



**ROSCOE SHIRLEY and his wife ANNA NELSON SHIRLEY**

Roscoe Shirley was born February 6, 1889 in Rosemont, Webster County, Nebraska. He was the son of Samuel Henry Shirley who was born August 13, 1847 in Brownsville, Hendrick County, Indiana. Samuel Henry was the son of Emela P. Shirley who was living in Boone Co. Indiana in the 1850 census. Emela was the son of Edmund who was the son of Argeland Shirley, #10 on the list of branches.

(see story on next page)



Mr. Warren Delber Shirley of Oregon received one of the 6000 packets of Shirley data we mailed to Shirleys in March of this year. He very kindly filled out the first page of the Shirley Ancestral Query and made this notation on that page.

"Dear Betty, I am sending you this information that my father, Roscoe T. Shirley gave me years ago. Neither my wife nor I have much interest in family history but we hope you can use it with your material. Sincerely, Warren D. Shirley". (They have no children).

Enclosed with this material was an old photo of Roscoe T. Shirley and his wife. (See front page of this issue).

Warren did order a cap with the Shirley coat of arms and I enclosed a thank you letter and said "I would like to at least share with you what I know about your Shirleys. You may enjoy reading it even though you have little interest. I am in contact with many members of your branch of the family. Your branch begins with Argeland"...and I proceeded to give the descent with a few other items.

He wrote a short time later saying..."Hello Betty, I received my cap and the NEWS letter June 15th and I am absolutely delighted with everything". He not only joined the Association but also enclosed membership for his sister in Texas. ( Hope you don't mind my using your story, Warren. Welcome to the Association).

### **THE COOKBOOKS ARE HERE! HAVE YOU ORDERED YOURS YET?**

The cookbooks were mailed within 24 hours of our receiving them. We only have 31 left. I would recommend getting your order in very soon.

The first letter we received about the cookbook was from Joe and Janelle Shirley of Odessa Texas... "Dear Betty, Just received our SHIRLEY FAMILY RECIPES cookbook today...and what a delight it is! We spent most of the afternoon just reading, checking recipes, and getting to know the names and hometowns of the other Shirleys. I'm sure in the future we'll be trying out some of the recipes with equal "relish", but for now, we're just "savoring" the book. You did a great job--the attractive cover, the Shirley Crest and Shirley history make it truly a family treasure. Thanks for allowing us to be a part of it all. Sincerely, Janelle and Joe Shirley.

NOTE: April 14th I received their first letter and they were replying to our packet of material they had just received. They say..."As you will note, we have very little information of the Shirley family beyond Joe's father. I have completed the Shirley Ancestral Query with all the info we have and hope it will assist you in furnishing us with missing "history" of our family"....They joined the Association.

I replied May 12th after reviewing their Query and were able to fill in their blanks taking them back to the first ancestor we know for their branch...#23 David Shirley and his wife Prudence Kelly of Darlington County SC.

JUST A COUPLE OF ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE SUCCESS WE HAVE HAD IN RESPONSE TO OUR MARCH 1994 PACKETS OF SHIRLEY DATA.



## BOOK NOTICES.

THE EDITOR requests persons sending books for notice to state, for the information of readers, the price of each book, with the amount to be added for postage when sent by mail.

*Stemmata Shirleiana: or the Annals of the Shirley family, Lords of Nether Etinden in the county of Warwick, and of Shirley in the county of Derby.* [Arms.] Second Edition, Corrected and Enlarged. Printed and published by Nicholas and Sons, 25 Parliament Street, Westminster. 1873. [4to. pp. 435.]

*The History of the County of Monaghan.* By EVELYN PHILIP SHIRLEY, Esquire, M.A., F.S.A., M.R.I.A. London: Pickering and Co., 196 Piccadilly. 1879. [8vo. pp. 618.]

The family of Shirley, whose history is here so carefully traced, is one of the comparatively few which has maintained its position and possessions from the earliest dates. After the Norman conquest, Henry de Ferrers obtained Eatenden, and after him one Sasuualo held it. From this Sasuualo the Shirleys have continued in an unbroken line of male descendants, successively the owners of the estate, for eight centuries.

