay journeymen in this country gets me over. When you are your own boss, you can do as you please. I have been my own boss ever since I have been in this country. No journeyman for me, ay, gay fellow.

I should think painting is a good business in this country. Written by John Shurly

Same letter...Dear Robert: I think you are a very bad correspondent. You never tell us anything about the country you are in or anything about your intended, which you may be sure we would like to know. Your must write next time a full description.

I am very comfortable at present. Shurly is pert and working steady in this country and I hope you are the same. Wishing you every happiness, believe me to remain. Your Affectionate Sister, Eliza Shurly.

#### **Letter #6 May 9, 1839**

Dear Robert: I hope this will find you well as, thank God, it leaves all of us at present. I suppose you are tied in the bands of Hymen by this time. If so, I wish you joy.

We had a letter from Mother last week. They are all well. She says I should like to know how much you pay for newspapers, or, if you like, I can send you 4 or 5 every week as I take in three every day.

I hope you have got plenty of work. This is the time of year your trade as a painter ought to be brisk. Trade is getting better generally I think. Mother says trade is very bad in London and provisions very dear. I wish Mother was over here. I think they could do very well in this country.

I suppose your part of the country is very pleasant, and the people talk much about the pleasant banks of the sweet Ohio. That it is a fertile country I have no doubt.

I think I do better in this country than home. It appears to me to more advantages for a family than home. Provisions are cheaper and rent, I think, but I do not like the way they have here of moving every year and they do the same every year in your part of the country. I think, for my own part, it is a dumb, foolish plan, but I suppose we must put up with it. From John Shirley of New York.



### Letter #9 March 29, 1842

(John Shurly now living on Grove St. Kingston, Upper Canada).

Dear Robert: I hope this will find you well and your wife likewise. I sent you a letter from Albany some time back and, receiving no answer, I concluded that you had moved or something that away, until I received a letter from Mother in which she informed me you was still alive and kicking in the state of Ohio. Such being the case, I thought I would just pen your Lordship another letter and ask how you had proceeded in the prolific line since I have heard from you last.

I have not done so well as I could wish lately. Times is going not so well as I could wish and continually having one or the other of my family ill. Mrs. Shurly, at present, enjoys very bad health. I am living as foreman to one Mr. William Hennessey, Stove Street, Kingston.

But I do not intend to reside in Kingston. I have got enough things to stock a little shop nearly, and plenty of good furniture and should like you to inform me whether you think my business would go well in Ohio. If so, I think I shall venture in the State of Ohio. I can pick my work for there is nothing in the business but what I can do and thoroughly understand. I should like you to inform me what you think about it - my blessed snipe. I wish you would inform me what large places there are in Ohio and what you think of Cleveland. How rents go, how land is sold, how cheap provisions are etc. It was not my intention to stop in Canada when I came. I have not seen a place yet I should wish to settle in. I wish you to inform me, if you please, (to inform me) every particular. I wish you to inform me how many watchmakers there is in Massillon and whether you think a good workman would do there.

Me and Eliza particularly wish to know whether you have got six or

seven more children yet. How your good lady is and all particulars. Eliza sends her kind love to you and Mrs. Muncaster, hoping you are happy and well. Accept my kind respect to you all and believeme to remain Your Affectionate Brother, J. Shurly. P.S. Mrs. Shurly's ill state of health requires that I should leave Canada but I shall not leave yet. I should like you to send me an answer as soon as you can. J.S.

### Letter #10 April 30, 1842

Dear Brother [Robert].

I received your affectionate letter dated April 16th. Was glad to hear you and wife are in good health. I am sorry to say I am very poorly, have just recovered from a dangerous miscarriage, that being the second miscarriage since I have been in Kingston.

This place does not agree with me. We shall certainly move from Canada. I would not live here if the inhabitants was to allow me a yearly income and there is no fear of that. We shall move to Ohio this fall.

I have no doubt of Shurly's getting encourage where ever he goes. He is so clever a workman. I have never met a watchmaker since we left New York who could do what he can. You know they record his clever in London. When we was in York, he was with a Swiss escapement maker. The Kingston people wishes him very much to stop here. Shurly does not like Canada. He has declared his intentions and the states is the best for us all. The prices of provisions, your rent, are just one-half cheaper than they are in Albany, and they are much dearer here than there.

