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**THOMAS P. SHIRLEY BORN 1825 SOUTH CAROLINA and  
MAGGIE SHIRLEY HIS GRANDAUGHTER**

Thomas P. Shirley was the son of John and Frances Meadows Shirley. They appear on the 1840 census of Cape Girardeau Co. Missouri. By the 1850 census John was deceased. This family came from White County Tennessee.

Photo from: Catherine Sigler



REPORT ON OUR 1991 TRIP TO WVA, VA, MD, NC, SC & GA

Our trip began on Tuesday, June 11 at 11:15 PM (night flight) from San Jose California to Rawleigh North Carolina where we arrived at 9:35 AM on Wed.

My niece, Barbara Shirley, accompanied me on this trip as she has on many of my trips. She likes to drive, so she does the driving and I read the maps. She also helps by taking care of the registration table, and many other duties such as helping me set up for the meeting and carry in heavy boxes of books etc. She has great handwriting and I hand her the things I need hand copied when we are at the Court Houses or Libraries while I am looking for more info. She is a real helper and a good friend.

As soon as we arrived in Rawleigh, we went directly to the State Archives and spent most of the day researching Shirleys in North Carolina. By mid afternoon, we left for New Bern NC. so we could get to bed early as we had been up all night on the airplane.

The next morning, Thursday, we visited TRYON PALACE. The original was built by Royal Governor William Tryon (1767-1770), who was the grandson of the FIRST EARL FERRERS. It was interesting to learn about this family and to get additional info. [New Bern was the first permanent Capitol of North Carolina]. Tryon Palace was restored in the 1950s. The tour of the house was most enjoyable and we met Governor William Tryon and Mrs Tryon who told us about things of their day. We met their Negro slave, George, who also told us stories. He told us about the move from NC to New York when William Tryon became Governor of New York. This was one of the better tours I have taken and would recommend it. We did not have time to see the town or visit other historical sites.

We hurried on to visit Green Co. NC where we hoped to find an old cemetery "way back in a field" according to Shirley info in our files. Buried in this cemetery was Byrd Shirley born Oct 8, 1795 died Sept 12, 1870, and other later Shirleys. Well, with a lot of luck, we found the lady who owned it and she invited us to her house. She said she lived right across the road from it. We went to her house and sure enough, she did. We enjoyed our visit with her and her lovely family. Her husband was so kind to take us thru the field by car to where we could walk to the cluster of bushes etc. to see the grave stones. (Space does not allow us to elaborate on the things we learned or any in depth stories, unfortunately).

Our next stop was in Lenoir Co. NC. We researched the usual places and visited the sites of the former Shirley farm, but found very little we can report as the sites are built over by factories and country clubs etc. We found no one living there who descends from this family. I am sure there must be, but we were unable to make the contact.

The next day, Friday, we researched in Richmond Virginia at the State Library and then on to Annapolis Maryland where we stayed with Captain John & Evelyn Shirley. (They have accompanied me to England twice and to Australia and New Zealand and said to count



them in if we go back to England in 1992).

On Sunday, Fathers Day, we had brunch with John & Evelyn and then we were off for Virginia where we planned to spend the next several days researching. We spent Sunday afternoon with Jane Norman who has been active in Shirley research as well as many other lines and local history. We had a nice visit, talked about the Shirleys and she copied material for us to add to our files.

Monday, June 17th, we spent this day at the Court Houses and Libraries in Fauquier and Prince William Counties. About 5 PM we took off for Charlottesville Virginia where we planned to spend the night and to drive on to Staunton Virginia the next morning to research Augusta County VA. We stopped to find a motel as soon as we approached Charlottesville, and the price was high. I suggested we go to the other side of town and the prices may be more reasonable. When we got to the other side, we were out of town just like that! We didn't turn around but decided to keep going, we'd find something on down the road. Shortly, we found we were climbing a mountain and suddenly there we were in thick fog! We gasped! It was now after 11PM. We crept for a couple of miles, and then we started down hill and fog was gone. We did find a room for much less but it was midnight when we checked in.

Tuesday, June 18th we researched in Augusta County. By evening we had driven to Winchester Virginia and stayed with another Evelyn Shirley. She let us stay with her for a few nights.

Wednesday and Thursday we spent researching Frederick Co. Maryland, Frederick Co. Virginia, and Jefferson Co. West Virginia. We had planned on Berkeley and Morgan Co. WVA but the day we were there was a Holiday and these Court Houses and Libraries were closed. But, we found quite abit of material for these places from other Libraries and from Evelyn who had done research there etc.

Friday, June 21st was our Walter Shirley reunion at Harpers Ferry, a guided tour by Julia Creamer to the cemetery and former land the early Shirleys owned in that area. We enjoyed meeting everyone.

Sat & Sunday was the National Shirley Convention. We had a nice group and everyone seemed to have a great time visiting and learning about the Shirleys. We had a guest speaker, a tour of the former jail in Warrenton (Fauquier Co.) Virginia where J.W. "Pete" Shirley was the jailer for many years. He died in 1945 and had been a town officer for over 60 years.

Mon. Tues. & Wed. we spent researching in Caswell, Guilford, Wilkes, Burke, Rutherford, Mecklenburg, Anson Counties in North Carolina, and Darlington Co. South Carolina.

Thursday, we researched in Camden Co. SC and at the State Library & Archives in Columbia SC. We arrived in Honea Path South Carolina late afternoon in time to go to dinner with Lydie Thomas & Jim Austin. We stayed with our good friends, Dot & Julian Ricketts for a couple of nights. Dot had open heart surgery a few weeks before we arrived but insisted we had a bed and continue with our plans to stay there. We always enjoy our



visit with these good people.