The fifth of the line was Sir Sewallis de Eatington, whose son was Sir James de Shirley, living A.D. 1278, who preferred to take his name from another manor, that of Shirley, co. Derby, which had been in the family an equally long time. His grandson, Sir Thomas Shirley, married Isabella, sister and heir of Ralph, last baron Bassett of Drayton. This was apparently the first great match of the Shirleys, as Ralph Bassett had married Joan, sister to John, Duke of Brittany.

The son and heir of Sir Thomas was Ralph, who had two wives and died A.D. 1466. From his second marriage came the Shirleys of Sussex, afterwards to be mentioned. His grandson, Sir Ralph, had four wives and only one son, Francis. This Francis died in 1571; his great-grandson, Sir Henry Shirley, bart., who died in 1633, made the second great match of the family, his wife being Dorothy, daughter of Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex and of Ewe, the near relative and unfortunate favorite of Queen Elizabeth. Lady Shirley's brother, who was restored in blood and honors in 1603, had an only son who died an infant; and hence at the death of the Earl in 1646, his estates were divided between his two sisters Frances, wife of the Duke of Somerset, and Dorothy Shirley. The Shirleys obtained, with various other property, one half of the barony of Farney in the county of Monaghan, Ireland, still owned by them.

Sir Robert Shirley, his son, the second baronet, was a Royalist, and, despite all fines and sequestrations, was so wealthy that in 1653 he built a church at his estate of Staunton Harold, for which display of zeal Cromwell ordered him to build a ship for the state.

His son Sir Robert Shirley, bart., was made Baron Ferrers of Chartley in 1677, Earl Ferrers and Viscount Tamworth in 1711, and died in 1717. He married twice, and here the family is again divided. From his first wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Lawrence Washington of Garesdon, co. Wilts, the peers of the line are descended; from his second wife, Selina Finch, the present possessors of Eatington.

The first Earl had sons Washington and Henry, successively 2d and 3d earls; then the title went to the sons of their brother Lawrence, namely, Lawrence, Washington and Robert, the 4th, 5th and 6th earls. Robert had sons Robert, 7th earl, and Washington, eighth earl. The only grandson of this last was Washington, 9th earl, whose son Sewallis Edward, born in 1847, is the present, 10th earl. He has no brothers.

The next branch is descended from Walter, brother of the 4th, 5th and 6th earls, whose only grandson was Walter Augustus Shirley, Bishop of Sodor and Man, who died in 1847, leaving one son and two grandsons.



We now return to the Eatington branch, descended from the second marriage of the first Earl. His son, Hon. George Shirley,\* inherited this estate, and had a son Evelyn who died in 1810. The son of the latter was Evelyn John, father of Evelyn Philip Shirley the present owner and the author of these books. The latter married Mary, daughter of Sir Edmund Hungerford Lechmere, bart., and has a son Sewallis Evelyn, born in 1844, M. P. for Monaghan.

Evelyn Philip Shirley has not only maintained the honor of the family as a member of Parliament, but he has distinguished himself as an antiquary. Besides these volumes and one on Deer Parks, he has published a work on the Noble and Gentle Men of England, which reached its third edition in 1866. In this most valuable work he pointed out that only about three hundred and thirty families remain in England in the male line, which were of knightly or gentle rank before the commencement of the seventeenth century and still hold that position.

To return to our main subject. It seems that Sir Thomas Shirley, son of the first baronet, had at least five sons living in 1650. He was a "Popish Recusant," and seems to have suffered for his loyalty. Although he was the antiquary of the family, little is known of his descendants.

The recognized cadet branch of the Shirleys was, as we have noted, settled at Wiston in Sussex. To this line belong the three brothers, Sir Anthony, Sir Robert and Sir Thomas Shirley, who distinguished themselves in the seventeenth century by their travels in the East. The last of the line at Wiston was this Sir Thomas who sold his estate. His grandson, Dr. Thomas S., vainly tried to recover it, and died of grief in 1678, leaving sons Thomas and Richard, untraced. A younger son of the first Ralph Shirley of Wiston, was Thomas S. of West-Grinstead, co. Sussex, whose eldest line expired in 1607. Evidently from the West-Grinstead line were descended the Shirleys of Preston, co. Sussex, beginning with Anthony who died in 1624. His grandson Thomas had sons Sir Anthony, bart., and William; the line of baronets ceased in 1705: William was grandfather of William Shirley of Ote Hall, co. Sussex, Governor of Massachusetts. Gov. Shirley's son Thomas was made a baronet, and had two sons who died unmarried.

