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## Memorable Reunions



### *They 'Shirley' Had Some Fun*

WHEN Betty Shirley began tracing her husband's family history back in 1978, little did she dream that her search would take her to England!

"I asked my husband what he knew of his grandparents, and he said he knew only his grandfather's name," Betty says. "His grandfather had died before my husband was even born."

Betty's curiosity was piqued, so she began to trace his roots. "I didn't think it would be a big task," she says, "because I thought a last name of Shirley was very unusual."

Betty laughs now, because she was soon to find there are over 12,000 households in America with that last name!

"I learned the Shirleys came from England, and were some of the earliest arrivals in the New World," Betty says. "In fact, the treasurer of the company that financed the May-

flower was named James Shirley. And Governor William Shirley of Massachusetts gave George Washington command of the Virginia forces in the mid-1700s."

Betty's investigations led her to the original seat of the Shirley family in England. It is a castle at Ettington, about 6 miles from Stratford-upon-Avon—the birthplace of Shakespeare.

Betty led over 100 Shirley descendants to that castle in 1986 for a resounding reunion. Together, Shirleys from the Old World and the New celebrated the 900th anniversary of continual ownership of Shirley Manor at Ettington!

Major John Shirley, the 33rd Lord of the Manor, hosted the reunion at his castle. In attendance was not only a Queen's representative, but the mayor of Stratford-upon-Avon.

"Bringing the family together was a very rewarding experience," Betty says. "I never dreamed one simple question to my husband would eventually lead me to another continent!"

**This article appeared in the July/August 1992 issue of  
REMINISCE MAGAZINE**

*[See Editors comment at the bottom of page 2].*



## SHIRLEY FAMILY OF MIDDLESEX ENGLAND CAME TO AMERICA

The Thatcher's were English as far back as I know. Giles, my grandmother's father, had a farm outside of London. As his children reached maturity, the economic situation in England forced them to migrate to the U.S. When Giles died, his wife Elizabeth Stanley Thatcher, followed their children to America. She made her home with my Grandmother Shirley and died when my Father was still quite young. All I know of Elizabeth Stanley's family is that they were related to the Lord Stanley. Mention was also made of a connection with Henry Stanley who went to Africa in search of Dr. David Livingstone.

Giles Thatcher was born in 1803 in Smallbury England, where he met Elizabeth Stanley. They were married in Smallbury in 1842. Their daughter Elizabeth married Thomas Shirley in Isleworth England September 14, 1874. They had two children: Alice Julia born 1875 and died 1893, and Charles Frederick James born November 14, 1877 in London and died 1966.

When Alice was 5 and Charles 3, the Shirley's moved to America (1880). I know little of the Thomas Shirley family, except that he had a sister, Sarah, who remained in England, and at least one brother, George. George followed Thomas to New York but did not remain there long, he was caught up in the gold rush fever in the western U.S. and Alaska. Eventually, he went on to Australia, and that was the last they heard of him. Sarah, however, kept in touch with Charles and Elizabeth until World War I. She had a son, or sons, in that war. She had a daughter but since the war no word was heard of them.

I know that my Grandmother prized a parchment on which was engraved a coat-of-arms and the legend "Shirley, Earl Leicester."

When Thomas and Elizabeth Shirley first came to this country they lived in lower Manhattan, in Greenwich Village. A few years later they moved to E 47th street, near the corner of Lexington Avenue. Charles attended the 51st School. Charles's sister, Alice, died in that house.

To fill the emptiness that Alice left behind, Thomas and Elizabeth too in the daughter of friends to live with them. She was Nellie Elizabeth Moss. soon after her arrival at the Shirley's, her father died, and the Shirleys became her legal guardians. Nellie, age 21, married Charles Shirley on November 21, 1906 in New York City.

PLEASE LET ME KNOW HOW THIS INFO HELPS, IF IT DOES, IN RESEARCHING THE SHIRLEYS. I WOULD THINK IT WONDERFUL TO FIND MY RELATIVES AMONGST THE SMILING FACES I SAW IN REMINISCE MAGAZINE.

[July/August 1992 issue of Reminisce].

Nancy Sherwin  
Gulf Breeze, Florida

*(Family story written by Alice, mother of Nancy Sherwin).*

*FROM YOUR EDITOR: I was pleasantly surprised at the number of people who wrote to Reminisce Magazine when they read about the Shirleys and the trip to England. The magazine chose to rewrite what I sent and to focus on me. This is not how I presented it. I was disappointed they did not mention the fact that there is a Shirley Association. But I am pleased they chose to run a story about us. We have heard from Shirley descendants who are not involved in Genealogy. They have become interested to learn about us and if we know anything about their families. This letter is just one of those and it illustrates the reason why we try for publicity from time to time. It can attract the attention of Shirleys who have never researched Shirleys, but they have material on their families that can be useful to us and to some of you. In many cases we do know about their Shirleys.*



## UPDATES ON PREVIOUS ARTICLES APPEARING IN NEWS

**Update:** See cover page of April 1981 NEWS... EDMUND SHIRLEY HOUSE born Jan 3, 1840. His parents were Henry House and Kitty SHIRLEY. We asked for help in identifying the family of Shirleys Kitty was from. No one responded to this ad.

April 5, 1993 a letter came addressed to me:

Dear Betty Shirley

Enclosed find a check as I wish to rejoin the Shirley Association. I belonged about four years ago, but I went back to work and had to give up my family search.