Dear Robert, you must let me know whether a Young Lady's School wont do a clever Dress Maker. Mary Ann is taller than I am. She looks much older than she is. I thought myself and her could set up a genteel school. I flatter myself I am competent to teach her, do plain sewing and all sorts of fancy work.

Mary has had a tolerable education. You must write and tell me all particulars.

We have a garden and, of course, would like to have the crop. Tell me if stoves are cheap. They are very expensive here, if we move to Ohio I think I could get as much by selling mine here and buying one there. Tell me if furniture is cheap or not and which route you would take if you was in Kingston and wish to get to Ohio.

Shurly is handy, he sewed all his wild oats in England. Give my love to your wife. Tell her I feel much obliged to her for her kind offer, but she would be about to befriend me by getting a house ready as I shall bring furniture enough to make shift with at any rate.

I should send your son a present if I know the way it would come safe, I shall bring him one. You must excuse this scribble, as my dear little Adolphus is teasing me all the while. My children is very much like Yankees. I am quite a Yankee myself.

Believe me to remain affectionately,  
Eliza C. Shurly

Same letter... Dear Brother: I hope this will find you and your wife and child quite well as, thank God, it leaves me at present. You see how poor we are both to write on one sheet of paper.

I feel much obliged to you and Mrs. Muncaster for your kind offer and likewise for the information you have given me about things in your letter. I shall come to Ohio in the Fall. As for Canada, I would not live in it for a good yearly income, for sweepings of Hell are here. If it were not for my garden, I would come right off. I wish you would let me know which is the best route to come from Kingston to Ohio.

The prices of watchwork are not much lower than they are here. I think Kingston is the last place that God made, and peopled it with Hell



Finches.

My eldest son, Edmund, I shall bring up to the watch trade; my next son, Robert, I shall make something in the wood way, as his mind and heart seems to lay much in that way. I shall apprentice him next Spring to some clever fellow if I meet one.

Wherever I move next time, there do I intend to stop. No more for me to go from place to place. I shall do as you say, settle down. I will let you know the day and month I intend to start for your place, and should wish you to get a house of some sort against the Fall. But when you hear from me again will be time enough.

God bless you all. I long once more to see you and your amiable wife, you may depend on it. I just think how I am going to fill my pipe and take a blessed smoke with you. Wishing you and your wife and child every comfort and happiness this world can offer. Signed; J. Shurly

#### Letter #11 Sept 29, 1842

Dear Robert, I received your letter. Was glad to hear you and family were well. Hope your little boy thrives. Am sorry to say that we shall not be able to leave Kingston this Fall, as times is bad, we should to lose much. I wish I had never come to Canada, but as I am here I must make the best of it. We shall leave here in the Spring I hope. If I don't change my mind in point of Ohio, I will let you know.

You must write to me and tell how you get on. Mary Ann is going to be married this Christmas. I shall miss her much, but he is a very nice young man and very well off.

I do not know what Ohio is, but here there is hundreds of persons starving. It put me in mind of some of the poor parts of London. It is the most hateful place that ever God made. I have very bad health here.

I received a letter from home. There they are all well, business bad. I must now conclude with wishing you

happy. Give my love to your wife and kiss the boy for your Aunt and believe me your affectionate sister. Eliza Shurly

#### Letter #12 April 11, 1843?

From J. Shurly, Watchmaker, Superior, Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Brother: I received your welcome letter and need not tell you how glad to have the consolation of corresponding with you again. I am glad to hear you and your family are quite well. Please God I hope you always remain so, is the sincere wish of my heart.

My dear Eliza has not arrived yet. I am looking anxiously for her. She has to come near 400 miles Cuyleville, Livingston County, State of New York. I came by land with my horse and wagon and brought Robert, my son, along with me and I expect her by one of the steamboats. My dear fellow, I had a very hard time of it most of my way. My horse was up to her neck in mud. I galled her shoulders up. I had thought that it would be some months before she can be used in harness again. She was a good beast worth in York State \$80, and I sold her for \$15 or she would have eat her head by this time, having nowhere to keep her but at a tavern, and I suppose you well know they do not forget to charge a good price.

I am in hopes I shall do a good business here by and by when I get well known.

I am long to inform you that Mary Ann is married, but not so well as I could have wished her to have been. She followed the footsteps of her mother and me. Got married unbeknown to us both, to a saddle and harness maker, a well-educated young man.