Friday was the Shirley gathering in Laurens County South Carolina. We had a real nice group. Several families came from Texas. People came from Georgia, Alabama, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Virginia, and South Carolina.

Saturday was the Lavonia Georgia gathering and a good lunch, good company, and a visit to another very old Shirley home. Our thanks to Steve Shirley and his wife for organizing this gathering. It was great to meet those who were at this meeting.

By evening, we had arrived at the home of Conny and Beverly Shirley. They fixed us some dinner, (Beverly is a great cook), and we sat on the porch talking & relaxing. We stayed overnight with them for two nights.

Sunday was the Shirley meeting at North Georgia Tech where Conny is Vice Principle. People came from all over Georgia and from Florida, Texas, Alabama, Virginia, & Tennessee. And... again, great food!

On Monday, we relaxed. This day was OUR DAY! We visited the area sight seeing, visiting antique shops, etc. We also visited BABYLAND, home of the Cabbage Patch doll! Quite a place to visit! Great for kids too! By evening we arrived at my mothers in Statesboro Georgia. The next day, July 2, was her 75th birthday.

We flew home Wednesday or at least we intended to be home on Wednesday. We ended up staying in Dallas TX overnight and going home the next day... July 4th. They had had bad weather on Wed and the flights were behind etc. and our Georgia flight missed the connecting flight in Dallas to California. Well, the end results was, Barbara and I got a \$100 voucher each towards a future flight. So...we are going to use them by going back to Dallas in Oct. for Shirley meetings.

Hope you enjoyed hearing alittle about our trip. I have always received so many letters saying how much they enjoyed hearing about our trips that I hope everyone enjoys them and won't mind our taking the space to share this adventure with you. Of course there are many stories we could tell, but space doesn't allow us to go into some of the individual stories learned from the various people we meet along the way. Especially when we have met so many people in a three week period of time.

We thank each of you who came to the meetings and hope you found them to be worth the trip and the time to be there!

**WE WILL BE COMING TO TEXAS, OKLAHOMA & ARKANSAS IN OCTOBER! SEE DETAILS IN THIS ISSUE OF THE NEWS!**

Please begin making your plans to meet us there. How about contacting some of your other family members and let them know in advance of the upcoming Shirley meetings! Thank you!



**NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY VIRGINIA**

3 H&M 225, 1808. Superior Court Chancery Williamsburg Dist. 1803

Richard Rice, died during 1799. Will dated Jan 31, 1795. He was twice married, first to \_\_\_\_\_ by whom he had issue, secondly to **Judith Shurley**, circa 1776, by whom he had two children born before wedlock; **Thomas Shurley** and **Ann Rust Shurley** (afterwards Efford), and others born after their marriage. The testator recognized these two children in his will in the following terms:

"I give and bequeath to my son Thomas Shurley, born before wedlock, my land in Northumberland county, formerly belonging to Robert Sibbles. Should Thomas Shurley die without lawful heir, my desire is, that his sister, Ann Rust Shurley should have all his part of my estate, being born before wedlock."

The rest of his estate is given to his legitimate children.

THE FOLLOWING WAS FOUND IN THE BIBLE OF LUCY T. KIRBY OF  
DINWIDDIE COUNTY VA.

BIRTHS... Azuleka Rice, daughter of Robert Rice and Mary A. **Shirley**, his wife.

**SCHEDULE OF SHIRLEY MEETINGS**

**FRIDAY, OCT 4, 1991 10 AM TO 4 PM**  
Ramada Inn  
120 W. Pershing  
**NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS**

**SATURDAY, OCT 5, 1991 10 AM TO 4 PM**  
Days Inn  
2801 NW 39th Expressway  
**OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA**

**SUNDAY, OCT 6, 1991 10 AM TO 4 PM**  
Ramada Inn  
120 West Airport Freeway  
Irving, Texas  
**DALLAS TEXAS**

**SATURDAY, OCT 19, 1991 10 AM TO 4 PM**  
Holiday Inn  
US 99 at 47th Ave  
**SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA**

Reservations are not necessary at any of the above locations. The meetings are open to both members and non-members of the Shirley Association. To help cover the costs of the meeting rooms, etc., a donation of \$3 per person is requested and may be paid at the door at time of registration. I will look forward to seeing those of you who live near enough to attend.



### JAMES RICHARD SHIRLEY

James Richard Shirley who died on Sunday the 9th inst., near Auburn in this county, has been a notable figure in the eastern section of **Fauquier County Virginia** for a half century.

78 years marked his earthly allotment. He was at a very early age left an orphan, and his aunts who were well circumstanced, and had the care of him, seemed not to have felt the necessity of having him educated. Mr. Shirley was above medium size, of good presence, erect, of frank and open countenance and most pleasing address. He was a good conversationalist--using pure and appropriate language and remarkably well informed on all current events. The writer has personal knowledge of many deeds of valuable service to friends.