My Cousin, Shirley Vranes, sent me a copy of your letter to her telling her your "Educated guess" about our Great Grandmother, Kitty Shirley HOUSE.

I went to my nearest L.D.S. Library the very next day and sure enough the second page of the 1850 Van Zandt Texas census I found Kitty House! I couldn't sleep that night, I was so excited. We knew Great Grandfather lived in Texas but we didn't know what county. Also his obituary mentioned that there were four sisters but they didn't come to California with the family. Shirley and I have been searching for so long. We didn't think we would ever in a million years find out. Thank you! Thank you!

Now, I have a question to ask you; how did you find out about Thomas Shirley? Is there any other branch of his family researching Thomas? If so, could you put me in touch with them?

I have been very fortunate in writing letters but I haven't had a clue from the Shirley and House prior to the family's coming to California.

I belong to the Native Daughters of the Golden West and I'm anxious to put Kitty Shirley House in their Pioneer Roster. That Roster contains the names of pioneer's that came to California prior to 1870. I have names of seven other members of my family that were in California before 1860.

Well Betty, I want to thank you again for your help and I hope you can put me in touch with others researching my common ancestor.

Sincerely, Margaret Evelyn  
Sun City, California

**Update:** See... page 8, Fall 1992 NEWS...MIKE SHIRLEY  
page 10, Winter 1992-93 NEWS...EDGAR JANNEY SHIRLEY

*Mrs. Granville Shirley sent the following response to these articles in May 1993. She was in contact with Edgar Janney Shirleys' half sister who provided her with the following genealogy of their family. (I added the approximate year of birth for Daniel, and he belongs to the Morgan County VA. Shirleys).*

Daniel Shirley b. ca. 1811 and his wife Mary had a son Christopher who was the father of Edgar Dean Shirley who was the father of EDGAR JANNEY SHIRLEY and Lester Shirley. MIKE SHIRLEY is the son of Lester.

### NOTICE:

Mrs Granville Shirley (Donna Lee) passed away in June 1993, just a few weeks after sending this material. Granville and Donna had been faithful members of the Shirley Association for years and were on our 1986 trip to England and our 1987 trip to Boston Massachusetts. Granville passed away May 1988.



# New Faces

## CONFEDERATE RAILROAD FOLLOWS THE RIGHT TRACK

Although they growl like tigers and look about as tough, the members of Confederate Railroad seem as gentle as kittens when founding member Danny Shirley talks about the group and his past. Under the leather, these boys harbor deep-seated emotion, and, says Danny, family is top priority.

In fact, it was the close relationship shared by Danny and his dad that inspired him to follow his heart in music. His dad dreamed of building houses but didn't because doing so meant giving up a regular paycheck and benefits. "He probably didn't realize he mentioned it as much as he did," says Danny, "but I knew his heart was in construction. He would have followed his heart if he could have lived his life over again."

Although Danny has been performing since 1976, Confederate Railroad was formed in 1981 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Last year, their first major-label, self-titled album brought national attention to the group, which consists of Danny, Mark DuFresne, Wayne Secrest, Chris McDaniel, Michael Lamb and Gates Nichols. Although the tough-guy image is "who we are," says Danny, he doesn't want it to be misunderstood. "We aren't saintly by any means, but I don't want people to think of us as bad."

Regardless, they aren't interested in changing to stay with the trends. Danny laughs as he talks about yuppies who dis-



**Confederate Railroad:**  
(from left)  
Wayne Secrest,  
Mark DuFresne,  
Danny Shirley,  
Michael Lamb, Chris McDaniel and Gates Nichols.

cover Harley-Davidsons and act as though they've unearthed something new. "We were riding Harley-Davidsons when those people used to steal across the street to get away from people who looked like us," he says.

"Seriously, though, we've never been a showy band. Never felt that we needed fluff and fog or shiny clothing. What we are is real. What you see is what we are when we rise, and it's what we are when we hit the sack."

Write: Confederate Railroad Fan Club, P.O. Box 1325, Hixson, TN 37343.



**MR & MRS. PAUL SHIRLEY, JEMIMA SHIRLEY (on right)**

*These nice people took me around to visit SHIRLEY related cemeteries, churches, etc., in Marion County Tennessee. This branch of the Shirleys can be found in the April/May 1983 NEWS, page 7. Paul is the uncle of DANNY SHIRLEY. Their branch begins with John Shirley, father of Jesse b. March 18, 1808 White County TN. He was the father of Francis Marion b. July 23, 1846 Marion Co. TN. He was the father of John Heber Shirley b. May 24, 1895 Marion Co. TN. who is the father of Paul Shirley. [Above Clipping from Aug. 1993 COUNTRY MAGAZINE, sent by Alan Lamb].*



# Confederate Railroad

By Jim Ruth  
Entertainment Writer

Winning the Academy of Country Music's best new group award recently was especially sweet for Chattanooga native Danny Shirley and his band Confederate Railroad. A writer for a national newspaper had predicted the group would lose — and deserved to.

## Chattanooga Danny Shirley and his band were named best new group at the Academy of Country Music Awards

"Everytime USA Today has something out about us it's wrong, and they don't like us anyway," Shirley said in a phone interview. "Their music editor listed us as one of the 10 worst albums of the year, and we went gold. When USA Today said we would lose, I felt pretty good about it.