I have seen trouble enough since I landed in this country to break the heart of many a better man than me. Still, here I am and here I mean to stay. I shall ramble no farther live or no live as the negro says.

I need not tell you how happy I shall be to see you, my boy. Believe me when I tell you to for seeing you again to talk to you over old times, again. It will be a great pleasure to me. Remember your promise, within two months I shall expect to see you. Do not deceive me, and I shall look anxiously for your coming, for it is many a year since you and I smoked a pipe over a pint or two of London porter. I have much to tell, much to converse with you about, and I shall hold on until you come and see me.

I shall feel happy to inform your friend about anything that lies within my power. He will not be able to get any materials at Toronto or Kingston in the watch or clock line. He can get them in Cleveland and if he is coming to purchase for his Brother and he does not understand about them. I will go with him and pick out for him such things as he wants with the greatest pleasure. Any assistance that lays in my power to serve you or your friend, I will cheerfully and punctually do. That is all my dear Fellow I can say upon that head.

I am glad you did me the honor to name one of your sons John, after this lifeless old snipe. I hope he will be more fortunate in the world than this John. Tell him from me, when I see him, I will not forget him.

Give my best respects to your good dame and the little ones- hold on though - I suppose they are getting big ones now. Now you must make haste and manufacture a girl and call her name Rosela or I shall begin to blow you up a bit, old fellow.

Mind that I should like to hear from you as often as you can. Since to let me know what is doing in that part of the Globe. I must now conclude wishing you all health, wealth, and prosperity and believe me to remain Your Affectionate Brother, J. Shurly. PS..I hope your son John may live to become the President of the United States and you son Charles to succeed him when he resigns after J.S.



### Letter #19 May 18, 1863

This letter is from R. Muncaster, 9 Cross St. & Leonard St. E.C. London to Robert Muncaster in Ohio.

My Dear Son: It is a long time since I heard from you that I was inclined not to write anymore; but I should like to hear from you once more before I die. I am well in health and reside in the house in which I was when you left England, in a small back room.

I am not very comfortable, but Bless God, I am as well as I am. It is now upwards to two years since I lost your mother. With her, I lost all. I hope you receive this, you will write me a very long letter. I would sooner pay for the post, poor as I am, than not hear from you. My eldest son, amidst the troubles on your side of the Atlantic, I hope you have escaped the evils that war produces.

I have very little to tell you but what I have is not of the most pleasant. Your brother and sister are well and Charles is in the same place he has been for the last 20 years. He has two sons, very good boys, one about 11 and one 9 years of age. Sister has two girls, one about 16 and the other about 12. They both work within a few doors of their mother's residence, 25 King St. Clerkenvale E.C., with whom I dine every Sunday for which I pay her as much as I can afford out of my small pension. I have dined but once with your brother since your mother died.

I had a gent call on me from America from Robert Shurly of Chicago. That came from that place to see the exhibition. If he, with a family could come, I do not despair of one day seeing my own son or one of his children. You will find me at Cross St. or at Mrs. Gibson's in King St.

I hope you will give me every particular of your situation in life. If unfortunate, I may sympathize, if I can afford you no relief. If prosperous, of course, it will afford

me pleasure.

Edmund Shurly, I fear, has left Buffalo to join the Army against the Southerners. Your brother sent him some of our goods on Spec but he never made use of it to pay his passage to England to see mother. Shurly, the elder is a mill worker, but I am afraid he is not improved in character.

I hope if this should reach Massillon, you or your wife or children will send me an answer, for suspense is worse than any misfortune. I must conclude with my love to your family. Likewise, your brother's and sister's to the younger branches in particular, for 'tis possible they may someday meet in old England when I am laid low.

I hope God will bless and prosper them in this world and give them eternal rest in the next. I remain, my dear son, Your Affectionate Father, R. Muncaster

PS. I must inform you that I have put up for the City of London Pension, but whether it is hard to get is another question. The election is but once a year, and that in April.

### Letter #21 May 17, 1864

From R. Muncaster, 4 Wingrove Place St. Johns St. Road, Clerkinwell England

My Dear Son, I hope you will excuse me not answering your welcome letter before this, but not had the money to spare for postage and I do not wish to put you to any expense after living there for 37 years.