To the foregoing synopsis of this book there remains only to add that it is abundantly fortified by quotations from deeds and records, and illustrated by pedigrees and arms.

**We have left but little space to notice the other book by Mr. Shirley. The county of Monaghan is in the province of Ulster, with the county of Fermanagh north-west, and that of Louth south-east. These three stretch across the island from Lough Erne to Dundalk Bay. Monaghan is 37 miles in its greatest length, and 28 miles in its greatest breadth; it contains 319,757 acres, nine-tenths arable land. It was at an early date the possession of the Mac Mahons, or the O'Neils their lords. In 1576 Walter, Earl of Essex, received from Queen Elizabeth a grant of the barony of Farney in this county, the Mac Mahons being confirmed in the rest. In 1590 the chief Mac Mahon was executed for treason, but his lands were divided among the principal gentry of the name. Excepting the estates held by the heirs of Essex and Lord Blayrey, the land remained in Irish hands until the rebellion of 1641. The Cromwellian settlement followed, and from that time onward the changes have been innumerable.**

As has already been shown, Mr. Shirley is a large owner of land in the barony of Farney, as one of the heirs of Essex. He has not only the name of being a good landlord, but he has been a resident, has built a large house there, has represented the county in Parliament, and now has prepared a thorough and impartial account of its local history.

\* We may note that his sister, Lady Mary Shirley, m. Charles Tryon, of Bulwick, and their son was Lt. Gen. William Tryon, Governor of New York.



EVELYN PHILIP SHIRLEY, A.M., F.S.A., of Ettington Park, Stratford-on-Avon, England, a corresponding member, admitted Oct. 20, 1880, was born at South Audley Square, London, Jan. 22, 1812, and died at his residence in Stratford-on-Avon, England, Sept. 19, 1882.

He was the eldest son of Evelyn John Shirley, who was born at Lower Ettington, Warwickshire, April 26, 1788. His mother's name was Eliza Stanhope, who was born July 7, 1785, in Somerset Street, Portman Square, London. On his father's side the subject of this sketch traces his line back through twenty-four generations to Saswalo (otherwise spelled Sasuualo), who purchased the old ancestral estate, and occupied it 1079-1086.

At the age of eight he was sent to a private school at Twyford, near Winchester, and afterwards was placed under the care of a private tutor near Oxford. At or about the age of fourteen he was sent to Eton, and about the age of eighteen was entered at the College of St. Magdalen, Oxford, as a gentleman Commoner. In due course of study, he here received the degrees of B.A. and M.A. Afterwards he travelled extensively on the continent of Europe. Returning to England, he was elected to the office of high sheriff in county Monaghan in 1837, and in 1841 was chosen M. P. for the same County. In 1853, 1857 and 1859 he had his seat in Parliament from South Winchester. He was also high sheriff for South Winchester in 1867. He was one of the royal commission on Endowments, and was Trustee of Rugby School, of St. Columba College, Dublin, and of Natural Portrait Gallery.

Mr. Shirley has written extensively. In 1841 he published his *Stemmata Shirleiana*, a handsome volume of 435 pages, which is in the library of our society. In this he traces the Shirley genealogy through the twenty-four generations above spoken of. In 1845 he published a work entitled *Some account of the territory of Furney*, one of the ancestral estates. In 1848 appeared the *Shirley Brothers*, and in 1851 a book with the title, *Original Letters on the Church of Ireland*. In 1859 appeared *Noble and Gentle Men of England*. Second and third editions of this last named work were published in 1860 and 1866. In 1859 he first published a book on *Lough Fee*, also one of his ancestral estates. A second edition appeared in 1869. In 1867 he published *Some account of English Deer Parks*. In 1869 were published *Church of Ireland—Reformation in Church of Ireland—Why is the Church of Ireland to be robbed?* three tracts. In 1869, *Historical Sketch on Endowments of Church of Ireland*. In 1872, *On Revision—Letter to the Primate*. A second edition of the last was issued in 1873. In 1874, *On Tenant Right*. 1879, *History of County of Monaghan*. 1880, *Lower Ettington*.