"It was gonna be real close. Little Texas has been out a little longer than us and had more records, but we had bigger records and sold more.

"I spent most of my life watching these award shows and dreaming about it," said the 36-year-old singer. "The feeling of walking on that awards stage, you pretty much go a blur. It must be something like jumping out of a plane. From the time they started the whole category everything got real fuzzy, and I'm now just getting a grasp on things. I'd say next to my boy being born, that was my most exciting thing ever."

Shirley was accompanied to Los Angeles by his third wife Kathryn, the band's crew and the other five musicians, three of which have homes in this area: drummer Mark DuFresne in Hixson, keyboardist

Chris McDaniel in Rossville, and lead guitarist Mike Lamb in Red Bank. Bass player Wayne Secrest and steel guitarist Gates Nichols live in Atlanta.

"I figure we dropped 20 grand and it was worth every bit. I'll more than make back the money I dropped," said Shirley, adding that the phones were ringing at his record label and booking agency the day after the May 11 awards show.

Seventy-five members of the band's Chattanooga fan club welcomed the group home at the Nashville airport. Last Sunday Confederate Railroad hit the road again for 15 shows in 16 days. The band played 27 shows in the month of April.

"We've been on the road 10 years. We've always toured a lot, just not getting the rewards we are now," Shirley said.

Confederate Railroad has sold a half million copies of their self-titled debut album on the strong showing of the hits "She Took It Like a Man" (with a video starring Atlanta Falcons Coach Jerry Glanville), "Jesus and Mama" and "Queen of Memphis," the latter two which topped the charts. The group's newest single is "When You Leave That Way You Can

Never Go Back."

Some people might call it red-neck rock. It's definitely more brash and raucous than you'll hear from hat singers such as Clint Black and Alan Jackson. Confederate Railroad is closer in spirit to Waylon Jennings, Hank Williams Jr. and Lynyrd Skynyrd, and has been since 1981, when Shirley started what was long known as the Crossroads Band.

"We've been doing this type of music 10 years and within the last couple of years it's become what Nashville wanted," said the singer, who lives in Kennesaw, Ga.

"I'm still like, 'Am I gonna wake up today and it's gonna be over?'" he said. "You don't know how long it's gonna last."

"Confederate Railroad" is actually the group's fourth album. The first three were released during the mid-1980s on the Lookout Mountain-based Amor label, and Shirley said the band counted members of the Allman Brothers Band and Lynyrd Skynyrd as fans. The Danny Shirley Band became stars at Miss Kitty's country club in Atlanta, but the music was too rocking and their image too outlaw for the country establishment. Years working with country outlaws David Allen Coe and Johnny

Paycheck did nothing to improve Nashville's opinion of him. On the other hand, bikers loved him.

In 1991 Shirley signed a solo deal with Atlantic Records, and recorded the "Confederate Railroad" album with session musicians. The decision was made later to market the act as a band rather than yet another solo male artist.

Shirley said the group's next album is nearly completed. It will include a couple more ballads than the last record because of the successes of "Jesus and Mama" and "When You Leave That Way," but don't look for too many love songs. Shirley prefers humor and good times.

"It's a pretty good mix of the same fun attitude and lightheartedness of the first album and a little more substance," said Shirley. "Southern rock was a big influence of ours. We've been floating back and forth between the George Jones and the Skynyrd tours.

"Anytime you go from 'Jesus and Mama' to 'Trashy Women,' it's pretty diverse."

Confederate Railroad's next performance in this area will be a benefit concert for the Dunlap Fire Department on Sunday, June 13, in Dunlap.

### SHIRLEY ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

**USA: \$20 Annually**  
**United Kingdom: 12 pounds**  
**Outside USA: \$22 US funds**

*Membership is open to anyone with a Shirley ancestor who lived anywhere in the world at anytime.*

