

SHIRLEY CELEBRATION 1986 AT SHIRLEY MANOR IN ENGLAND



102 AMERICAN SHIRLEYS and MAJOR JOHN SHIRLEY & FAMILY
AT ETTINGTON PARK ON 900th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION !

On June 16th, 1986, 102 American Shirleys departed the United States for England. Their journey began at Brighton where they were taken to Pevensey where the Normans had landed. The following day they visited Ote Hall, Wiston, and continued the following day to Preston and Isfield Village. From there they visited Oxford and on to Leicester area. During their stay in this area, they

visited Shirley Village, Chartley Castle, Youlgreave, Sulgrave, Warwick Castle, Stratford Upon Avon. After the Celebration at Ettington, some continued on to Norwich and a visit at Earl Ferrers home, and a visit to London including, Tower of London, and other visitors attractions in London.

The trip was a most memorable one and everyone had a good time!

ARRIVED LONDON June 17th

We arrived in London at two different times as we had one group who arrived from the East Coast in the morning, while our West Coast group arrived in the afternoon.

The first group journeyed on to Brighton and to the hotel and over to Pevensey ahead of us, where the Normans landed.

When we arrived, we boarded our coach and were taken to Pevensey before joining the others at our hotel in Brighton. We had a nice dinner and I greeted all of our travelers and talked about the Shirleys of America and England and passed out a special booklet I made up just for them to help us identify each place we were visiting and they could refer to it for the answers to any questions they had about each place we visited after the trip has become history.

The next morning, 18th, we left the hotel in three coaches. Each was given a name...the red coach, the blue coach and the green coach. We were assigned a coach for the rest of the trip and our luggage was labeled with that color tag for easier luggage identification at the hotels when loading and unloading the suitcases.

We arrived at Ote Hall, former home of Governor William Shirley of Massachusetts 1741-1756. This is the home he left from in the middle of the night to go to America.

We were met by the Right Honorable and Mrs. Irvin. Because of our number, we divided up into four groups to tour the house and had tea. The first group was guided through the house by Mr. Irvin while the second group was served tea by Mrs. Irvine and their daughter. The others walked around through the gardens until their turn.

From Ote Hall, we went back to Brighton for lunch and then to WISTON, the home that once belonged to SIR THOMAS SHIRLEY, the elder. He was the father of the three famous Shirley brothers, Jane Shirley who married John Shurley of Isfield, and of Cecelia Shirley who was married to Lord Delaware West, (first colonial governor of Virginia), and for whom the SHIRLEY PLANTATION in Virginia was named.

We were again divided into groups. The Rector passed out information sheets about Wiston and the church and talked to us and answered questions. We then walked around in the church to see the monuments of the Shirleys. From there we went in the house and were given a tour. On the outside of the house was the old fireplace still part of the wall that was there when the Shirleys had the house. The house has been changed since the Shirleys had it for it isn't as large as it was then.

After our visit to Wiston, we returned to Brighton where some of us went to our hotel to rest while others went sight seeing in Brighton.

We had dinner in the hotel and there we met some local Shirleys. What a treat for us and I think they enjoyed meeting and learning about us American Shirleys. Our guest speaker was Colin Parry, our England researcher. He presented me with a color Shirley coat of arms plaque. Another Shirley descendant drove some distance to tell us and show us some of his uncle Shirleys painting he had done just for us in recognition of our visit to England. The paintings were of Shirley Village, the church at Staunton Harold and also the church at Shirley Village. He had prints made of the paintings and many of us purchased these as keepsakes. The label reads:

Print from the original painting
by R. SHIRLEY A.R.C.S.

to commemorate the visit of the
Shirleys from the U.S.A.

June 1986

The prints are 8X10 and are very colorful.

Thursday morning, the 19th, we left the hotel about 9:15 a.m. to visit PRESTON MANOR. We were greeted by Mr. Beavers and again divided into groups to tour the house and the church. The Rector spoke to those in the church and Mr. Beavers to those touring the house. He had various papers and stories to tell about the Shirleys.

From here we went to ISFIELD VILLAGE. This was a unique experience for us and was one of the highlights of our England visit.

We arrived at the village hall where we

PEVENSEY CASTLE ruins. The Normans landed here Sept. 28, 1066.



(below) OTE HALL



SHIRLEY'S AT WISTON



FIREPLACE ON OUTER WALL AT WISTON



play by the children of ISFIELD

THE SHIRLEY BROTHERS
a very short play
by Robert Smith

The Players

Thomas Shirley..... Lee White
Anthony Shirley..... James Dimmack
Robert Shirley..... Derek Lewis Clements
Queen Elizabeth 1..... Matthew Pike
Shah Abbas..... Jason Dawes

Instrumentalists

Carol Sheppard
Clare Richardson
Laura Stonham
Alison Pike
Jenny Pike
Debbie Stevens
Sarah Thompson
Michelle Walker

The Songs

1. Welcome all you wanderers
Who come from lands afar
Listen hark and ponder well
We hope this tale will neither jar
Nor offend your eager ears

This tale which we will now relate
Comes down through mists of time
A noble house, a great estate
A family famed, a noble line
Yes lions among men

Our great Queen Bess sat on the throne
And England ruled the seas
Three brothers from their Sussex home
Set forth to brave and valiant deeds
To roam the wide world o'er.

Anthony's song

Men talk of Marco Polo
Columbus, Cook and Drake
How many sing of me though?
..many sing of me though?
Yet were I not so great?
Yet were I not so great?

My name is Anthony Shirley,
The middle boy of three.
And I can say quite fairly
..I can say quite fairly
The greatest one was me
The greatest one was me

I was born in Wiston
In 1565
And if you'll kindly listen
..if you'll kindly listen
I'll tell you of my life
I'll tell you of my life

Thomas' song

I thought that I would go to Spain
And be a buccaneer
I'd fight against the Spanish foe
And make my fortune clear
So I set sail with two bold ships
We made our way to Spain
We sacked and plundered boats and towns
And vowed to go again

But tragedy, oh tragedy
We were captured by the Turks
And sent in chains to Istanbul
To face their grins and smirks

For two long years we rotted there
Alone and much in need,
Till good King James came to our aid
And we were quickly freed

I wandered long through Europe
But Wiston called to me
My life was all in ruins
Laid bare for all to see

I sold my house to pay the debts
I tried to start again
But failure seemed to dog my path
I died a broken man.