As a Confederate soldier he made a good record with Captain James V. Brooke's Artillery Battery. He was a dealer in stock prior to the war, and such was his astuteness, address and good judgment that few were aware of his want of education. The following incident will show the innate mental ability that he possessed: After General Lee's severe campaign of the wilderness, Mr. Shirley was sent to a Lynchburg Hospital ill with malarial fever. Pending his convalescence he would procure the leading daily papers and say to his comrades: "Now one of you boys with a good voice read aloud, that we may all get the benefit of the News." He would later sally forth from the seance the best equipped man with the news of the times that the post held. He made the acquaintance of Dr. McLaughlin, a cultured and distinguished Louisiana Surgeon who was so pleased with him that he recently had him in his office for entertainment, by conversation, of himself and guests. After one of these visits, Dr. McLaughlin remarked that Mr. Shirley was one of the best informed men that he had ever met with, and that further, he was enabled to see why the Old Dominion was so proud of her "Virginia Gentlemen". Mr. Shirley was always kind and helpful to those in need of his services, and the last act of his life was an effort to extinguish the flames of a neighbors's dwelling. He succumbed to heart trouble in the exertion and excitement and was two days later laid to rest. With so much good fellowship and love of his kind he can scarcely have failed to leave pleasant memories with those who knew him.

Taken from page 212, Joseph Arthur Jeffries' Fauquier County 1840-1919, Compiled by Helen Jeffries Klitch

Note: I found a J.R. Shirley in the 1900 census of Cedar Run Fauquier Co. Va. born Oct 1824 Virginia living alone.

### FAUQUIER COUNTY VIRGINIA

J.W. "Pete" Shirley born July 3, 1857 Virginia. He was well known in Fauquier County and is listed in the 1880 census with wife, Jeannie and two daughters, Pauline & Blanche. In the 1900 census James W. Shirley had four more daughters, Ethel, Lottie, Irene and Ruth.



FROM: OLD HOMES AND FAMILIES of FAUQUIER COUNTY VIRGINIA  
(WPA RECORDS)... about the old Jail etc.

The present jailer, who followed Mr. John Pattie, a veteran of many years, is Mr. Pete Shirley, an elderly gentleman of rotund figure and delightful personality. He has held this important post for the past fifty years and takes great pride in his very good record over this period. It is said that he can make the stay of his "guest" as pleasant, under the circumstances. Few men have more friends.

FROM: THE DIARY OF COURT HOUSE SQUARE, WARRENTON VIRGINIA  
By Lee Moffett... references to Pete Shirley.

p. 56, July 1, 1887 J.W. Shirley was selected Sergeant for the coming year to end June 30, 1888.

p.89, J.W. Shirley resigned June 2, 1914 as Sergeant of the Town and W.H. Burke was appointed at \$60 per month. Mr. Shirley is to be Superintendent of Water Works, Cemetery, to look after the hay and cattle scales, and the town clock.

p. 148, July 25th, 1934...the Courthouse is still intact and Honorable J.W. Shirley is a hero. About 2 AM one morning last week he had his Chevrolet from the 1920's, parked at his accustomed place. Two gentleman came up the Lee Highway and apparently couldn't straighten out their car so hit the Chevy, demolishing it. Mr. Shirley said if his car had not been parked there, the Mosby Monument would have been taken down or the Courthouse would have been hit.

p.152, Sunday March 16th 1935, a testimonial dinner was given for the Warrenton's Grand Old Man, Honorable J.W. "Pete" Shirley, who began his official duties as Sergeant of the Town March 8th 1887,

p. 164, Monday night, May 17th 1937, J.W. Shirley age 80, fell down the jail steps while he was making inspections and broke some ribs.

p. 167, Monday night, September 5th, 1938...Poor Pete Shirley, someone hit him over the head, took the keys and five prisoners escaped. By the 10th four were returned and the last one by Wed. the 21st.

p. 191, March 3rd 1945, J.W. Shirley, Jailer, died at the age of 88. He had been town officer for over 60 years. He will truly be missed.

#### NEWS FOR WALTER SHIRLEY DESCENDANTS

In an old Bible dated 1816: "Walter Shirley landed in America from England about 1726." He is said to have landed in the Colony of New Jersey. He married Dorcas Avis and they with their children migrated to the Shenandoah Valley area of Virginia prior to 1745. No records had been found for Walter Shirley before the Court Orders and Petitions of Frederick County 1743-1745, Vol. 1 p. 294, where record is to be found of a judgment obtained against William Jay.

NEW INFORMATION HAS BEEN DISCOVERED FOR WALTER SHIRLEY BEFORE HE CAME TO VIRGINIA....from your editor:

I placed a call in March 1991 to Jack Williams to be sure he knew of the Walter Shirley reunion in Harpers Ferry in June. It has been sometime since we have corresponded. It was during this



conversation that I learned Walter Shirley had been found in Maryland on a 1733 tax list. I asked Jack to please write me about this. He did, and the following are excerpts from his March 9th letter.

"As mentioned in our conversation, my Avis correspondent, Frances Brown, discovered a bookstore in Maryland that has available copies of the out-of-print 1976 Bicentennial Revised Edition of A HISTORY OF CALVERT COUNTY MARYLAND, published by the author, Charles F. Stein, and the Calvert County Historical Society. In addition to the County's history and numerous genealogies, this excellent book contains tax assessment lists, and lists of taxable persons in various Hundreds (election districts). Unfortunately, the individuals found on the lists are not, repeat not, found in the index".

Page 377-378 is a list of all persons inhabiting or residing in St. Leonards Creek Hundred in the year 1733 taken by Richard Hellen, Constable. Found among the inhabitants and residents of St. Leonard's Creek Hundred are..... WALTER SHIRLEY.

Also appearing on the same list:

At Robert Avis'- Jarvis Avis, Robert Avis, Jr.

On the IGI for Maryland:

Robert and Ann Avis had the following children:

Jane Avis b. April 18, 1706

**Dorcus Avis** b. Nov 21, 1708 (Note: Walter married Dorcas Avis)

Jarvis Avis b. Feb 18, 1711

When learning about Walter Shirley, I made a decision to include Maryland in my research trip this summer. I have been to St. Mary's County MD before, but I wanted to return to see where Leonard's Creek Hundred might be in relation to where Wiseman's Point was... (this having to do with Richard Shirley in the same time frame).