*As a member, you will receive 4 issues of the SHIRLEY NEWS, quarterly.*

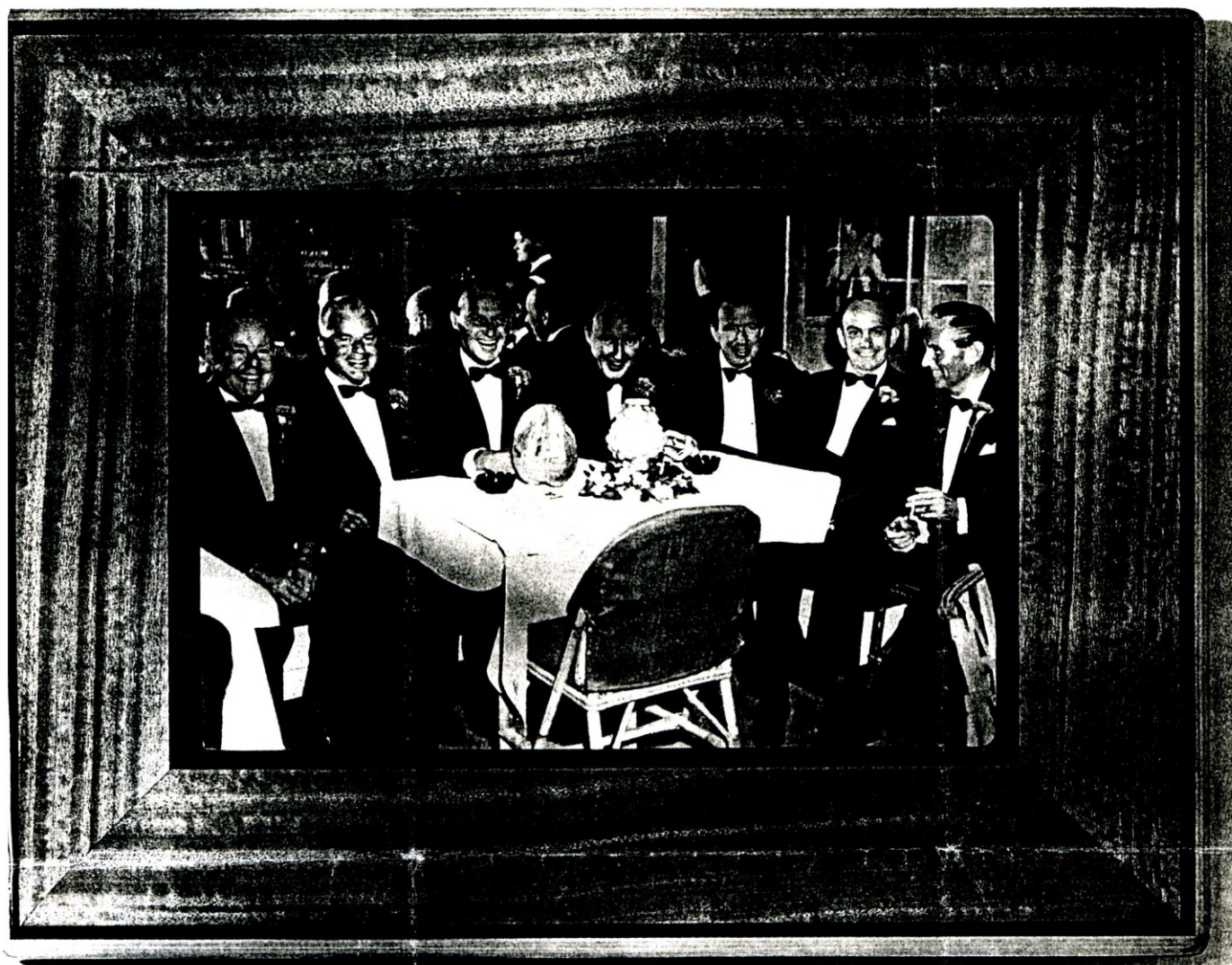
*Please send information about your earliest known SHIRLEY ancestor, such as, NAME, COUNTY & STATE OF BIRTH OR RESIDENCE & APPROXIMATE DATES, SPOUSE NAME.*

*When your group has been identified, you may request the names of other members who descend from the same branch.*

*Please make checks payable to:*

SHIRLEY ASSOCIATION  
10256 GLENCOE DR.  
CUPERTINO, CA 95014





DAN WILBY

# THE DECEMBER CHRONICLE

## A LOVELY BUNCH OF COCONUTS

In Palm Beach, the most coveted of all New Year's invitations comes from a 'nut. A Coconut, that is—one of the twenty-four prominent men who carry on a tradition that began in 1935. The Coconuts got rolling back then when a group of oft-entertained bachelors put their heads together to come up with a way to repay the hospitality extended to them by the island's hostesses during the year. Today, although only six of the group's members remain bachelors, they "still like to repay the hostesses," according to Guilford Dudley Jr., the head Coconut and former ambassador to

Denmark. And the party, an after-dinner dance held at The Breakers, is still on the boys. Those receiving the creamy beige envelope around Thanksgiving can look forward to a serene, old-time evening from which the high jinks that mark Palm Beach's other prime New Year's bash—the Young Friends of Red Cross New Year's Eve gala at the Henry M. Flagler Museum—are blissfully absent. To celebrate this vintage event, a photograph, above, from its dashing past: from left to right, Walter Shirley, Beverley Bogert, Tommy Shevlin, Ned McLean, Jock McLean, a mysterious gentleman and Guilford Dudley Jr.

*Compiled by Victoria S. Pace*

**From: TOWN & COUNTRY MAGAZINE December 1992**  
 Sent by: Frances Scruby **WHO IS THIS WALTER SHIRLEY?**



# City of Whistle-Blowers, But One Stands Alone

## Shirley Officiates Leagues Now, Not Games

By Ken Denlinger  
Washington Post Staff Writer

There is a dramatic difference between getting older and being ancient, between being experienced and being out of touch—and J. Dallas Shirley would like to make that clear right from the get-go.

So what if Shirley was 48 the year the Bullets were born, as the Chicago Packers in 1961. That doesn't bother him. Neither does this: He was an alum of two years when, in 1937, George Washington University welcomed cocksure freshman Red Auerbach.

What *does* irritate Shirley are sharply pointed needles such as: "What was it like to referee that first basketball game, under Naismith, back there in 1892?" Or: "You ever get paid in Confederate money for blowin' that whistle?"

"That's when I call a technical foul on 'em," he says, using a favored expression that also indicates the source of his fame. Shirley was a referee, though hardly the first one. He was just warming his whistle about the time basketball inventor James Naismith died in 1939.

Shirley turns 80 today. As a concession, he's trimmed his work schedule over the years a bit—to five part-time jobs, the most public being commissioner of the newly formed Mid-Atlantic Catholic Athletic Conference.