Robert and Anthony's song

In 1598 we grew most tired of all this warring
And so resolved without ado, to set our sights on something new
A venture bold and daring

Of enemies we had full score, o'er all the world we'd find 'em
So we set off from England's shore,
to make good friends with the Persian Shah
In confidence to bind him

The journey was most perilous, hardship soon beset us
Robbed and plundered by our foes, they all seemed out to get us
Turks and Arabs took their toll, our riches soon were taken,
At last we reached the Persian court, much stirred, but never shaken

We travelled far, we travelled wide, we crossed all Europe over,
And every court on every side had heard the name of Shurley cried
Those great and glorious brothers

Adventures far too numerous befell us in our travels
But plots and evil rumours conspired to wound and bruise us
And leave us sadly baffled.

St. Margarets Church,
ISFIELD (right)

Ice Cream from antique
mold served at our
lunch in ISFIELD.



(Above) Shirleys seated
in St. Margarets church
Isfield.



(Left) Shirleys walking
around the house John
Shurley of Isfield had
lived back in the 1600's.

were met by the Rev. Roger Dallings and many of the villagers. Coffee and tea was served and we were lead into the hall to be entertained by the village children. What a surprise when I looked on the stage and saw ANTHONY SHURLEY, ROBERT SHIRLEY and THOMAS SHERLEY standing there...the three famous Shirley brothers. They put on a skit about the Shirley brothers and their travels and the other children sang and some danced. We were royally entertained and we LOVED it! They put their heart into what they did and alot of work as they researched this all out. Now they know more about Isfield and the Shirley history there and of Wiston, not far away.

We then divided up into parties of about seven and each group was then taken to one of the villagers homes where they were served lunch. That afternoon when we were all back together again, I heard several remarking about the fantastic lunch they had and the others would be saying it couldn't be better than what they had...and the stories flew. WELL...let me tell you all that you would have had to go some to top our lunch! We had butter in the shape of swans made by our hostess for this day and after a scrumptious lunch, dessert was ice cream made in a unique mold which they had purchased in Ireland. It was over a hundred years old and the ice cream mold was a twist shape and on the top was this beautiful rose. How it kept it's shape after the unmolding is a wonder. My picture turned out great and is like a pretty post card. I will really treasure this visit to Isfield.as I know the others will for I have heard from so many of you who said this is one of the memorable places we were.

After lunch, we attended special services in the church where the Shirley Chapel is located. There were several beautiful arrangements of flowers throughout the church. Isfield is a lovely place with wonderful people. THANK YOU ISFIELD!

I should mention that the British T.V. Broadcasting company was there too!

Friday, 20th, we visited the city of Oxford. We toured through Christ Church and College. We dined with the Mayor of Oxford and he told us stories about his visit to the United States, as well as welcoming us to Oxford.

By evening we arrived at Leicester and had a quiet dinner. The next day was free until about 1:30p.m. when we loaded up in the coaches for a short drive to the Leicester Museum to view the Shirley pedigree. This was only the third time this century this pedigree has been unrolled for viewing. The size is about half the size of a tennis court.

The Earl Ferrers and his wife the Countess were also at the museum to meet us and tell us about the pedigree.

That evening we arrived at the Grand Hotel where we met the Earl, his wife and his two sisters and his brother-in-law for pre-dinner drinks and they had a grand time mingling and getting acquainted with our American Shirleys.

After dinner the Earl spoke to us about his branch of the Shirleys at Staunton Harold. We all will certainly remember this evening too for we had a great time meeting the Earl and his family, and learning about his ancestors as only he can tell it.

Sunday morning, the 22nd, we woke and found it had been raining in the night. Our first day of rain and the only day. After breakfast at the hotel we boarded the coaches for a visit to Breedon-on-the-Hill. There are large Shirley monuments here and quite a history even before the Shirleys. Here we saw the private, enclosed pew the Shirleys sat in during service, and other pieces of furniture stored here.

We preceeded over to Staunton Harold and a guided tour through the house by the Earl. What a rare treat for a personalized visit to this home and lead by the Earl himself who could tell us what it was really like to grow up in this home.

After lunch served in the house, we walked across to the church for special services in the church which Robert Shirley built during Cromwells time. It was the ONLY church built during his reign. As a

(Right) Dinner at Leicester
with Earl Ferrers

(below) Lord and Lady Ferrers
with my family.



Inside Breedon on the Hill
Church.

This piece of furniture has
WALTER AUGUSTUS SHIRLEY on it.



THE MAYOR OF OXFORD AND MY FAMILY & RELATIVES...
Barbara, Evelyn, Guy, Lee, Dale, Debbie and Nathan Shirley I, Betty Shirley, (your editor) seated with the Mayor on my left

Earl Ferrers Kneeling by Pedigree.



SHIRLEY Pedigree at Leicester Museum.

AMERICAN SHIRLEYS DINING AT STAUNTON HAROLD. THE PICTURE OVER THE FIREPLACE IS OF THE 10th EARL FERRERS.





IN FRONT OF STAUNTON HAROLD CHURCH after the service.

(middle left) Mrs. Allen serving lunch at Chartley in the Marque (tent). She is wearing black and white blouse.



Mrs. Watson presenting me (Betty) with a history of Staunton Harold she had prepared for this presentation.



(left) Visiting Chartley Castle ruins. Some decided to climb to the top to see the ruins.

result of building this church during this time and for the refusal to outfit a ship for Cromwell as requested by Cromwell since Robert could afford to build a ship, Robert was sent to the Tower of London. He died there at age 28 years and it is thought he was poisoned.