I am in very good health and spirits, thank God. I am living in the same house as your sister and board with here and her two daughters and I'm very comfortable as far as my limited means will allow. I pay her what I afford, not enough I admit, but Almighty God seems to bless her for her kindness to me. For since I have been with her, Fanny has had her wages raised twice and I expect she will be again raised, for she is a good

girl, but she has a sweetheart. Therefore, if she marries, her money will cease.

They send their love to all the family and hope some day to see some in London. I cannot expect many years, being now 73 year, but am in excellent health for a man at that time of life.

Your brother, Charles, is in business for himself. His employer, Mr. Duff, died last August and rather suddenly and without a will. Therefore, he was left without a friend. He expected to have the business, but the widow wanted him to take the stock, but he cannot raise 270 pounds. Therefore, he took a place near and began for himself. He allows me 2.6 shillings a week, for which I am very thankful. It is not the paltry I look at. He never calls to see me or his sister.

I wish you would give me all the information of the Shurly family you possibly can. Edmun V. Cosmas, in particular, is doing well. They may deal with your brother, but it must be for money.

I have been very ill used by the Fox family. When Bennett died, I was to have a room to live in for life, but as soon as I taught the widow to do the work to get a living for her children, then I was in the way and her and her sister annoyed me in every petty way until they forced me out of their house. If your brother had called on me, they would not have dared to insult me as they did, for he chiefly employed the widow. But, not matter, I hope God will bless them all.

I hope your son is spared in the terrible conflict and that your children will prove a blessing to you and their mother. I think of you and pray for you and your family everyday, having your likeness in 2 little girls on the mantle shelf open that we cannot forget them.

I have not succeeded in getting the City of London Pension. I cannot walk to solicit the votes and I have no one to solicit for me. Mr. Fox,



although, has been in the employ of Ullathorne between 20 & 30 years. He, have two votes, would not so much as lay a card before him. I must leave it to Almighty God, he will prosper me if he thinks it fit in due season.

[letter gets lengthy and continues].....R. Muncaster

#### Letter #24 June 5, 1865

R. Muncaster to Robert Muncaster in Ohio. Exerts...

I hate to write on this paper, but thinking it would be light, and postage is dearer on your side of the water that it is in England. I hope you and your wife will be most happy in your new habitation and the younger branches of the family.

The Shurly family I beg you do not trouble yourself about any further. They are a most ungrateful family, but Mrs. Charles Fox is the cause. She has a tongue like a two edged sword and she spared neither friend or foe, but God rest her soul, but she made a deal of mischief in your sisters and brothers families. Her husband is a good kind of a man or any other fellow could not stop her tongue.

You sent word in a former letter of the death of John Shurly and I sent word to his brother, but he never took any notice. I did not tell him he died by his own hand to spare his feelings, and Mrs. Eliza Shirley's death was made known before her mother died. He was a martyr for a kind woman. I did not know she said in a letter to her she only offended her mother once in her life and her disobedience would follow to her grave. I was not aware that any of the family paid you a visit to Massillon Ohio. Mrs. S. was not a sponging disposition, but poverty makes people do what they would not think of.

NANCY OSTER INCLUDES JOHN AND ELIZA SHURLY'S MARRIAGE AS BEING: April 26, 1825 Saint Bride Fleet St., London

England, John Shurly and Elizabeth Catharine Chumley.



#### SHIRLEY

DR. JOHN LEWIS, internationally recognized Dallas businessman, speaker and author, died at age 69. Memorial Service will be held Saturday, January 22, 1994, ELLIS CHAPEL, PARK CITIES BAPTIST CHURCH, at 2:00 P.M. Dr. Shirley died Monday night after a brief illness. Upon graduation from high school in Ranger, TX, he joined the Navy in WWII. He returned to graduate as student body president and captain of the Debate Team at Texas Christian University. While attending TCU he married Wanda LaFawn Ellis. After becoming top salesperson for Rorig Pharmaceutical Co. in Chicago, IL, he and his family moved to Dallas, where he started three businesses: Communications Institute of America, Group Dynamics, and Psychometrics, Inc. After selling the first company he remained president of Group Dynamics and Psychometrics, which specialize in organizational planning, manpower evaluations and marketing. For the past 25 years he has held two doctorate degrees, has been a professional training and motivational authority, and industrial psychotherapist, and will be remembered for developing one of the