The 12-team high school league is the equal-opportunity extension of one that revolved around DeMatha and St. John's and now includes teams for girls. When it was the Washington Metropolitan Athletic Conference, Shirley served as commissioner for 16 years.

"When I was interviewed" about staying on with the new league, he said the other day, "they asked me how long would I be interested?" Here he pointed a finger skyward and repeated his reply: "Ask the man upstairs."

Shirley and half the athletes he'll be leading are united by issues new and central to sport: age and gender. The old man is getting a chance to prove his mettle in uncharted territory, with a part-time job that seems to require twice as much work; the teenage girls are on equal footing in areas once emphatically denied to them.

A younger man, Bill Kyle, former co-supervisor of Montgomery County athletics, was considered a strong candidate. However, a heart attack shortly before the election forced him to withdraw. So the

octogenarian who also works with GW and evaluates officials for a couple of college conferences was able to keep his activity plate full.

"I thought he might have problems convincing people he didn't know that someone 80 could handle the job," said St. John's Athletic Director John Ricca. "He convinced 'em. He's still very sharp, has a nice sense of humor."

The athletic director at Elizabeth Seton, Ginny Pontious, has also been favorably impressed. "He responded very positively to our concerns about his being able to put as much energy into the female programs," she said. "We'll wait and see, but so far the communication process has been very good. Letters are answered quickly. Agendas are bounced right back. When we hired a new basketball coach, he immediately sent a letter of congratulations."

"He has such a good attitude. He doesn't pretend he's not old, but I don't think it stops him either. We did our homework and were very impressed with his background."

### Not Very Retiring

Shirley had a long and respected career as an educator in the District's school system, the final 25 as principal of Gordon Junior High. It was his part-time work, as a referee, that brought him immense recognition within a sport that has changed more than any other in his lifetime.

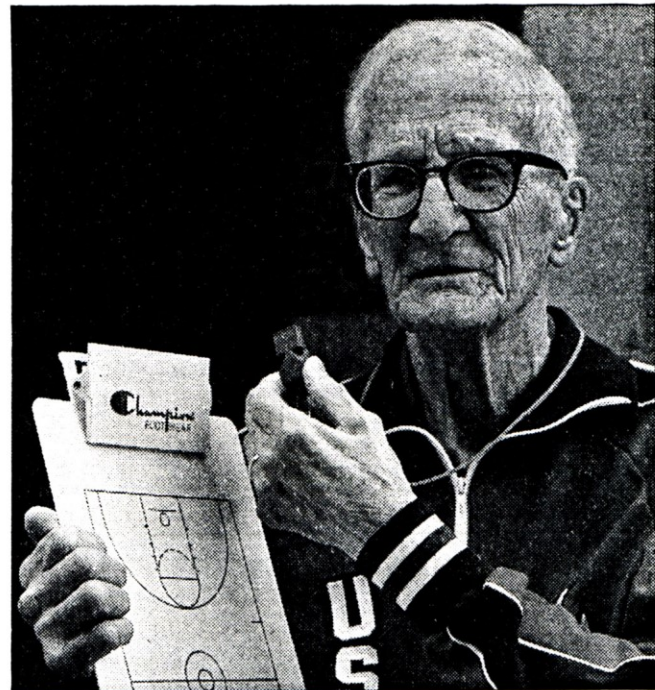
In 33 years, he officiated more than 2,000 games. From local affairs in tiny gyms to the National Collegiate Athletic Association and National Invitation Tournament championships. From the Puerto Rican summer leagues to the Rome Olympics in 1960.

That is mainly why basketball elected him to its Hall of Fame 13 years ago and the walls of the basement office in his Reston home cannot possibly hold another award.

"The game has given me so much," he said. "My education. My wife. Extra money. The chance to stay in good shape. And something I like to do."

In return, Shirley during his alleged retirement keeps giving to basketball in quiet ways. With the Hall of Fame, he is a trustee and chairman of the veteran's committee.

He also raises significant amounts of money for the Hall of Fame. One of them is through sales of a cookbook—edited by his wife,



Hall of Fame referee J. Dallas Shirley, 80, keeps hand in as commissioner.

Peggy—filled with recipes by inductees and their wives. (For John Havlicek's fettuccine, see Page 36b.)

Shirley is a stickler. Also blunt and opinionated. That became evident to DeMatha Coach Morgan Wooten long before he won the first of his 1,000-plus basketball games.

"When I was with the jayvee at St. John's," he said, "I wanted to be an official—and I was considered one of the bright young prospects. One of the games I worked, Dallas observed."

"About three days later, he sent me a two-page typewritten critique. The first paragraph was how well I'd done. The next page and a half was what I did wrong. I later realized he did the same thing to an official who had worked the Final Four."

Shirley has been a traditionalist not bound by inflexible dogma. As a member of the rules committee, Shirley helped establish the three-point shot in college basketball. He would like the three-second lane widened "to decrease the bedlam under the basket. It's really bad now and getting worse."

### Lots of Whistle-Stops

Basketball literally has taken flight during Shirley's love affair with it. In the 1930s, he was quite a tall (6 feet) guard who shot in the fashion of the times—flatfooted and with two hands. Also, there was a center jump after each field goal. And only four fouls per player.

Shirley was an official during the National Basketball Association's first season, 1946-47, and stayed

for another couple of years. Faced with an either-or decision, he chose the colleges over the pros.