We filed into the church as was the tradition in days gone by, the ladies sat on the left and men on the right. The Earl and his family entered last.

The service was a special service and the reading was from the Letter of Paul to the Church of Rome, Chapter 4:13 to Chapter 5:1 and read by Earl Ferrers. Included in the service was the Staunton Harold Bidding Prayer, and a hymn by J. Allen and the Hon. W. Shirley. The service was conducted by Reverend Osborne and the address by The Venerable Harold Lockley, Archdeacon of Loughborough.

From Staunton Harold, we left for the Village of SHIRLEY where we again visited the Shirley church where the present Earl Ferrers parents are buried. We then went to the Foster farm just below the church where a village fete was held in our honor. There was booths selling arts and crafts. One booth sold specially brewed ale and the label reads... SHIRLEY ALE, specially brewed in 1986 to mark the 900th Anniversary of the Domesday Book, limited edition. Only 240 bottles were made and they are numbered. We who like to collect were pleased to add this to our collection of keepsakes.

The Morrison dancers entertained us as well as a band of musicians. Later we went into the barn which had been cleaned and tables set for this Shirley Village dinner by Mrs. Foster. We had a great time here too! The Earl ended the evening here with a few words and we departed back to our hotel in Leicester.

Monday morning, the 23rd, we set out for Chartley Castle ruins. Several decided they would like to climb the hill to the castle. We then continued up the road about a half mile to the Allens home where a marquee (tent) had been set up on their lawn just in case the weather was bad. As it turned out, the weather was cold and chilly and overcast. We then had about an hour for shopping and the Allens owned an antique mall in a

little town of Uttoxeter and we spread out to many little stores including a crystal outlet. Several of us found a few treasures to bring home.

We journeyed on to Youlgreave to see the well dressings, dinner and a village play that included quite a cast of people.

Let me explain a little about well dressings here as most of you will not know about well dressings.

Well dressing is an art of decorating wells or springs with natural objects to form pictures and designs as a thanksgiving for the gift of water, especially in times of drought. The pictures are never duplicated, each is different from any done before it. A lot of work goes into designing one of these pictures. In one of the designs, 80 people worked 400 hours, nailed 3,000 nails on a frame, puddling a quarter of a ton of clay, using 10 cups of salt in the clay. They stuck on to the clay to make the picture, 3 buckets of parsley, 3 buckets of spurge, 7 jars of seeds, 80 yards of cones, 3,500 leaves, 3,800 bits of corn and 10,000 petals.

After dinner, we went to the church of Youlgreave where we saw a beautiful production about the village history. We could tell many hours of rehearsal went into this production. A cast of over 100 people from the village were in it and there were 12 scenes covering the times from Domesday, 1086 until 1986. It included the marriage of the Shirley and Cokayne family in the 1400's.

On Tuesday, the 24th, we checked out of the hotel in Leicester and departed for the Stratford and Ettington area. On the way we stopped at Sulgrave, the ancestral home of George Washington, and also at Warwick Castle. We returned that evening to Warwick Castle for a medieval feast. We were given knives to eat with. We did manage to eat too! The food was served by the winches in between the various acts of entertainment and joking around. There was the jester, a knight and a trio of singers.

As we departed the feast, we walked through the inner court yard of the castle. It was dark and a bit spooky. Suddenly from down the hill below us, appeared a ghost in the distance. It



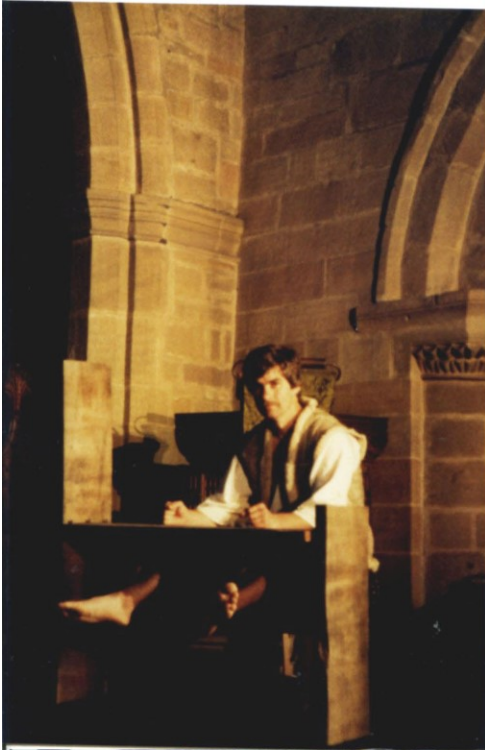
Dr. Robert Shirley caught in fun by the Knight and the jester at Warwick Castle at our Medevil feast.

SULGRAVE (right), ancestral home of George Washington. Note the American flag!



Headstone of the Lord and Lady Ferrers, parents of the present Earl Ferrers, at Shirley Village church.

Below and on right...
Performers in Youlgreave
play. The lady in the
white hat played Mrs. Shirley



(above) American Shirleys
looking at well dressing by
church, one of 7 well dressing

(left) Well dressing in
Youlgreave.

turned out to be our red coach tour guide, Valerie, adding a bit of humor to our evening in her white cape. We all had a good laugh and returned to our hotels.

Wednesday, the 25th, was spent touring Stratford-Upon-Avon area. That evening we attended a performance at the Shakespear Theatre entitled, "A Winters tale".

Thursday, June 26th, CELEBRATION DAY!

I awoke early and sat looking out over the grounds of Ettington wondering just how everything we planned would turn out. We have talked about and looked forward to this 900th Anniversary Celebration for so long and now it was the morning of this special day!

I dressed, looked over my notes of things to remember for this day and hurried downstairs and out for a walk around the hotel. I was thinking to myself what a beautiful day this was going to be. The sun was shining and the temperature was just right--it would be a pleasant day for photographs and all of our outdoor events. I thanked the good Lord for this and continued to gaze into the sky wondering what all the Shirleys who have lived here, back to Sasualo, would think about this occasion.