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NOTE: Photocopies of the *Stemmata Shirleiana* of 1873 written by Evelyn Philip Shirley, (in above article) may be ordered through the Shirley Association. Price is \$65 plus 10% for mailing costs.

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PLEASE PLACE YOUR SHIRLEY MERCHANDISE ORDERS EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING. Some items take 6 weeks for us to order.

We have Shirley Coat of Arms seals (stickers), that can be used when mailing your Christmas cards.

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\* NEW ITEM NOW AVAILABLE!... This is not listed on your color brochure of Shirley merchandise.

## SHIRLEY COAT OF ARMS WRIST WATCH

Price: \$30  
plus 10% mailing costs



Battery powered quartz movement with conventional hands to indicate time. Water resistant. Gold plated case with black leather band. Available in two sizes, man or ladies. Mans watch shown. Ladies in smaller size. (Coat of Arms in center of watch is in color).



**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.**

**Vol 21 Winter 1993**

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



(Virginia)...

By far the biggest park-land plantation I've learned about was Thomas Shirley's. His home base was above Syria, maybe a mile from the present park line. Apparently he'd owned about six thousand acres of foothills and lowland, then acquired Barbour's biggest Big Survey. Madison County Virginia records show he was paying taxes on 48,933 acres around 1850, and some of his land at one time or another was in Page and Rappahanock counties as well. There were lots of slaves, tobacco fields and other crops, at least one mill, probably extensive timber cutting, and distilleries scattered all around the Blue Ridge- the historian Ann Brush Miller says even out into West Virginia- making excellent and legal liquor. Much could be learned about Shirley and his domain, but at present myth and fact are tangled together. His three and one-half-story house just south of Old Rag Mountain still stands solidly beside the Rose (Row's) River; it is now a Christian counseling center. Thomas Shirley died about 1851, and his grave, in accordance with his will, was marked by a pile of stones.

NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR...

Thomas Shirley was the son James and Judith Garriott Shirley, #21\* on your list of branches. Madison County Virginia was formed from Culpeper County in 1792/93. It appears James Shirley died about 1791 as his estate is appraised June 20, 1791. Judith Garriott Shirley died in Madison County Jan. 3, 1831 according to the early records of the Robinson River Baptist Church. The James Shirley name appears in the records of Culpeper County as early as 1763. His father has not yet been identified.

A large part of the present information about the early descendants of James Shirley and his wife, Judith, derives from the suit papers in the Circuit Court of Madison County Virginia, to determine the disposition of the estate of one of their sons, Thomas, who died there intestate in July 1845. Thomas and his brother, Zachariah, were bachelor twins who lived together and between them amassed a fortune in land and slaves. A tax record, for instance, shows holdings of 48,933 acres (over 75 miles) in Madison County alone and a division of the slaves in 1853 listed over 100 of them by name and value. Moreover, the "Appraisement and Sale Book of T. Shirley's Estate", recorded in Madison County in 1846, contains 58 itemized ledger-size pages and after deductions of \$8,776 3/4 for "Unavailable Bonds and Accounts", the appraised value of the estate came to \$73,931.25 3/4 not including land. This was not an inconsequential estate in those days and well worth the contest.

Zachariah died in January 1826 and in his will left everything to his brother, Thomas, with certain provisions. One of these concerned two illegitimate sons, Zachariah and James, (by different mothers), for whom, he stated, "I mean to make provision...if there prudence and econnomy will merit the same, by taking care for themselves and conducting themselves uprightly toward the rest of the world". On the basis of this acknowledgement, Zachariah, Jr., the surviving son at the time of his uncles death, petitioned the court to estimate the amount



of his father's estate at the time of his death and grant him one half, if it was determined his half brother was entitled to an interest under the terms of the will, and if not, to grant him its entirety, taking into account subsequent rents and profits from the sale of real estate and hiring out of slaves as well as his father's interest in the perishable property. Petition was made also by the heirs of his deceased half brother, James. The twins' brothers and sisters or their descendants countered as the legitimate heirs of the estate and the ensuing litigation, extending over many years, establishes many family relationships. From this and other genealogical material, it has been determined that James and Judith Shirley had thirteen children.

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\* IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A LIST OF BRANCHES, PLEASE WRITE AND REQUEST ONE. (SEND A SELF ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE).