To young officials at the camps he runs, Shirley says: "Watch the NBA game. Enjoy it. Greatest skills in the world. But. Don't look at the referees. Not that they're not good. It's just that their rules are so different. Steps. Contact. All that kind of stuff."

The highlight of his officiating career was the 1960 Rome Olympics. And the most memorable game he worked was Brazil nearly beating the Soviet Union. After that 64-62 loss, the Brazil coach threw the ball at Shirley, who caught it and later donated it to the Hall of Fame.

Appropriately, Shirley in 1979 was inducted into the Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass., with three players from that U.S. team: Oscar Robertson, Jerry West and Jerry Lucas. The coach, Pete Newell, had been voted in the year before.

As a former official, Shirley said: "Every change in the rules has been for the better. The game is in good shape." As a former educator, Shirley worries that the athletic tail too often wags the academic dog. It's an attitude especially helpful along his latest new trail.

He smiles, unable to resist a story from his whistle-totin' days a person has to visualize to fully appreciate. After one game, a rather dignified woman approached him and asked his name. Politely, he told her—and then spelled it: J. (for James) Dallas Shirley.

"Exactly as I thought," she said. "Only one I"—as in eye.

From: THE WASHINGTON POST (Washington D.C.) June 7, 1993

Sent by: Shirley Mc Donald

[Can someone please contact him about his Shirleys and report back to your editor?]





Despite the predictably busy weekday morning and the typically overcrowded waiting room, Dr. Aaron Shirley slows down when it comes to his young patients.

"Breathe in, and hold your breath," the pediatrician gently instructs Lanndis Swanigan, 5, who has come to the Jackson-Hinds Comprehensive Health Center for a routine checkup. Lanndis's father, John, waits with Johnathan, 19 months. Though both boys have occasional colds and ear infections, they are healthy—and up-to-date with their immunizations.

Dr. Shirley is justifiably proud of that fact, along with the center's record with other area children. Since he helped found this Jackson, Mississippi, clinic in 1970, Hinds County has immunized (and also screened children for anemia) at a much higher rate than similar communities in the South. And he is likewise proud that, due to the clinic's effort, the drop-out rate for school-age mothers has decreased from 50% to 9%.

In physical facilities, scope of operations, and community influence, the clinic has come a long way in 23 years. And the progress has been due in large measure to the work of Dr. Shirley, who was the first black resident at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Medicine, however, wasn't his initial career choice. "Growing up, I wanted to be an engineer," the 60-year-old pediatrician confesses. "But my sister, who was a nurse, always told me I was going to be a doctor." Because of scholarships for physicians, Shirley followed her into medicine.

When he completed his training, Dr. Shirley set up a private practice in Jackson. "And I spent two days a week at the Mound Bayou health center in the Mississippi Delta. I was the only black pediatrician in the state then. I was working 7½ days a week—or it felt like it. Some nights we had clients till 10 or 11 p.m."

Though the hours and the pace were daunting, Dr. Shirley learned that such a clinic, which was a federally funded project administered by Tufts University, could make a major impact. In 1969, he decided a similar comprehensive approach could work in Jackson and in Hinds County. After hearings (by the American Public Health Association in Mound Bayou and Jackson) and grant applications, the federal Office of Economic Opportunity approved a \$1.2 million grant for the not-for-profit clinic.

With those funds, Aaron and a small staff set up a clinic in Utica, a small town in the western part of the county, and a larger clinic in the Sunday school classrooms of a Jackson church. "We had to take everything down Friday and then reassemble after church Sunday," the doctor recalls. "We did that for over a year until we had our first building in Jackson." At the same time, the clinic purchased a bus to carry health care to isolated rural residents.

Today, the bus has been retired, but 10 doctors and a staff of 142 nurses, technicians, and support personnel man the 12,000-square-foot medical facility. And with an annual budget of \$5.5 million, the clinic serves some 45,000 patients yearly.

About 65% of the clinic's operating money comes through the U.S. Public Health Service, and the other 35% is generated by Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance, and patient fees. To handle the growing patient load, Dr. Shirley is currently writing grant applications for funds to add another 6,000 square feet of waiting and examining rooms and laboratories.

Though patching together such a combination of funding hasn't been easy, the director says it has led to two major achievements: broad-based community support and quality medical and dental care. And the clinic has improved access, staying open to 10 p.m. and offering dental care on Saturday.

When he became director of the clinic, Dr. Shirley did see his own patients there, but basically, he gave up

the financial rewards of private practice. His personal office, with painted concrete block walls and a metal desk, is as utilitarian as the clinic. "I know I could have made a lot more money, but I have no regrets," he says. "I'd do it all again and do everything practically the same way."

Obviously, satisfaction has come in other ways, including meeting community needs. The clinic has revamped its maternity care with a screening program that divides low-risk and high-risk patients. To contain costs and serve more women, certified nurse midwives provide prenatal care to low-risk patients and handle deliveries in an auxiliary, free-standing birth center, which opened last February. Pregnant women with risk factors benefit from a special needs program of home visits, education, and counseling. Plus, the clinic arranges for hospital deliveries at one public and two private hospitals.

The clinic also provides school-based programs to counsel students about drugs, violence, and the risk of AIDS. In addition to medical care and health education, the staff also gives children and teens the nurturing many lack. "They see one of us, and they keep coming back for the attention they may not get at home," Aaron observes. "They're looking for somebody to care."