I went in for breakfast and then dashed out to the front of the hotel to meet the gentlemen who were to video tape this days events. By this time the horse and carriage had arrived and we discussed where they should stay until Major John Shirley and his wife Judith would meet them to be brought up to the entrance of Ettington Hotel to officially begin our Celebration activities at 10:30 A.M.

The press arrived about this time to cover this beginning and to interview some of these American Shirleys who had come to England for this 900th Anniversary. We were on the television news broadcast that evening and in several of the newspapers.

At 10:30 A.M., Major John Shirley and his wife, Judith, did arrive to greet us and welcome us to Ettington, by coach.

11:00 A.M., Viewing of the Shirley pedigree explained by Mr. Michael Farr, Warwick County Archivist.

Tour of the house, grounds and the Norman church, conducted by Major John Shirley.

12:15 PM. Group photograph of all guests outside of house (hotel).

12:30 - 2:00 PM. Luncheon in marquee (tent).

2:00 Tree planting by Major John Shirley, 33rd Lord of the Manor of Ettington.

2:15 - 3:15 Exhibition of Victorian tennis.

3:30 - 4:00 Exhibition of Dressage (horse exhibition)

4:00 - 4:30 Meeting of the Warwickshire Hounds.

4:30 - 5:30 Afternoon tea in marquee and lounge. Music by students from Stratford-Upon-Avon.

5:30 Guests retire or other activities (swimming, croquet, etc.)

6:45 Reception and Cocktails

7:45 Dinner in marquee
Music by the band of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

9:30 The Masque, climaxed by fireworks!

At 6:45 PM. Major John Shirley and myself greeted our guests after being announced by a toastmaster. It was very formal.

Besides our American Shirleys, some of the guests invited by Major John Shirley were, The Lord Lieutenant, representative of the Queen, the Mayor of Stratford-Upon-Avon to name a few.

The guests were given a crystal box as a memento of this Celebration. Etched on the lid is a seal with the coat of arms. Around the seal it reads:
ETTINGTON PARK • WARWICKSHIRE 1086-1986

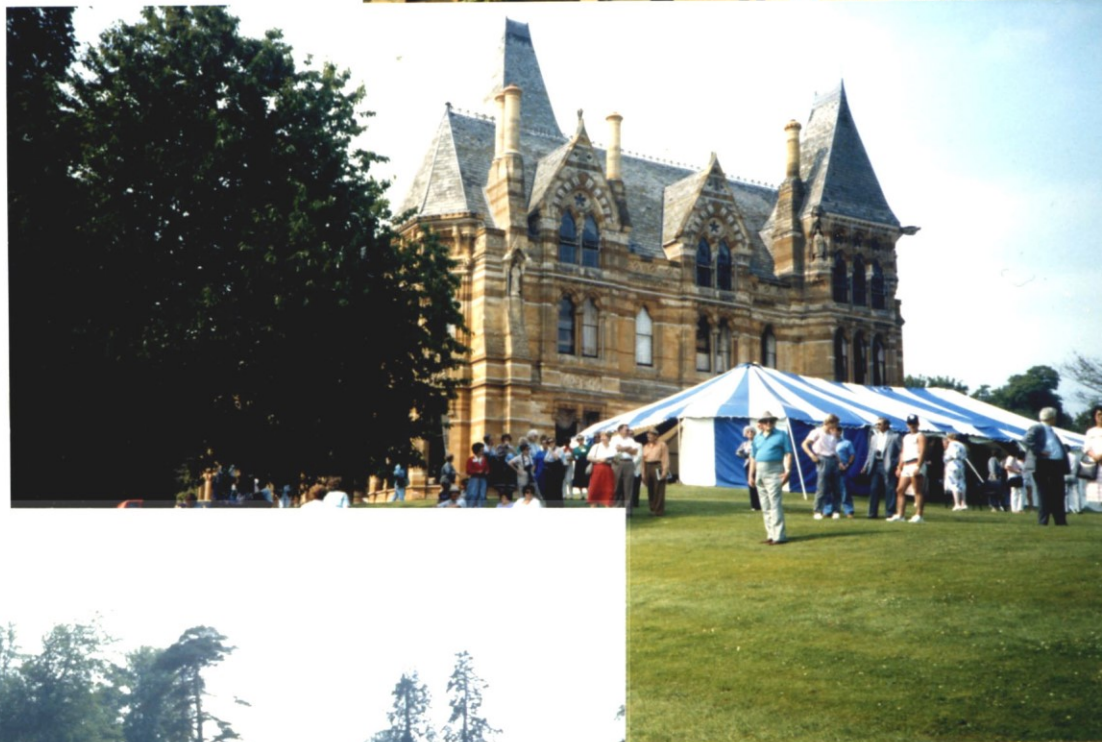
Some of our group went home the following day and the rest of us went to London to the Public Records office where we were photographed with the Knight of Heraldry and the Records Keeper before visiting the Domesday Exhibition inside. Then part of us were off to Norwich and the others



Betty Shirley (editor)
in center, the Lord
Lieutenant on my right
and on my left is the
Mayor of Stratford.



(right) Ettington Park Hotel
marque and Shirleys.



(Top Right)
Ruth Dannettelle,
Newlin Shirley and
Shirley McKinley in
front of Ettington
Hotel. Notice American
flag.



(left) Shirleys gather on
the field after the horse
exhibition.



(left).....

Shirleys visiting
Christ Church in
Oxford.

Shirleys being entertained
at the Public Records
office in London.



(right).....

Public Records Office in
London.



visited in London for the rest of the day and the next before returning home to the states.

The rest of us who went to Norwich toured London on Monday and Tuesday, July 1st and 2nd.

In Norwich, we shopped, visited some of the historical sites.

Mr. Eaton, former mayor of Norwich, met us at our hotel and escorted us over to the Norwich Cathedral where we met the Dean who personally showed us through the Cathedral on Saturday. On Sunday, after services, we were received by the Dean for drinks.

We walked from the Cathedral to the river behind the church to a waiting boat where we took a cruise up the river eating a boxed lunch. We then loaded on the coaches and headed for the Earl Ferrers home about 15 miles from Norwich.