I called Captain John Shirley (since he lives in Maryland and is familiar with the Hall of Records in Annapolis), to see if would check into the location of these two places. He did, plus he researched and wrote letters to various places and there was no further mention of Walter Shirley.

John & his wife, Evelyn, took us to these locations when we visited them. To me, I found it very interesting to learn these two locations were across the River Patuxent from each other. The distance across is about 1/2 mile. It would seem to me that Walter and Richard Shirley would certainly know one another. I suggest they are closely related!

NOTE: Richard Shirley is mentioned three times in Calvert Co. MD records, that I am aware of. Feb 6, 1693 he was a witness and Apr. 30, 1695 he was an Appraiser of an estate and in the ARCHIVES #19 page 260... Richard Shirley of Calvert Co. MD. Account allowed for carrying over the bay several copies of the laws by order of His Excellency the Governor...800 pounds tobacco.



John Wiseman [of Wiseman's Point] married Catherine Miles daughter of Francis Miles, who on Feb 4, 1674/5 proved his rights to 250 acres of land, 100 acres being for his "own and Katherine his wife's time of Service performed in the province and 150 acres for Transporting John his son, Katherine and Prudence his daughter into this Province to Inhabit". The will of Francis Miles was proved in St. Mary's Co. MD Sept 23, 1700. The will of John Wiseman was written Dec. 6, 1703, being proved July 13, 1704, in St. Mary's Co. MD. His personal estate, appraised on Aug 12, 1704, manifested a value of 182 pounds, quite affluent for that era, including four slaves and a number of books. Before Sept 20, 1704, his widow married secondly **Richard Shurley** who rendered an account upon the estate.

After Katherine Wiseman Shirley died, Richard Shirley married Sarah\_\_. Richard Shirley had a son Richard by Katherine and three sons, George, William and John Shirley by Sarah. Richard Shurley died in 1737 his will admitted to probate in St. Mary's Co. MD on July 15, 1737 by Robert Greenwell, Thomas **NORRIS**, and John Manning. [Note: Katherine Wiseman's children before her marriage to Richard Shirley were: John Wiseman, Mary Wiseman who married Cornelius Manning, Robert Wiseman and Catherine Wiseman who married John Greenwell].

The sons, William and John Shirley, are believed to be the ones who are found in Frederick County MD in 1750 and are living in Lower Antietam less than 10 miles from Harpers Ferry. At the same time, **WALTER SHIRLEY** is living the same distance on the other side of Harpers Ferry. This William and John Shirley later went to Bedford Co. Pennsylvania...(ancestor of your editor's husband). [Note: Ruhannah **NORRIS** married George Shirley and they lived in Bedford Co. PA. They were the gt.gt.grandparents of my husband].

PLEASE NOTE IN THE FALL 1990 ISSUE OF THE SHIRLEY NEWS PAGE 9...  
NORRIS FAMILY OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY MARYLAND RELATED TO SHIRLEYS,  
ARTICLE.

#### INTERESTING ITEMS

On November 22, 1633, two small ships set sail from Cowes England bound for the new world. The larger ship was the Ark and carried 140 passengers. These were the first Maryland adventurers. **Robert Shirley** was a passenger as was a **Henry Wiseman**, son of Sir Thomas Wiseman, Knight.

**Thomas Shirley** age 23 years sailed from England on the Thomas & John in 1635. Also on this ship was **Catherine Wiseman** 19 years of age.

WE WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST SOME ASSISTANCE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT:

THE NORRIS, WISEMAN AND MILES FAMILY IN ENGLAND. THE HISTORY SURROUNDING THE ARK AND DOVE AND PASSENGERS IN 1633.

Learning the location of the above families in England could direct us to an earlier Shirley connection in England.



**THE VIRGINIA COMPANY ADVENTURERS 1610-1611**

From Virginia Colonial Abstracts, Series 2 V. 3 1607-1624.

This subscription list began to be circulated as early as Nov 1610, if not before.

The names of such as have signed with the somes of money by them adventured on 3 years towards the supply of the Plantation begoone in Virginia, accordinge to their order of writeing for that business, remaininge in the Register Booke in the hands of Sir Thomas Smith, Treasurer.

The list includes 100 Knights, 58 Esquires, etc.

Sir Thomas Sherley 37.10. (This would be the Thomas of Wiston in Sussex England, I presume).

**SCHALLY/SHALLY**

A few months ago, I received information about a Shally family and because of the National Shirley Convention and all of the other projects I was already involved with, I was unable to give this Shally info any serious attention until I returned in July. Since that time I have spent a great deal of time letter writing, making long distance phone calls and researching in the Library, plus going thru our own files. Packets of Schally / Shally data has been sent to the names of our members, past and present, who descend from:

**Valentine** Shirley who married Catherine Baer,  
**Michael** Shirley who married Katy Franz,  
**Peter**, father of Christian Shirley, grandfather of Belle Starr,  
**Luke Abe** Shirley who married Margaret, and lived in Green Co. Tennessee.

QUESTION ... ARE THESE THE SAME PEOPLE LISTED BELOW?

Carl Shalle b. before 1700 Palatinate Germany died PA. He married Anna Esther\_\_\_\_\_.

He arrived on the "Robert & Alice" in 1739 from Germany.