The success of the program has prompted the current surgeon general's office to use the Jackson center as a model program. Such recognition of the clinic's success is expanding Dr. Shirley's national influence. In March and April he took a two-month leave of absence to serve on President Clinton's health care reform task force. "I worked on the committee dealing with the underserved population," he explains.

The appointment was a natural choice, say his friends and colleagues. "He has been a real force for improving health care for underprivileged children and improving health care access for those children and for pregnant women," says Dr. Blair Batson, chairman emeritus of the University of Mississippi department of pediatrics.

Dr. Norman C. Nelson agrees. "Dr. Shirley has made an enormous difference in the lives of many people of our state," notes the university's vice chancellor for health affairs. "He's devoted his entire professional career to helping those with limited resources. I'm proud of him as a Mississippian, and I'm proud of what he has been able to do." ◇

From: CHATTANOOGA TIMES  
June 15, 1993  
Sent by: JEMIMA SHIRLEY



## WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BLACK SHIRLEYS?

*This question was asked in a letter from Dennis Shirley, an educational historian. He descends from Kentucky Shirleys and says his father and uncle have both told him about miscegenation in the family. In 1930 the WPA interviewed ex-slaves. The following story is taken from those records and sent by Dennis.*

### MONROE COUNTY KENTUCKY

I am 97 years old [born about 1833] and my name is Uncle Edd Shirley and I am still working as janitor and support my family.

My father was a white man and my mother was a colored lady.

I was owned three different times, or rather was sold to three different families. I was first owned by the Waldens, then I was sold to a man by the name of Jackson, of Glasgow, Kentucky. Then my father, of this county, bought me.

Edd goes on in the article to describe the treatment of slaves he witnessed in his lifetime. He said his colored grandfather lived to be 115 years old.

### JAMES SHIRLEY THE ENGLISH DRAMATIST

James Shirley, an English dramatist came to Ireland about 1636 under the patronage of the sixteenth Earl of Kildare. He wrote a tragedy entitled SAINT PATRICK FOR IRELAND which was performed at the theater in Weburgh Street, Dublin, during 1639 and is generally considered to be the first truly Anglo-Irish drama.

*Article sent by: Thomas R. Crowley  
Akron, Ohio*

### THE SHIRLEY & WATSON FAMILIES OF ALABAMA & ARKANSAS

Levi Watson, Sr. was born in North Carolina and died Feb. 1862 in Lawrence County Arkansas. He and his wife, Jane, had 11 children. Their daughter, Mary, married a Shirley as did their son, Levi Watson, Jr.

Levi Jr. born 1838 in Alabama, married Elizabeth Ann Shirley. They married Sept. 23, 1858 Jefferson Twp. Independence County Arkansas. Levi served in the Confederate Army. They were the parents of 9 children.

James Madison Watson, son of Levi and Elizabeth Watson, and family all came from Tuckerman, Arkansas to Lebanon, Oklahoma in 1916 on the train. They shipped everything they had in rented boxcars... Horses, wagon, farming tools and household goods.

*Sent by: Minnie Lou Whittington  
Grandfield, Oklahoma*

*From editor: I looked thru my records to see what family of Shirleys Elizabeth belongs. She appears to be the daughter of Aaron Shirley born about 1804 South Carolina. He is living in the 1850 census of Independence County Arkansas and has a daughter Elizabeth born about the same year as Elizabeth. Aaron Shirley was the son of James Shirley born about 1778 Virginia. This family of Shirleys lived in St. Clair County Alabama before coming to Arkansas.*



## 1993 NATIONAL SHIRLEY CONVENTION, ST. LOUIS MISSOURI



### **CHUCK SHIRLEY, CAPT. JOHN & EVELYN SHIRLEY**

*From your editor...I met Chuck last year at our Shirley meeting in Washington and put him in touch with Capt John as they descend from the same branch of Shirleys. It was my pleasure to introduce them to one another at the St. Louis Shirley Convention.*



### **Front table: JACK SHIRLEY, NEWLIN SHIRLEY & CHARLES PATTEN**

*I also met Jack Shirley at our Washington Shirley meeting last year and put him in touch with Newlin. Jack went to Alabama to meet Newlin and again at the St. Louis Shirley Convention. Charles heard of the us when he stopped in Honea Path South Carolina in 1991. He was put in contact with Dot & Julian Ricketts who told them about the Shirley Association.*



## REPORT ON MY SUMMER RESEARCH AND SHIRLEY CONVENTION TRIP!

Barbara, my niece, and I departed from San Jose California on Tuesday June 8<sup>th</sup>. We arrived that afternoon in Kansas City MO and drove directly to the Smith cemetery in Mandeville, Carroll County Missouri.

Before I left home, I found a Shirley living in the area. I called him and by coincidence, he was the trustee of this cemetery. He and his wife met us on the country road and lead us to the Smith cemetery.

The weather was threatening! It felt like tornado weather to me. It was warm, windy, very dark sky, but it was not raining. I asked about the weather as I moved around taking pictures of the headstones...as quickly as I could! He said they get many tornadoes thru there! They seem to be keeping an eye on it too! Needless to say, we hurried to our cars and got out of there. About 30 minutes away, we were in beautiful sunshine and everything was great!

Our next stop was Boonville, COOPER COUNTY, Missouri. We were running about an hour late by the time we got there. We met Walter Shirley of Hemet California in front of the Court House. [We had given the couple back at Smiths Cemetery a phone number to call Walter and let him know we were running late]. Walter came from this area of Missouri and showed us around. We didn't have time for research as it was getting late and we had to get to Columbia Missouri where we had motel reservations.