We were given a guided tour through this lovely home which the Ferrers' family has redecorated making a lovely home, which I had the privilege of staying in last year when I visited there.

Among the many interesting things to see was the old Bible that Robert Shirley had with him when he was in the Tower of London, the original letter Charles the 2nd wrote to Robert Shirley's widow and the horseshoe made to look like Mary Queen of Scots was arriving at Chartley Castle instead of escaping. There are many fine paintings of the early ancestors of the Earl.

After a tour of the gardens and a look at their unique heating system, we were served tea. The tables were so beautifully set with dishes with the Shirley coat of arms pattern. The finger foods and cakes were delightful and we had a great time.

We loaded on the coaches for a short drive down the road to where the Chartley cattle were grazing. These are a special breed of cattle. In a book the Earl gave to us is a description about this breed.

William the Conqueror brought with him some Norman barons, including one named Baron de Ferrers. He settled in England and was given lands at Chartley in Staffordshire. One of his descendants, Baron Ferrers of Chartley, Bouchier and Louvaine, under a Charter of Henry III (Charta Forestae [1225]), was given permission to enclose part of the forest of Needwood in Staffordshire in order to preserve some of the wild beasts of the forest. In 1248, therefore, an enclosure was made and some of the cattle, which had previously roamed wild in the forest, were driven into it. This enclosure became known as Chartley Park, and the animals which were enclosed within it later became known as the Chartley cattle. The descendants of these cattle remained at Chartley until 1905. Therefore, these Chartley herds had remained in the hands of the Ferrers family, since the Park was first created in 1248 until it was sold by the 10th Earl Ferrers in 1905.

Over the years the numbers of animals in the herd varied because of illness etc. By 1905 there were only 8 or 9 animals left in the herd.

It was decided to sell the remaining cattle. The animals were put on to railway wagons and the straw which was in the wagons caught fire and most of the animals were badly burned and some died. Only one bull survived which could be used and he did not live long.

The Duke of Bedford who purchased these animals decided to cross breed the remaining Chartley cattle with the Longhorn and to infuse new blood into the herd as the only means of keeping the herd going.

The Chartley herd of today has reverted to its original type, because the characteristics of the Chartley breed are so strong and dominant and there is little evidence of the difference between the original cattle and the present-day Chartley cattle. This can be verified, not only from photographs that were taken of the herd when they were still at Chartley, but also by the fact that there is a complete specimen of a Chartley bull on a stand and stuffed-the date of which is uncertain, but it is believed to have been shortly before the turn of the century.

In 1970, the present Earl bought back the whole Chartley herd. We enjoyed seeing them grazing in the pasture.



(left) Earl Ferrers family welcoming the Shirleys to their home.

(below) Case where the Bible of Robert Shirley who died in the Tower of London is kept, and also the horse-shoe designed to look like Mary Queen of Scots was arriving at Chartley when she made her escape.



(Above) The Golden Gates from Staunton Harold now at the Earl Ferrers home in Norwich.



(Right) Earl Ferrers on stairs talking to us about the stuffed Chartley bull.



(above left) Earl Ferrers saying good-bye on our coach after he passed out booklets about the Chartley Cattle.

(Above right) Tea at the Earl Ferrers home

The Earl walking among his Chartley herd.

Saying our good-byes.



To say we had a great trip seems so inadequate. As one lady on the trip said to me about the second day in England..."you understated the trip when trying to describe what it would be like". It just can't be described, you had to be there and experience the entire trip to understand the quality of the places and the things we did. I have merely made a feeble attempt to give you some idea of the things we did and the places we visited and the people we met.

When I said it would be a trip of a life time, it was just that!

I have had several letters from our travelers and also from those we met in England. I would like to give a few statements from some of these letters here if I may.

Thanks a million for all your planning and leadership for and on the Shirley trip. We had such a good time! It was great to fellowship with the family. Rev. Leslie O. Shirley
Lutz, Florida

Trust you have rested up from the strains of our exciting England trip. It really was far better-more personal than most expected. There was so much to see and do and suddenly many of us did not feel we were tourist-just Shirley family relatives. I am so glad I went. I am glad you planned it and thankful to you for your many hours of planning and working out the details, and to also separate and have knowledge of the England Shirley families is terrific!

Marvin Harper
Northport, Alabama

Thank you for that wonderful, wonderful trip. It now seems like a dream. Looking at the reality of it, it doesn't seem possible that it was all worked out so well. It was certainly well worth every penny and more. No one can realize how great it was unless they were along.

Sara Cain from Tallahassee, Florida called me last week just to talk about it. Said it was just dawning on her how great it all was and she just had to talk to someone who was along.

Audrey Fahrer
Defiance, Ohio

The June 26th, 1986 was a truly memorable day. I think everything went according to plan. The sun was shining and both I and the family thoroughly enjoyed it. I must thank and congratulate you on the immense amount of effort you put into organising all the tour and getting so many American Shirleys to come over. It was a real delight to meet them and they were all so nice and friendly and I only wish I had more time to talk with them. Thanks again for organising this splendid occasion at Ettington.

Major John Shirley
England

We are all lost in wonder and admiration for all the trouble you took in organising so many Shirleys to come over here and to treat us so hospitably.

We did love meeting all of you. It was like a human tapestry-all the threads coming to life. We knew there were some Shirleys in the USA but no idea how many. It was great to share a few experiences with all of you.

You are to be congratulated on a great achievement. Thank you for all you did to make it so memorable for us. We shall never forget it.

Betty Luttrell (sister of Earl
England Ferrers)

This is a very belated letter of thanks to you and the Shirley Society for the wonderful and generous week-end you gave us all. We were lost in admiration at the incredible organisation that you had done to the last detail, from the other side of the world. The party before the excellent dinner was a splendid way of meeting a few relatives. It was fascinating talking to you all and finding out about your very different way of life.