## WASHINGTON COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA

### **MEMBERS OF THE FIRST GRAND JURY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA.**

The second meeting of the County Court of Washington County was held in May 1778 at the home of Col. Charles Robertson and at this meeting the very first Grand Jury for the county was empaneled and sworn in. It included ROBERT SHIRLEY among 26 other names.

FROM: Tennessee Cousins by Ray

## 1790 CENSUS OF PENNSYLVANIA

### SHALLY

Adam	Lebanon Township, Lancaster County Pennsylvania
Balzer	Lebanon Township, Lancaster County Pennsylvania
John	Lebanon Township, Lancaster County Pennsylvania
Lucas	Lebanon Township, Lancaster County Pennsylvania
Joseph	Upper Millford, Northampton County Pennsylvania

### SHEELY

Christian	Mt. Pleasant, York County Pennsylvania
Jacob	Mt. Pleasant, York County Pennsylvania
Widow	Mt. Pleasant, York County Pennsylvania
Nicholas	Mount Joy, York County Pennsylvania
Christopher	York Township, York County Pennsylvania

### SHERLEY

Richard	Hopewell, Bedford County Pennsylvania
William	Hopewell, Bedford County Pennsylvania
William, Jr.	Hopewell, Bedford County Pennsylvania

### SHIRELY

Robert	Springfield Township, Bucks County Pennsylvania
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### SHIRLEY

Robert	Durham, Bucks County Pennsylvania
Thomas	Hamilton, Cumberland County Pennsylvania
Valentine	High St. Ward, City of Philadelphia, PA





**1992 SHIRLEY REUNION**  
(First Cousins)

**Photo and letter from June Osterbur** (sent June 29, 1994).

My branch of the Shirleys was descended from Thomas and Molly Grubbs Shirley. (#7 on the list of branches). Our grandfather was Benjamin Thomas Shirley the son of Levi and Nancy Ann Smith Shirley. Benjamin married Arminta Belle Smith and that union produced 10 children, one was my mother.

In 1940, some of the cousins decided they should have a "Cousins Reunion". The first cousins ultimately totaled 47, some of which were not born until after the first reunion. This will be our 54th year. It will be held September 4th in Royal Illinois. Each year we bring craft items or "white elephants" for an auction. This creates alot of fun bidding and also raises money for the next year's reunion.

We celebrated our 50th reunion 4 years ago. There were 120 in attendance. At that auction, we sold rocks that we gathered at the sight of Thomas and Molly Shirleys cornerstone in Barren County Kentucky. I told where the rocks came from and about the Shirley Convention I attended with my 3 first cousins and how much we had enjoyed it.

NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR...

I remember these gals very well. They were having a great time and we all enjoyed their company and excitement as we toured the Shirley area with James Young, father of two of the young men who play in the Country music group, THE KENTUCKY HEADHUNTERS. We actually had lunch at James Young's place before we took off for our tour of the old Shirley homesteads and cemeteries. The convention was held in Cave City Kentucky in 1990.



## EDGECOMBE and GREEN COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA SHIRLEYS

(From your editor)

In 1991 our National Shirley convention was held in Manassas Virginia. I gave a report on this research trip through North Carolina and several other states in our Summer 1991 issue, pages 2-4. I did not elaborate very much on our stop in Green County NC at that time because of space in that issue. The purpose for my stop in Green County was to locate an old Shirley cemetery "way back in a field" according to Shirley info in my files.

We drove to Snow Hill, Green County and located the County Clerks office. We did some research and as we prepared to leave, I asked if anyone knew where the old Shirley cemetery was. I gave them what little info I had. They made a couple of calls and located a Frances Manning who wanted to talk to me. She said she lived across the road from it and invited us to come by.

When we arrived, they invited us in and were very friendly. Frances Manning said her father was George Clayton Shirley born October 8, 1894. He died in 1960. Mr. Manning drove us back into the field to the old cemetery in the midst of bushes and a few weeds that had just sprouted up. Some of the stones were broken and hard to read because of age. The oldest Shirley with readable headstone in this cemetery was Bird Shirley who was born in 1795. The following is the family info.