**Children: Baptism dates**

1. Anna E. Jan 5, 1730 Wurzweiler, Pfalzer-Wald Germany married Johan Nicholas Shaque
2. Johan **Michael** Dec 18, 1732 Wurzweiler, Pfalzer-Wald Germany
3. **Lucas Abraham** Sept 22, 1736 Werzweiler, Pfalzer-Wald Germany
4. Johann Adam Jan 16, 1739 Wurzweiler, Pfalzer-Wald Germany m. Catherine Pfeiffer Nov 8, 1763 Lebanon, Lancaster Co. PA
5. Johann **Peter** born Sept 29, 1741 and Bapt Jan 3, 1742 Lancaster Co. PA. Married Anna E. Kelker
6. Johann **Valentine** born Dec 6, 1743 & Bapt Dec 21, 1743 Lancaster Co. PA.

Mildred Sutton, Gwen Bjorkman, Norita Reynolds, Mrs. James McLachlan and Carl McCallus contributors of the above info.  
HELP IN FURTHER RESEARCH ON THIS WOULD BE APPRECIATED !!!



However, I shall ever retain a lively and affectionate regard for the author of them.

I will now endeavour from memory to give you a rough sketch of my Proceedings in this Country since my arrival in it, you must not expect to have the unities preserved. My Landing in this Province was on the 11th of Oct<sup>r</sup> last, soon after finding the Gover<sup>r</sup> determined to stay the Winter here. I repaired to Wilmington, 15 Miles higher up the River than Brunswick. About the Middle of Dec<sup>r</sup> I took with Mrs. Tryon and Mr. Elwin her Cousin, a Tour through part of this Province. We kept the Sea Board Road for two hundred & 40 Miles, (that is never being farther from the Sea than Sixty or eighty Miles) till I came to the Virginia Line which is in 36° 30' North Lat. This from Wilmington kept me on a North and North East Course from the Virginia and Carolina dividing line (where we struck it, was forty Miles North of Edenton.) We took a West Course to Halifax 70 Miles to the Westward of Edenton and from thence, took a South and South West Course back to Wilmington where we arrived the Middle of Feby. This Journey was accomplished with more ease and better accommodations than I could possibly have expected to have experienced, and I found the *Gentlemen* very ready in giving the hospitality their Plantations afforded. The Tour was five Hundred Measured Miles and upwards. The whole of the Journey to the Virginia Line is Sandy, flat and for the most part covered with Pine Trees tho' to the Northward you go over some Oak Land, yet Sandy Soil. The Roads over the Swamps, called Pocosons, are all made, which Swamps are covered with tall Cypress Trees some of six feet in Diameter, and Seventy feet in height before they shoot a Branch, with Bay Trees and Red and White Cedar Trees; with a variety of other Aquatilis which I am unacquainted with. These swamps when cleared and drained produce fine Rice or Indian Corn or I believe Indigo, but this Province is not yet sufficiently inhabited, to have cleared any great quantity of these Pocosons.

I saw no large parcel of Rich Land that laid dry, till I took the Course Westward from the Northward of this Province. Near Halifax there are fine Rich lands of clay and loamy texture and by the thickness of the Corn Stalks of the last Season, I could perceive the goodness of the Earth. About twenty Miles Westward of Halifax, I was carried to See a Situation called Mount Gallant<sup>4</sup> which was the first Hill I had seen that was high enough to over look the woods of this Wild Forest. The Soil here they told me was very good tho' in dry weather pulverises as light as snuff, and when wet will stick to your Shoes like Marle, it is of a Reddish Cast. Under this Hill is the first principal falls on the Roanoke River, they are wildly pleasing to the Eye, not from the height of the Falls, but from the appearance of a course of a River two Miles across interrupted irregularly with Rocky Stones so as to Stop the Navigation for any thing but Canoes, and those not safe unless under the conduct of

**NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR: I PURCHASED A BOOK AT TRYON PALACE AND I THINK YOU WILL ENJOY READING THE FOLLOWING LETTER I FOUND IN THE BOOK. IT CERTAINLY GIVES YOU A GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST. I FOUND IT FASCINATING AND IT TELLS ABOUT THE VERY AREAS WE WERE TRAVELING THIS SUMMER.**

[Because of space, I have had to print two book pages on one sheet, therefore I have had to print these pages in the opposite direction].

**LETTER FROM GOVERNOR WILLIAM TRYON OF NORTH CAROLINA  
TO HIS UNCLE SEWALLIS SHIRLEY IN ENGLAND**

THE CORRESPONDENCE OF WILLIAM TRYON AND OTHER  
SELECTED PAPERS VOLUME 1, 1758-1767

Edited by William Powell

William Tryon to Sewallis Shirley<sup>1</sup>

North Carolina,  
Brunswick on Cape Fear River,  
July ye 26<sup>th</sup>, 1765

My Dear Sir:

I most gratefully received the happiness you conferred on me the 5th Ins.<sup>t</sup> by your letter bearing date the 12th of Feby last, accompanied with a most acceptable present, a Gold Box with the Picture of an invariable friend, as well to my family, as myself. You could not have sent me a more acceptable present; and for which you have my most sincere acknowledgements.