Thank you for giving us a memorable week-end. Your affectionate cousin,
Penelope Robson (sister of Earl Ferrers
England)

I cannot tell you how much we enjoyed your visit. There was a spontaneity of welcome from you all which was felt immediately and was so greatly appreciated. We did enjoy our visit to Leicester and I am so grateful to you for having given us such a magnificent evening.

It was especially poignant for me to go back to Staunton Harold and to see you enjoy the house, and for us to have been able to have this Service in the Chapel. When you

said with regard to the procession from the house to the Chapel, "Let's do it like the olden days" it really took me back to my childhood. So did the Bidding Prayer with its glorious english but somewhat unusual in its content for these days.

We were glad to be with you again at Shirley and for you to be able to see our son and daughter-in-law and their children and our daughter and son-in-law and their children when you came to Norfolk. We so much enjoyed having you here and being able to show you odd bits and peices of Shirley history.

I am enclosing a cutting of an extract from the "Eastern Dailey Press", our local newspaper.

Earl Ferrers
England

[TAKEN FROM SCRIPT OF OUR SHIRLEY RESEARCHER, COLIN PARRY].

Like most families of ancient lineage the Shirleys have their share of Royal Blood and I have so far traced two Royal Descents. The first is that of Sir Henry Shirley who died in 1634, (married to Dorothy Devereux), and who through the Berkeleys, Howards and Staffords, descends from Thomas of Woodstock and John of Gaunt and thus carries the blood of King Edward III down.

Sir Henry's wife, Dorothy Devereux, through the Bouchiers and Plantaganets was eighth in descent from King Edward the first, and thus the Shirleys carry just a little of the blood of King Edward I and of King Philip IV of France.

MET ENGLAND SHIRLEYS IN LONDON!

Monday evening, July 1st, several Shirleys families met for drinks and dinner at The National Liberal Club in London. Mr. Chris Shirley organized this dinner. We had a great time getting acquainted and I would venture to say that some of these Shirley families will be visiting us in the near future at one of our Shirley conventions.

One thing good that came of this meeting was finding a lovely lady who has agreed to assist me with Shirley work there.

Earl Ferrers host to his US cousins

A PARTY of 53 Americans with the surname Shirley visited probably the most illustrious member of their "family" yesterday — Earl Ferrers, at his home at Ditchingham Hall.

It was an exciting climax to a three-week trip to England for the members of the Shirley Society, formed eight years ago to trace the origins of the name and locate as many families as possible.

Earl Ferrers' family name is Shirley — he was christened Robert Washington Shirley, and the wife of the first Lord Ferrers was Elizabeth Washington, from whose family came George Washington, first president of the United States.

This link with their homeland, and the fact that Earl Ferrers belongs to one of only three families in the country which can trace its family tree back to the Norman Conquest, made their visit to Ditchingham particularly fascinating.

Earl Ferrers and Countess Ferrers showed the party round the hall, pointing out many pictures and other items of furniture relating to the Shirley family — some brought from the family home of Staunton Harold (including the impressive gates to the hall) from where Earl Ferrers came to Norfolk in 1954.

The original Shirley family seat, though, is at the village of Shirley in Derbyshire, where Shirleys lived at the time of the Conquest, and where Earl Ferrers' son now lives.

Earl Ferrers said, before welcoming the party to his home: "They have come back to see their roots, and they have taken eight years to prepare for this.

"But I think the important thing is that at a time when Americans are really a bit frightened of coming to

England, they have come, and it is good to remember that we all come from the same stock.

"We are the greatest friends nationally and internationally, and we must do everything we can to preserve that, at a time when we are tending to become isolationist."

Reward

The founder of the Shirley Society, Mrs. Betty Shirley, who has traced her descendants on her husband's side back to 1700 in the Maryland area, said the trip had been very rewarding, and she hoped it might lead to a Shirley Association being formed in England to work with its American counterparts.

"We are interested in the entire lineage, and by coming over here we are beginning to make other Shirleys in England conscious of getting involved in learning about their own past," she said. "We are very interested in the England families."

The group who came to Norfolk are part of a contingent of 102 who have come to this country. They have visited the village of Shirley, Staunton Harold in Leicestershire and Sussex during their trip.

The 53 arrived in Norwich on Friday and were met by Mr. Tom Eaton, a former Lord Mayor who is chairman of the governors of the 2nd United States Air Division Memorial Trust. He acted as guide for a trip round Norwich on Saturday to visit local landmarks, and yesterday morning they attended sung Eucharist at Norwich Cathedral, for which hymns appropriate to their visit were chosen.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1953

ANOTHER CHAPTER IN A CHURCH'S STORY

STAUNTON HAROLD, right out on the borders of Derbyshire to the north of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, is not easily reached by public transport, and many Leicester people are unfamiliar with this untrodden, in a sight-seeing way, stretch of the Midland countryside.

Amongst the visitors to Staunton Harold on Saturday were a number from Leicester, and those making a first acquaintance were astonished by the beauty of the scene.

They certainly were fortunate in the weather. The sun was shining on the church that was the centre-piece of our pilgrimage, on a graceful mansion, on the lake, and on great trees vivid in their autumn foliage.

For all present the celebrations marking the tercentenary and restoration of the church will remain an unforgettable experience, particularly to those who were able to be in the chapel. It seats about 230, and so far more than two-thirds of those there followed the service as relayed to the lawn and to the hall of the house.

After the service in the freedom of the interval for tea, the Archbishop of Canterbury, looking very fit, moved around in boisterous form meeting old Leicestershire friends.

Laudian Service

LORD FERRERS, in handing over the church to the National Trust, had always in mind this tercentenary service of thanksgiving, but he and Lady Ferrers had imagined a less public occasion to which they might expect only relatives and a few friends of the county.

It was the Archbishop who said he would come in person and preach the sermon, and that changed greatly the programme in both its size and importance. It could not, of course, change the size of the church, and only the holders of tickets could capture the full emotion of an historic commemoration.

We sat in high-backed box pews, very straight up the backs are, but with plenty of room to stretch the legs, and as in the old way the sexes sat apart, the men to the right of the nave and the women on the left. That separated the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress just as it did Lord and Lady Ferrers.