Richard Shirley was living in Edgecombe County NC in 1777, He married first the daughter of James and Rebecca Waller. She was the mother of his children John, Henry, James, Starling, Richard, Davis and Uriah. He married second Delilah Edwards, the daughter of Elizabeth Edwards Alsbrook. Her children were Nathan, Bird, Murphy Weaver and Nancy Edwards.

Will of Richard, November Court 1823. Richard Shirley of Edgecombe County NC. All to wife Delilah Shirley during her life. To daughter Nancy Edwards, \$100, to son Bird, \$100; to daughter Murphy, \$100; to Elsey Marley \$12. At the death of Delilah that my land and all the rest of the property if any to be equally divided among my children here named: John, Henry, James, Starling, Richard, Davis, Uriah, Bird, Nathan Shearly. Executor: Edmond Edwards.



GEORGE CLAYTON SHIRLEY



GEORGE CLAYTON, wife LENA, son, ALTON and his wife MARY ELLEN, with two grandsons, J.P. and JOHNNY JONES.



## THE SHIRLEYS OF KELSO CALIFORNIA

Basically, Kelso has always been a railroad settlement because the railroad is the only reason for its existence.

The Ben Shirley family are of Navajo ancestry and he was in his early 20s when he brought his family to Kelso and went to work for Union Pacific in 1945. Ben bought a small house at the east end of town. He served on the old Kelso school board.

On his days off from his railroad work Ben would often take on various other jobs on several of the East Mojave cattle ranches, doing mostly fence and corral construction. That is how I first became acquainted with the Shirley family, nearly 30 years ago.

Ben Shirley would usually bring his kids along with him on these jobs. Because the kids of the Shirley family were taught how to work in their early years, they have always been gainfully employed in their adult lives.

They lost their mother, Alberta, when she passed away in 1967, while most of the kids were still in their teens or younger. Ben finished raising them by himself. He remained a widower for several years before he remarried.

In the mid 1980's Ben's father died in Arizona.

FROM: East Mojave Diary by Bob Ausmus  
ARTICLE SENT BY: Jemima Shirley



LINDA RIVERA COLLECTION

Ben Shirley was in his early 20s when he brought his family to Kelso and went to work for Union Pacific. He had served with the Marines in World War II.

### NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR...

I condensed the article because of space. It would be interesting to learn more about this group of Shirleys. I understand several of the family is living in the Barstow California area.

## Membership

Annual dues: \$20.00

**MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ANYONE WHO  
HAS A SHIRLEY ANCESTOR.**

Your support will be greatly appreciated as we continue to work on the Shirley heritage. Please introduce our Association to other family members.

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:  
Shirley Association, 10256 Glencoe Dr.  
Cupertino, CA 95014 USA**



## BIT O' HISTORY



Perhaps the biggest man who ever lived in Bloomington was Leonard "Baby" Bliss. Leonard weighed only twelve pounds when he was born and he grew normally until he was about five years old. By the time he was eleven, he was six feet tall and weighed 180 pounds. He reached his full height of six foot, four inches by the time he was seventeen years old. He continued gaining weight for several years and at one time he tipped the scales at 565 pounds.

One winter morning "Baby" Bliss was found frozen to death in his kitchen. It is believed that he passed out from escaping gas in his kitchen and then froze when the fire in his kitchen went out.

"Baby" always had a kind word for everyone. His cheery smile and his wonderful personality made him a long-remembered "baby" of Bloomington.

### 75 Years Ago

**Aug. 26, 1901** — The late Asa H. Moore, well known Bloomington resident, used to recall this tale about the town of Shirley and how it was named: "Along in 1854 I was superintendent of the Chicago & Alton or as it was then called, the Chicago & Mississippi. We concluded to make a siding where Shirley now is, and I said to my wife, 'What shall we name the new station?' The novel 'Shirley' by Charlotte Bronte was then a great favorite and we were greatly charmed with it. My wife's reply was prompt. 'Wouldn't Shirley be a good name?' Said I, that's it exactly. If the town should grow up with a character like Shirley Keeldar's, I will be satisfied."

### 100 Years Ago

**April 14, 1876** — SHIRLEY: Mr. Braselton has completed his new blacksmith shop and is doing a lively business, as the farmers are bringing in their plows and machinery to get sharpened, ready for the spring campaign. As the mud is now dried, up, there will be no excuse now for the loafers not having anything to do.