Your particular detail of your affectionate and steady conduct in adjusting the intricate state of the affairs of my Mother, and the agreement she has entered into with my Brother<sup>2</sup> for the sale of my Hobby Horse Norbury,<sup>3</sup> gives me great satisfaction from the evident necessity of such a proceeding. Your good offices on this, and every other occasion claim as they merit, more than I am able to repay you.



good Kitchen, which I can do for forty Pounds Sterling of 30<sup>l</sup> x 40<sup>l</sup>.—The garden has nothing to Boast of except Fruit Trees. Peaches, Nectrs<sup>s</sup> Figs and Plumbs are in perfection and of good Sorts. I cut a Musk Melon this week which weighed 17½ Pounds. Apples grow extremely well here I have tasted excellent Cyder the Produce of this Province. Most if not all kinds of garden greens and Pot herbs grow luxuriant with us. We are in want of nothing but Industry & skill, to bring every Vegetable to a greater perfection in this Province. Indian Corn, Rice, and American Beans (Species of the Kidney Bean) are the grain that is Cultivated within a hundred and fifty Miles of the Sea Board at which distance to the Westward you begin to perceive you are approaching high ground, and fifty Miles farther you may get on tolerable high Hills. The Blue Mountains that Cross our Province I imagine lay three Hundred Miles from the Sea. Our Settlements are carried within one Hundred Miles of them. In less than twenty years or perhaps in half the time inhabitants may Settle at the foot of these Mountains. In the Back or Western Counties, more industry is observed than to the Eastward, the White People there to, are more numerous than the Negroes. The Calculation of the Inhabitants in this Province is one hundred and twenty Thousand White & Black, of which there is a great Majority of White People. The Negroes are very numerous I suppose five to one White Person in the Maritime Counties, but as you penetrate into the Country few Blacks are employed, merely for this Simple reason, that the poorer Settlers coming from the Northward Colonies sat themselves down in the back Counties where the land is the best but who have not more than a sufficiency to erect a Log House for their families and procure a few Tools to get a little Corn into the ground. This Poverty prevents their purchasing of Slaves, and before they can get into Sufficient affluence to buy Negroes their own Children are often grown to an age to work in the Field. not but numbers of families in the back Counties have Slaves from three to ten, Whereas in the Counties on the Sea Coast Planters have from fifty to 250 Slaves. A Plantation with Seventy Slaves on it, is esteemed a good property. When a man marries his Daughters he never talks of the fortune in Money but 20 30 or 40 Slaves is her Portion and possibly an agreement to deliver at stated Periods, a Certain Number of Tarr or Turpentine Barrels, which serves towards exonerating the charges of the Wedding which are not grievous here.

I suppose you will expect to be informed what return is Made for the expence of Supporting such a Number of Slaves in the Province. Their chief employ is in the Woods & Fields, Sowing, and attending and gathering in the Corn. Making of Barrels, Hoops, Staves, Shingles, Rails, Posts and Pails, all which they do to admiration, Boxing of Pine Trees to draw off the Turpentine, Making of Tarr kills [kilns] which is a good deal after our Manner of making a Charcoal Pitt, excepting they

a dexterous Negroe. This and the Neighboring Hills were the only ones that have given me an opportunity of over looking in an Horizontal line the Woods. In our return from Halifax in less than twenty Miles we got again into Sandy Pine Land, and continued it to Wilmington till distance from which is 180 Miles. I remained quiet at Wilmington till March, when Lord Adam Gordon came into this Province, a visit that gave me no small joy, as he was not only a particular friend, but had the additional merit of being the first person I had seen, even of my personal acquaintance since I left London. I was accompanying him as far as Newbern in this Province, when My trusty servant George, who now lies dangerously ill of a Putrid fever and is in a Raving fit, at this instant, over took me with an account of Governor Dobbs's Death the 28<sup>th</sup> of March last. I was then within Twenty Six Miles of Newbern and 74 from Wilmington. This Event obliged me to quit my friend, who proceeded through Virginia to the Northern Colonies, and is to sail from New York in Oct<sup>r</sup> Next for Falmouth in the Packet. I reached Wilmington the 30<sup>th</sup> of March and to my surprize found they had buried the Governor and for want of a Clergy, the Funeral Service was performed by a Majestrate of Peace. The usual Steps on this Event being taken, I called an assembly at Newbern, the place in my opinion at present, the most convenient for holding the genl assembly. We met the 3<sup>d</sup> of May. The Journals will be the History of our Works. I was sore at the time, as you will hear by the letter I wrote Our worthy Friend at the Gov: but as I carried the Material Points; particularly the Clergy Bill, I shall forget what is over, and wait for more at our next meeting which is the 27<sup>th</sup> Nov: I left Newbern the End of May and got to Brunswick the 1<sup>st</sup> of June to the House the late Gov<sup>t</sup> lived in<sup>5</sup> when we began to be very busy in opening and unpacking half the furniture we brought from England,<sup>6</sup> and for want of Room we could not put up in our house at Wilmington.

As you are acquainted with M<sup>rs</sup> Tryons Neatness you will not wonder that we have been pestered with scouring of Chambers White Washing of Ceilings, Plaisterers Work, and Painting the House inside and out. Such is the Sickness and indolence of the Workmen in this Hot Climate that I shall not I am persuaded get rid of these nuisances this month. This House which has so many assistances is of an oblong Square Built of Wood. It measures on the out Side Faces forty five feet by thirty five feet, and is Divided into two Stories, exclusive of the Cellars the Parlour Floor is about five feet above the Surface of the Earth. Each Story has four Rooms and three light Closets. The Parlour below & the drawing Room are 20 x 15 feet each; Ceilings low. There is a Piazza Runs Round the House both Stories of ten feet Wide with a Ballustrade of four feet high, which is a great Security for my little girl.<sup>7</sup> There is a good Stable and Coach Houses and some other Out Houses. If I continue in this House, which will depend on Capt. Dobbs' Resolution in the manner he disposes of his Effects here,<sup>8</sup> I shall & must build a