most extensively sought after business testing and evaluation programs still used today. He has authored several books, such as Body Watchin' Is Fun. His extensive list of awards, honors, and affiliations include the International Mensa Society, American Association for Counseling and Development, American Society of Professional Consultants, Hella Shrine Temple-Dallas, International Who's Who of Intellectuals, Publication of Distinguished Americans, The Biographical Roll of Honor in Washington, DC, Who's Who in the World, the South and Southwest, and Dallas-Ft. Worth. The Shirley family joined Park Cities Baptist Church in the 1950s. Dr. Shirley delivered many sermons in the Sunday evening services. The Shirley family still remain members of Park Cities. Dr. Shirley is survived by three daughters, Deborah Cooper, Marsha Shirley, and Joni Kuhn; grandsons, Mitchell and Chet Kuhn of Plano, and grandchildren, Cash and Crystal Cooper of Aubrey, TX; brother, Thomas Shirley of Odessa, TX. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Foundation for Family Research and Development, 13162 Midway Rd., No. 333, Dallas, TX 75244.

**Burial Needs A-12**

**Annual Membership \$20.00**

**The Shirley Association**

**10256 Glencoe Drive**

**Cupertino, CA 95014**

**(408) 255-8511**



# **SHIRLEY CONVENTION IN SAN JOSE CALIFORNIA**

**JUNE 25TH, 1994**

The Decathlon Club  
3250 Central Expressway  
Santa Clara, CA

(near Lawrence Expressway)

Registration begins at 9:00AM on Saturday morning, convention at 9:30AM and closes 3:00PM. This will be a one day event. A \$5.00 donation is requested because of various expenses for the convention. Meals will be on your own. There is a deli on location or you may brown bag it.

Please bring old photos, letters or anything of interest pertaining to your ancestors, for display.

Invite other family members to attend this gathering with you. Membership in the Shirley Association is not a requirement and anyone descended from a SHIRLEY is invited to attend.

We will have a display of many books about Shirleys including the various census, charts, etc. for your review. Bring your workbooks, pen and paper. Slides and video will also be shown about the Shirleys.

If you have not made reservations already, please give me a call at (408)255-8511. If you decide at the last minute to come, please do so. You are always welcomed.

## **MARCH 1994 SHIRLEY PACKETS MAILED TO 6000 SHIRLEYS IN USA**

The Shirley Association welcomes our new members. The response continues to arrive daily and I am reviewing each Shirley Ancestor Query as they arrive. We have received some great info and photos to be used in upcoming Shirley NEWS editions.

One of the nice things for me is the section in the query that allows me to learn about you, such as your occupation and hobbies. The same for your parents etc. I appreciate the time you have taken to fill this form out and return it to me.

If you haven't filled in your Shirley Ancestral Query, will you please do so soon? A couple of years ago, I sent out a brief form and many of you sent this in. The problem is, it is not as complete as this one and I would more than appreciate your taking the time to fill this one out for me. I will not have a need to request this material in the future if you send this form to me completed to the best of your ability. Thank you for your help on this! If you have some photos of your older Shirley ancestors, please consider going to a copy place such as Kinko's, a large franchise that is everywhere, and request them to photo copy your pictures on their special copier that does photos. The copy quality is good on this machine. The cost is probably 7 cents each for black and white. [They also have a color copier should you like to exchange color photo's with other family members. The cost is about \$2.00 for color].

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU FOR YOUR SHIRLEY PRODUCT ORDERS. THE COLOR BROCHURES WERE A HIT AND YOUR RESPONSE HAS BEEN WELCOMED!**



## POST OFFICE, SHIRLEY MC LEAN COUNTY ILLINOIS

Photo sent by: Alan Lamb who wrote to me about the town of Shirley. He had stopped briefly and spoke to the postmaster about how the town received the name SHIRLEY. He was told there was something printed about the town. Alan was on a time limit and couldn't get this info at that time. (I wrote to the post office and Judith Mohr sent this info).



**US POST OFFICE IN SHIRLEY ILLINOIS**

There was a little settlement in the open prairie and roadless area around Shirley until the railroad was completed from Springfield to Bloomington on October 16, 1853. Then the 1859 Directory of McLean County states that Shirley then had about 24 households, and there was a total of about 147 households in Dale Township with most of them living in the north part of the township west of Bloomington. The first settlers around Shirley were the Moberly, Quinn, Park, Lain, and Boulware families, all of whom came from near Kingston in Madison County, Kentucky, close to Lexington and not far from Cane Ridge, where in 1802, Barton Stone, a Presbyterian minister founded what came to be known as the Christian Church or Disciples of Christ.