### EVEN BETTER

Don't jump at conclusions: An even better one might be just about ready to appear.

## NEW TWIST

They've bottles, now, for medicine  
That have a special lid.  
They can't be opened, it is said,  
By any prowling kid.

This special lid or top is safe  
And rids one of concern.  
It will not yield to childish yank  
Or common twist or turn.

I have a bottle full of pills  
I keep upon a shelf.  
The top's secure—I've tried, and I  
Can't open it myself.

## First born

The first president to be born in the United States of America was Martin Van Buren, on Dec. 5, 1782. All preceding presidents were born during the British colonial rule.

### 50 Years Ago

**July 7, 1914**—The hard road running southwest of Bloomington to Shirley is already beginning to show wear in places. It is no wonder for most every time an auto leaves Bloomington for a joy ride, it is down the hard road. Probably that road has had 10 times the travel it otherwise would have had and that very thing shows how such roads are liked.

## TUCK-AWAY THOUGHTS

### Pet Habits

by Catherine H. Garrett

Dogs lie with forepaws to the fire.

Cats seldom lie with feet toward a fire, and usually lie on their left side.

Parakeets like to perch on mirror frames and there talk and look at themselves.

Hens scratch for food with the sun behind them.

Goldfish usually swim around a tank following the direction to the right.

Calves rise on their back feet first.

Colts rise on their front feet first.

**Feb. 24, 1929** — The year 1850, notable as the period in which this city was incorporated, also stands forth in the history of this county seat as the founding date of Illinois Wesleyan university. Agitation of the subject of a university caused James Allin, first settler of this territory, to offer a site of 10 acres to the proposed institution. This site was located near the Chicago & Alton shops but when the land was needed for that road the university officials traded their tract for the present location. The school was opened in September of 1851, the Rev. William Goodfellow and the Rev. Reuben Andrus being in charge.

### 100 Years Ago

**Jan. 24, 1876** — Quite a number have already ascended the city stand-pipe, and have all so far pronounced themselves satisfied with the view. Shirley is just under your feet, provided they are big enough, and Hudson can be seen with great distinctness.

A whodunit is a fellow who always seeks to place the blame for a boo-boo elsewhere.

An early attempt at harnessing a unique energy source to mow the lawn never quite became popular — it was called "son" power.

### 100 Years Ago

**Jan. 4, 1876** — SHIRLEY: Elder Vandervort, pastor of the Christian Church at this place, Sunday evening took up the subject of dancing, denouncing it in language most bitter and sarcastic. He said that those who practiced it were generally of a lower grade of society, unfit for Christian people to associate with. Quite a number of the best gentlemen and ladies in the community have been having social dances at their private houses and never knew until told by the preacher that they were so disrespectful. There is generally better order at those dances than at Elder Vandervort's meetings.

### 100 Years Ago

**Dec. 17, 1875** — SHIRLEY: Prof. Scott has organized a singing school in the Christian church, and will hold forth for 12 weeks every Wednesday evening.

**Q.** — While driving near Normal, my wife and I came across a town by the name of Shirley. Can you tell us where it got its name and what is the population? I'm asking because my wife's name is Shirley.

Thomas O. Myers Jr., Elmhurst

**A.** — We ran into one roadblock after another until we located Ivan Light, an attorney who lives just east of Shirley. His great-grandfather platted out 20 acres for the town in 1866. Light said that when the Gulf, Mobile & Ohio Railroad reached the hamlet in 1852, the townspeople decided to set up a Post Office. That meant the town had to have a name, Light said. The wife of the first postmaster, Corydon Weed, had read the novel "Shirley" by Charlotte Bronte and thought that title would be a good name for the town. And so Shirley was dubbed. Depending upon how many surrounding farms are included, population estimates run from 125 to 150.

**100 Years Ago**  
**Feb. 20, 1876** — The traveling public will no longer find occasion to pass Shirley by after the first of March, as the Shirley House is to be fitted up and furnished so as to accommodate them.

THE TOWN OF SHIRLEY IS IN MC LEAN COUNTY ILLINOIS AS WRITTEN IN THE LAST ISSUE OF THE SHIRLEY NEWS, PAGE 9. THIS SHEET WAS ENCLOSED IN THE MATERIAL FOR THAT STORY.