better. These are inconveniences I am told every newcomer must experience in this Colony they term it a seasoning. Surely it has a little too much of the Kian Pepper in it. We have been drove to very short Commons, and the Cooks being sick deprived us of our Baker. We often sent to Brunswick Town (about 20 families in it) to beg Bread, as there is none for Sale that can be eat nearer than Wilmington fifteen Miles off, either by Land or Water. I shall do better when I get my family on their Legs again. As I have purchased a yard full of fowls, have some good Hams and occasionally get a Bit of Mutton or Beef I reckon My Situation here is more out of the way for buying provisions than any Corner of the Province, but hold it to be as healthy as any in the Province, being within sight of one of the Sea Inlets at the distance of five Miles, tho' to the Bar of the River where the Vessels go over, is fifteen Miles, which makes us half way between the Bar and Wilmington. As I am desirous of not showing myself particularly partial to any particular Spot of the Country or people, I have hired three other houses. One at Wilmington to be at when I hold the Land Office, which is twice a year, One at Newbern, where I hold the Genl Assembly and the Courts of Chancery,<sup>12</sup> and a Small Villa within three Miles of Newbern, for the purpose of raising a little Stock and Poultry for use of the family. I imagine you will say Tryon will certainly ruin himself, but my good Friend Houses are not so convenient nor so high priced as in Britain. The Rent of these four Houses with Six Hundred and forty acres to the Newbern Villa amount to near 130 £ Ster<sup>g</sup>. I have Sixty acres of land belonging to this House all sand, except about 15 acres of Salt Marsh, use less at present from neglect & Weeds. I must now confine myself to my particular Situation in a Political View. I have been at great charges both of labor and expence in getting my family into this Province, and after many tedious disappointments Collected them more together than ever they have been yet, and as I think there is a large Field for good offices, If the People are reasonable I am persuaded, I could render His Majesty as much Service in this Colony as in any other more settled.

If the climate continues to agree with M<sup>rs</sup> Tryon and little one I shall be content to Act as the Political Physician, but if they will neither take my Pills, or follow my Prescriptions I shall desire another Doctor may be called in, and that Physician retire who will never give his attendance for the consideration of the Fee. As to the Emoluments for the Gov<sup>t</sup> they arise from Licenses for Public Houses and Marriages if by License Special,<sup>13</sup> Fee for putting the Seal of the Province to letters Testimonial, letters of Administration Registers for Ships &c. All which by the Estimate the Governor gave me some time before his Death amounts to about 400 £ St<sup>g</sup> and the Fees on the Warrants for Surveying the Lands and Patents for granting them (which business is done in the Land Office) amount to between 3£ and 400£ Ster<sup>g</sup> which last is a donation of

have a Subterraneous passage to draw off the Tarr as the fire forces it from the Lightwood in the Kiln. Lightwood I understand to be as follows. When a Tree has been blown down or Cut. The Turpentine that is in the tree, in a few years retires to all the knotty parts of the said Tree. These they Cut up in small strips and will form a Tarkiln so large that when set on Fire, will run from 6, 7, 8 or 1000 Barrels of Tar. These splinters are so loaded with Bitumen that they will burn like a Candle; it is a usual thing to carry a Torch of Light Wood at night as you Europeans do flam beaus. The above are the articles we export Beside Deer Skins, Barrels of Pork, Beef, Bees Wax, Tallow &c. Great Quantity of Lumber is Shipped to the West Indies. We have in the Creeks and Branches of this River of Cape Fear from 36 to 40 Saw mills, each with two Saws, and upon an honest Medium, each Mill saws two hundred Thousand feet of Timber. They could do a thousand more but most of them in the Summer Months are obliged to lay Still for want of Water. This Article would make a fine remittance to Great Britain if a Bounty was allowed on the importation. The Pine (as M<sup>r</sup> Hawks<sup>9</sup> the Master Builder I took over with me from England, and who is a very able Worthy man) says is Vastly Superior to the Norway the Norway [sic] Pine, for the Decking of Ships, as it is more Solid and filled with Turpentine which makes it very durable. He is Positive that a Ship's Deck laid of the yellow Pine of this Province will last at least as long as two decks of the Norway Pine. The Shingles made for Exportation are made of Cypress, and are Sold the best at 9<sup>s</sup> Sterling per Thousand. I shall now say no more at present of the Produce of this County Its Naval Stores &c. but return to some private occurrences of my own family. As to Health M<sup>rs</sup> Tryon and the little girl have enjoyed a very happy share of it. As to Myself I cannot say so much, having been sharply disciplined with a Billeous disorder in my Stomach and Eruptions of the Rash kind, on my Legs, this I got over the latter end of April last. About a Month since I had a return tho' not so Violent, a Strong Emetic was administered which handled me very Severely, however it effected the cure, and I have Supported the heats very well since. The Thermometer (made by Adams)<sup>10</sup> was in June in a Cool passage at 88°-0' at the highest, and this Month it has been from 79 to 87°-0'. The day after my last letter of June to L<sup>d</sup> H the glass in twenty hours sunk from 87°-0' to 71°-30'. Which great change caused much Sickness in in [sic] the Province. If I was to Muster my family I should not be able to return many fit for Duty. The Lad we took from Norfolk, a sailor I have made my groom and a little French boy I got here, is all the Male Servants, well, Le Blanc, Cuisinier; & Turner, the Farmer, have both fevers and are taking the bark.<sup>11</sup> Georges Senses just returned with some favorable Symptoms and lastly the girl we took from my Farm has been so ill that she has done an hours work these two months. I sent her last week to a Plantation on the Sea Side, for a change of Scene, and air, She is getting