The name of "Shirley" is alleged to have been suggested by Mrs. Corydon Weed and was taken from a novel that she was reading. The Weed farm then straddled the Village of Shirley and was sold to John Foster of Ohio in 1866. Shirley at that time lay on both sides of the railroad. The beautiful brick home that stood on the farm was built by Corydon Weed. It became the home of the Foster family for several generations. This lovely old landmark was razed in 1944 to make way for Highway 66. John Foster platted the Village of Shirley in 1866. However, there were some buildings here prior to that time.

The Shirley school district was established in 1854 — early directors were Hiram Quinn and James Boulware. Corydon Weed provided a frame



house for the new school district located about 10 rods east of the J. L. Douglass home facing south in a pasture (now the site of the "Way of Illinois"). One of the early teachers was J. L. Douglass who came here from Pennsylvania. He taught 1½ terms and his wife finished the second term. Joab Brigham followed them and he taught for a number of years. Records show that Mary Weed, Joab's sister, taught 103 pupils in the first little school in 1863 — many pupils were refugees from Kentucky due to the Civil War. In 1869 a 2 story structure was built in Shirley west of the railroad just north of the present Christian Church. The first floor was comprised of two rooms — the "little" room and the "big" room. The second floor was envisioned as a future high school, but Shirley did not grow so it was occupied by the Masonic Lodge for many years following the burning of the William Lain store on the south east corner of the old Templin lot (now owned by the Robin Riggle family). The Royal Neighbors of America also rented the second floor of the school building as well as the Eastern Stars. It served as a community hall as well and many a dance and spelling bee were

held there. The Masons remained there until 1925 when they bought the old Methodist Church building. The school house burned on July 12, 1947, and was replaced by a two room - one story structure which served as the village school until 1954. At that time Shirley became part of the Heyworth District #4 and they petitioned to become part of Ben Funk School, Unit 4. In 1958 the school house was sold to the Frederick Schriebers who remodeled it into a private home.

The first Post Office was located in the depot on the J. L. Douglass lot not far from the drive (now the "Way of Illinois" driveway). A number of the buildings in Shirley were east of the railroad at that time. In fact, the Lynn Cochran home in Shirley formerly sat on the east side of the railroad and was later moved to its present location. The Harold Smith home has a portion of the old Post Office in it, it is said. The railroad depot originally sat on the east side of the railroad until the cut was made through the Shirley Hill.

FROM EDITOR: IN 1850 CENSUS THERE WAS A WILLIAM SHIRLEY BORN 1817 VIRGINIA LIVING IN MCLEAN COUNTY ILLINOIS WITH RACHEL KARR. IN 1880 CENSUS WILLIAM P. SHIRLEY BORN 1817 VA WITH FAMILY AND A JONATHON SHIRLEY BORN 1839 VA. JONATHON IS FOUND IN THE 1850 CENSUS AS LIVING IN HIGHLAND CO. VA. HE WAS BORN ABOUT 1838 IN AUGUSTA COUNTY VA., (ACCORDING TO THE 1850 CENSUS).

## THE TOWN OF SHIRLEY IN HENRY and HANCOCK COUNTIES, INDIANA

Main Street of the town of Shirley is the dividing line between Henry and Hancock counties. It was laid out and platted in October, 1890.

The town takes its name from Joseph A. Shirley, who at the time was division superintendent of the Ohio, Indiana and Western railway, since taken under control by the Big Four railway and now constituting the Peoria and Eastern division of that line. Mr. Shirley is now a resident of Indianapolis where he is engaged in the real estate business.

Shirley has two banks. Several newspapers have been started. Only one is now in existence--The Shirley News. (!!!) The population of Shirley, according to the census of 1900, was only 381. The population has more than tripled since that time.

Sent by: Helen Post and Jack Williams. (This a WALTER SHIRLEY descendant. Walter is #19 on Shirley branch list).