This has always been the custom at Staunton Harold. If not greatly noticed with a full church, it has its difficulties when the attendance is very small. From my place with the drones it did not unbalance the singing, and we heard the voices from the angelic side clearly.

This was a Laudian service. Laud became Archbishop of Canterbury in the year in which Sir Robert Shirley built his church in brave defiance during the time of Cromwell's rule.

Challenge To Us

LAUD was imprisoned in the Tower, 1640, and beheaded five years later. Sir Robert Shirley died in the Tower during his seventh imprisonment.

The Psalms, 84, 122, and 132, and the lesson, from Genesis XXVIII and St. John II, were those used at the consecration of churches in the seventeenth century.

We had two hymns, the bidding prayer, and the Archbishop then mounted the two-deck pulpit to deliver the sermon.

The Archbishop of Canterbury in the procession of bishops and clergy to the service of thanksgiving at Staunton Harold Church. Below, Dr. Fisher is greeted by Lord and Lady Ferrers on his arrival at the Hall.



As he spoke a hand rested on the purple velvet drapery of the pulpit. This drapery and that of the altar table were made from Laud's own vestments, and the Archbishop spoke of the church as the living expression of the courage and hope of its founder, who was of Laud's School.

The church has now been given to the nation. Its future is in our hands. Some time ago the Archbishop of Canterbury made a national appeal for its repair fund. Sir Robert Martin, as chairman of the Leicestershire Archaeological Society, has made a further and local appeal.

It is directed to us in Leicestershire, and as Sir Robert aptly points out: The building of the church was the founder's challenge to his age. Its repair may surely be considered a challenge to ours.



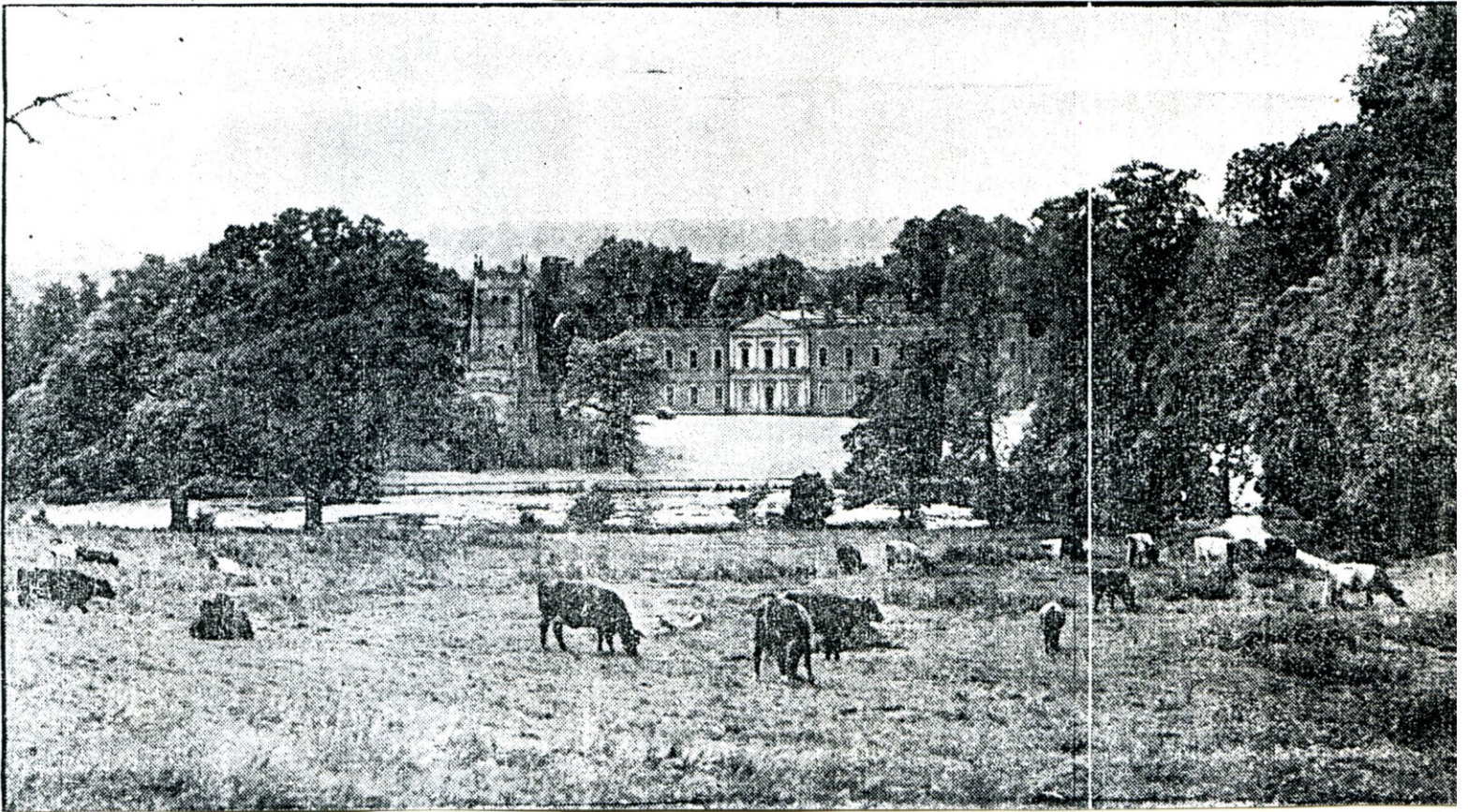
LEICESTER CHRONICLE

Page 22

REGISTERED AS
A NEWSPAPER

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 1954

ESTABLISHED 1810.



Lovely Staunton Harold Hall, soon to go under the auctioneer's hammer.