the Crown to the Governor so that the Province gives the Gov<sup>r</sup> 400£ per Ann: Which he is obliged to Collect from at least forty or fifty different hands, in which Number there must be some deficiencies. The County Clerks account with the Gov<sup>r</sup> for most of these Fees. I do not see, or believe the Province in a Situation capable of adding any considerable addition to the Fees, and I am persuaded, their inclination is as slack as their ability is weak for such a step. Therefore, the Gov<sup>r</sup> of this Province must live in a Mean and shabby Manner, if it was not for the Salary allowed from home to him. I hope you and my friends have been very busy in procuring My Commission as Governor, passing the Offices<sup>14</sup> as soon as possible. I was determined you see when I took pen in hand to say what I might have subdivided into Six letters. I have from the heat of the Weather found myself in such a State of Indolence, that I have been perpetually moving from one room to the other, tho' motion makes us hotter, and never able to settle to reading or any business. I have wrote this long letter yesterday Evening and this Morning. I was up at 4 o'clock. We ride most days, Morning or Evening. Mrs Tryon has two horses which carry her very safely.

Say Every thing for me to Lord Halifax & L<sup>d</sup> Hillsborough that is proper and grateful; particularly make my very affectionate Compts to L<sup>d</sup> Hyde. Communicate some contents to him of this book. He knows he is my Sheet Anchor.<sup>15</sup> I expect ample amends for the trouble I give you to read this Manuscript. I think you promised to send me the Monthly Gazetes,<sup>16</sup> I have received none. Pray remember us all to every body that inquires after us. I have received a handsome cheerful letter from My friend Hotham<sup>17</sup> and also from Leland<sup>18</sup> both whom I regard. I shall be most happy if in your next letter you tell me you have recovered your appetite and in better health; a Circumstance I am very Solicitous about. Mrs Tryon joins with me very Sincerely in our wishes for your health &c.

I am D<sup>r</sup> S<sup>r</sup>

Most Cordially yours,

W Tryon

<sup>1</sup>Sewallis Shirley (1709-1765) was the fourteenth son of the first Earl Ferrers and brother of Tryon's mother, the former Lady Mary Shirley. Shirley was a member of Parliament, 1742-1761, and Comptroller of the Household to Queen Charlotte. He died on October 1, probably shortly after receiving this letter from his nephew. See also Tryon's letter to [Sir Henry Clinton], September 12, 1758, n.5, in this volume. Arnett, *From England to North Carolina*, 41.

<sup>2</sup>See William Tryon to Sir Henry Clinton, September 12, 1758, n.7, in this volume.

<sup>3</sup>In all likelihood, this was a figure of speech meaning "special interest."

<sup>4</sup>Mount Gallant is located on the northeast side of the Roanoke River, approximately twenty miles northwest of modern Halifax, according to *An Accurate Map of North and South Carolina* by Henry Mouzon, published in London in 1775.

<sup>5</sup>Dobbs's house was the former residence of Captain John Russell; the fifty-five-acre tract on which it was located adjoined the northern boundary of the town of Brunswick and was called Russellborough. Dobbs had occupied the house since 1758. A discussion of the house and its history can be found in "Russellborough: Two Royal Governors' Mansions at Brunswick Town" by Stanley A. South in the *North Carolina Historical Review*, XLIV (Autumn, 1967), 360-372.

<sup>6</sup>An inventory of Tryon's furniture which was lost when fire destroyed his home in New York on December 29, 1773, appeared in *New York History*, XXVI (July, 1954), 300-309. Undoubtedly most, if not all, of this furniture had been brought to North Carolina in 1764.

<sup>7</sup>Margaret Tryon (1761-1791).

<sup>8</sup>Tryon did not finally purchase Russellborough from Capt. Edward Brice Dobbs, the late governor's son, until February 2, 1767.

<sup>9</sup>John Hawks (1731-1790), a native of Lincolnshire, England, accompanied Tryon to North Carolina in 1764 and was the architect, contractor, and accountant for Tryon Palace, constructed between 1767 and 1770 in New Bern. In addition to his official services as architect for the palace, Hawks was responsible for private buildings. Tryon appointed him collector of customs at Beaufort, and he held other minor posts. After the Revolution he was a justice of the peace, a district auditor—later, first state auditor—and a member of the Council of State. *Concise Dictionary of American Biography* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1964), 415.

<sup>10</sup>George Adams was mathematical instrument maker to George III.

<sup>11</sup>Bark of the cinchona tree, from which quinine is procured, was formerly ground into a powder and taken as a febrifuge.

<sup>12</sup>The governor, sitting in council with at least five members present, could act as a court of chancery to hear and decide all cases in equity.

<sup>13</sup>A 1741 law regulating the issuance of marriage licenses was in force at this time. The governor's fee for each license amounted to twenty shillings.

<sup>14</sup>There were four methods of appointing colonial officials, and all required that certain documents be recorded in one or more offices in England. Tryon's term, "passing the offices," refers to this action.

<sup>15</sup>"That on which one places one's reliance when everything else has failed." A sheet-anchor was always the largest of a ship's anchors and was used only in an emergency. *Oxford English Dictionary* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 12 vols., 1933), IX, 670.

<sup>16</sup>Tryon probably was referring to such popular monthly publications as the *Gentleman's Magazine*, the *London Magazine*, *Monthly Review*, and others of the same sort.

<sup>17</sup>This perhaps is Beaumont Hotham (1737-1814), a member of the bar then practicing in the chancery courts.

<sup>18</sup>Leland has not been identified.