The next day we drove back to Boonville and researched. We also visited and researched in Columbia and Jefferson MO. thru Miller County (and the Historical Society was closed), and overnight in Rolla Missouri.

The next morning we drove to SHIRLEY Missouri, and Potosi. In the afternoon we researched in Cape Girardeau. From here we went to Doniphan to meet Pauline Dunning. They were preparing for a Shirley family reunion themselves and therefore this group could not come to our Convention. About half way to her place from Cape Girardeau, a rain storm came that was so bad we could hardly see the road. We thought several times about turning around and getting away from this section. But... we kept going. Missed the turnoff and ended up crossing the border into Arkansas and had to drive back about 6 or 7 miles. By the time we got to Pauline's it was dusk and she didn't feel comfortable about taking us to the cemetery and old school house. It was a few miles away and with getting off the road, it could be muddy, etc. We stayed about 30 minutes and decided we better get on our way. We still had to drive to St. Louis MO. We arrived in St. Louis Missouri about 2 AM. We were tired!!!

The next morning we got up early to see where the meeting room was and began getting it set up for the Shirley Convention. They were having problems with a leak in the ceiling. The air conditioner was stuck in the ON position. It was raining a little.

I went back to our room to call our guest to see if she was feeling better and if she was going to attend the Shirley Convention. I offered to come and pick her up etc. She said her dog was not well and the veterinarian was there and she could not talk right then. But she said she wouldn't be able to come. I asked if we might come a little later that day to at least visit with her. I very much wanted to meet her. I told her I would call in the afternoon to let her know what time I could come. After lunch, it began raining heavily. As much as I wanted to meet the Great granddaughter of BELLE STARR, I was not about to venture out into St. Louis in a storm to find her...unfortunately!

The afternoon was spent finalizing preparations for the Shirleys and greeting them as they arrived. I was concerned for those not there yet as the driving conditions were not good! The rain was coming down in sheets against the back window of our meeting room.

We enjoyed meeting those who did make it! They came from many states... Washington, California, Alabama, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Nebraska, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky and Missouri. Our numbers were less than any other convention! I was very disappointed



about this! Therefore, I have decided since our numbers remain on the decrease, it is not worth the energy and expense for me to continue to coordinate these gatherings. I will be more effective working in the office. I shall continue with the Shirley Association and to produce the Shirley NEWS.

After the Shirley Convention on Saturday afternoon, Barbara and I packed up everything and headed for Lawrence Kansas. We arrived there in the early morning hours, again! I enjoyed attending a family reunion for my side of the family.

After the reunion, I met with a few Shirley Association members... Steve Shirley from Hardin Missouri, Betty Macey from Topeka Kansas, Marian West from Kansas City and guests at our motel. During this time we were informed of a tornado watch in our area. So, the rest of the afternoon and evening, we kept the TV on as we chatted, to keep informed.

My sisters son, Doug Todd of Meridan Kansas, came to meet me at our family reunion. He came to our motel too, to continue our visit.

After the Shirleys left, we went to dinner and back to the motel. Barbara, Doug's wife and son stayed in one room, while Doug and I sat in the other room talking until 1AM in the morning.

What made this so great is that I had only met him once before...at my sisters funeral in Florida in May 1976. He was in Junior High at the time. I have only had one phone call from him during this time and so basically, we didn't know each other...at all!

He said he had questions and wondered if I would answer them for him. I said anything I know, I will gladly share with him. I told him about our family...as far back as I know on all sides and about his mother and I as we grew up, as much as I knew about her as we didn't live together that much. (I was raised by my grandparents while she remained with my mother). I offered to send him our family data...book, and he was delighted!

We cried and talked until it got so late that we had to call it a night. We bonded as a family that evening! Well worth my trip if I accomplished nothing else!

The following day, we traveled on thru Kansas visiting my grandfather...(not a Shirley), relatives and seeing where his grand parents had lived, as well as he himself when he was a boy. I visited the cemeteries...of course!

The next day I was visiting my fathers people. I visited my half uncle who was 93 years old in Chetopa Kansas on the border of Oklahoma.

The following day...my father's people came together for a small gathering. I saw where my grandparents had lived on both sides of my fathers family, the school he attended etc.

I should mention that I have known nothing about my fathers family ever... It was February 1993 that I began to get serious about trying to find out about where my father might be or if he were still alive. I found his cousins by using the telephone to call the area where my father was born. They hadn't heard from him for about 10 years. I was so excited to find these cousins and to learn they had lived in the same area since late 1800's, that I arranged to come for a visit. I later learned my father died in 1986. This fact I learned thru the Social Security computer program at our local branch of LDS Church. I have spent much time researching there even though I am not a Mormon.

I cannot describe how I feel finding my own roots and having the opportunity to meet all of these relatives! I feel I understand what made him the way he was after talking and asking all kinds of questions of my cousins who remembered him. It was wonderful and I feel so at peace to know and learn about my father. I have been hesitant for years to learn about him.

If you or someone you know is in a similar situation, I encourage you to search to learn about your parent. I never dreamed in a million years that I would actually do this but now that I have, I'm glad I did! This was not a Shirley story, but I thought you'd be interested in it anyway. Remember...I am not a Shirley, I am just married to one!