## DOWN MEMORY LANE

It was 1927 and the Shirley family had just acquired a new, 1927 Model T Ford. This photo was taken in front of the old Anderson property (now replaced) and features the Shirley family shortly after they returned from church on a Sunday morning. They are, from left, back

row, Russell, Thurman and Mazie Shirley, front row, Harry, Naomi and Edith Shirley. This same vehicle was used by James Cain to court his wife, Wearilee, and both Russell and Mazie Shirley could drive the vehicle. This photo courtesy of Naomi (Shirley) Barrow.



**GEORGE RICHARD SHIRLEY**  
Born Sept 22, 1861 VA.  
(son of Frederick 1836,  
son of Peter #27 list of  
branches), Catherine,  
Delbert Wm. Shirley 1914,  
Melvin Davy 1911.



**CHARLES RUSSELL SHIRLEY**  
Born May 1, 1890 (son of  
George Richard Shirley),  
Anne Canby Shirley.

Parents of our member  
Naomi Shirley Barrow.



## SHIRLEY SAGA

Earliest known is James Wallis Shirley, born June 16, 1811 in Pennsylvania. Died April 5, 1873 (Ohio?) James was bonded out in 1826 to Perry County, Ohio, tailor John E. Linn. After serving his term he married Sarah Olive Mills on May 2, 1833, they had three daughters and one son, Benjamin Stone Shirley.

Benjamin was born June 17, 1838 and died March 29, 1914. He was a first volunteer in the 17th Ohio Volunteers Infantry in Company E under the leadership of Captain Lyman J. Jackson. Benjamin served through the duration of the Civil War. He married Anna Spencer in 1868. Available records do not tell if they divorced or if she died. He and Sarah Emily Wilcox were married at Fort Dodge, Iowa on September 18, 1870. They moved back to Schyler County, Missouri where they raised to adulthood 9 children of 11 born to them.

Roswell Mills Shirley, farmer, married schoolteacher Ethel May DeWitt in 1904. Three children: Lois, Benjamin and Edna, were born while they lived in Iowa. Ethel died in childbirth in 1912. Roswell and his children lived with relatives until 1915 when he married Myrtle Lee Hall in 1915. She had a daughter, Ildia, born 1914. While living in Missouri two sons: Clyde and Clifford were born to them. In 1919 the family moved to Decatur, Arkansas as "crops were bountiful" there. Two more sons: Raymond and Aubrey, were born there. Unfortunately, the available land didn't produce as well as hoped and life was very hard with scant supply of food. In 1922 the Shirleys left Arkansas by covered wagon across Oklahoma into Kansas. The roads were soft and muddy, the wagon was loaded heavily with all their belongings and what was left behind was never recovered. The older children walked most of the way. In Caney, Kansas Roswell found work at the lead and zinc smelter. Ralph Shirley was born in Caney in 1923.

The older children began leaving home to make their own ways. Lois and Edna married. Ben hired out for jobs from farm worker to kitchen help to mule skinner, whatever work was available. Roswell and Myrtle and their boys moved frequently in the middle 1920's. Two more boys Roland (lived one day), and Basil Lee were born in Iowa. The family moved west - finally stopping at Toppenish, Washington. Roswell and Myrtle separated in 1931. Roswell and the four older boys returned to Missouri and lived with relatives. The boys eventually drifted back to Toppenish, Washington, where they married and raised families. All died of heart problems in their late 30's or 40's. Roswell spent the rest of his life moving around the country visiting his children and sisters and brothers. He died in his sleep at Benjamin's home in Fort Dodge, in 1950 and was buried beside Ethel at Queen City, Missouri.

Ben married Martha Hanson in 1929 at Fort Dodge. They lived in Waterloo, Iowa most of the time where Ben worked for hotels and at Fisher Tent and Awning Company. He also worked in Kansas City, Missouri. In late 1932, with two small sons and no job, he began work as janitor and fireman (stoked the huge furnaces) at several downtown buildings and large homes converted to apartments in Fort Dodge. In 1942 he began work at Fort Dodge Paint & Wallpaper Company and worked as a glazier installing large plate glass store fronts in Fort Dodge and surrounding towns until his retirement in 1978. In 1946 they bought a house at 1102 South 27th and he and Bob worked long hours digging out a basement and laying foundations, installing plumbing, wiring, etc. Ben and Martha lived in the house until his death from emphysema in 1984. Martha continued living there until 1991 when she sold it and moved into a senior citizens apartment building.

Sent by: Robert Dale Shirley