Mr. Horace Dunningcliff, 53-year-old farmer, seen (left) with his son, Denis, has been tenant of Lount Farm, on the Staunton Harold estate, for 18 years. Soon he will have a new landlord. He was born and bred in Staunton Harold and started work for the Ferrers family at the age of 18. For many years he was a cowman—like his father, George Dunningcliff, 40 years the Hall cowman, before him. Even his grandfather was employed on the Ferrers estate. He can remember as a boy being taken for tea by his father in the servants' hall when an army of domestics were employed "below stairs." The "army" gradually dwindled until it vanished with the outbreak in 1939.

ANOTHER of Leicestershire's stately homes—200-year-old Staunton Harold Hall—is to be put up for auction within the next few months along with the rest of Earl Ferrers' 1,500-acre estate.

The Earl and Countess, who left the hall for the nearby parsonage at the outbreak of war, to make way for military occupation, are to move to the Derbyshire village of Shirley where the family was founded 1,100 years ago.

For many months the fate of the 66-room mansion has been in the balance. It was hoped it would be taken over by the National Trust—as has the adjoining ancient family church. But Countess Ferrers told the Illustrated Leicester Chronicle: "Nothing firm has come of our hopes. The hall will just be a lot number in with the rest of the property."

Eight Farms Under The Hammer

Gross rents of £3,400 a year are brought in by the property, which will be auctioned probably in early October. There are eight farms, chief of them being Springwood, Hilltop, Lodge, School, Lount, Home and Saracen's Head—which includes a public house. The village school is also for sale.

Lord Ferrers told the Illustrated Leicester Chronicle that the sale will not include The Parsonage, his present home. It is possible he may return to it from time to time.

Moving from Staunton will be a great wrench for both the Earl and Countess. It is yet another family realm—like Swithland and other estates before it—to fall victim to high costs and taxation.

"I CAN HARDLY BEAR TO SEE IT GO," THE COUNTESS SAID. "FOR I LOVE EVERY STICK AND STONE AND BEND IN THE ROAD."

He went to the hangman in his wedding suit

by **VIVIAN BIRD**

From Preston I continued by way of Wimpstone, Whitchurch — where a remote church stands in the fields — and Crimscoate, to Ettington. There, up a tree-shaded drive among smooth lawns and stately cedars and wellingtonias beside the Stour, rises Ettington Park Hotel, an exciting assembly of Victorian Gothic turrets completed in its present form in 1862.

When the Domesday Book was compiled the lords of the manor here at Ettington were the Shirleys who trace their direct lineage from Saxon times, the oldest family in England. Their present family seat is in Ireland, but they are still the "overlords" of Ettington, though Mr. and Mrs. Gerald F. Shaw took over a 99 years' lease in June.

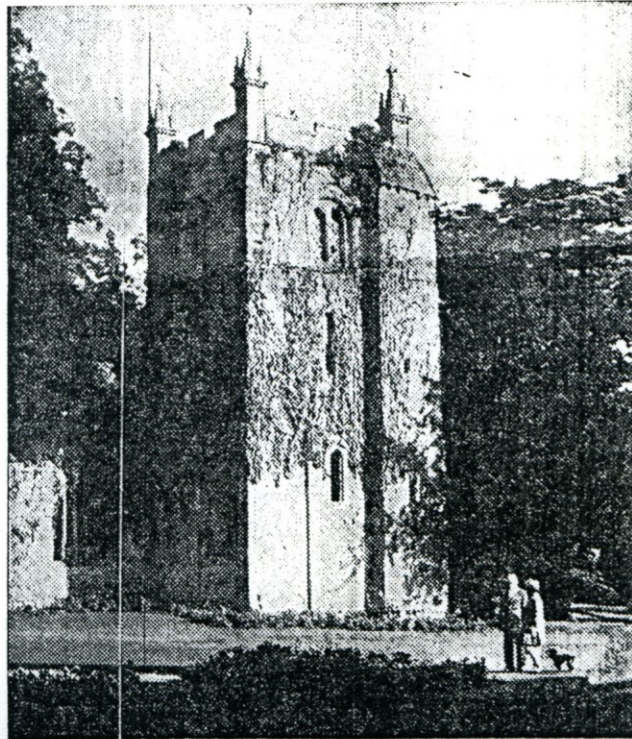
Next month this charming building, the colour of old mustard, but which takes on an eerie quality as dusk embraces it, celebrates its centenary by providing the setting for an MGM film "The Haunting," starring Claire Bloom and Rod Steiger.

A PELICAN

Mr. Shaw was previously manager of the Stork Hotel in Corporation Street, Birmingham, and he has changed his stork for another bird, the pelican in her piety, which appears among the other heraldic devices of the Shirleys, pecking her breast that her blood may feed her young.

The Shirley crest, a saracen's head in memory of Sir Thomas Shirley's participation in the Crusades, and the horseshoes of the Ferrers family of Staunton Harold, Leicestershire, whose heiress a Shirley married in the 15th century, adorn the property indoors and out.

A frieze of 14 panels around the exterior of the



Mr. and Mrs. Shaw enjoy the afternoon sunshine beneath the tower of Ettington's ruined church across the lawns from the hotel. Behind the tower the south transept is preserved as a memorial chapel of the Shirleys, who have been lords of Ettington since Domesday Book.



The very fabric of the Ettington Park Hotel tells the stirring story of the Shirley family from the 11th to the 17th century, carved in 14 panels between the ground floor and the first floor.

building depicts some of the Shirley saga, which is so varied and exciting that I can only summarise a few highlights.

Shirley, Solihull, can claim no relationship with the family, which got its name when a Henry Sewallis, who died about 1129, took the name of Shirley from a Derbyshire village four miles from Ashbourne where he married a local lady.

A Sir Ralph Shirley, who died in 1327 and lies in effigy with his wife Margaret

at Ettington, was a Member of Parliament for the City of Warwick, as was his son, Thomas, who fought in the French Wars of Edward III.

Sir Hugh, falconer to Henry IV, was killed at the Battle of Shrewsbury in 1403, one of four knights wearing similar armour to the king for the king's greater protection. Hugh's son, Ralph, fought valiantly for Henry V in France but missed Agincourt through illness, though his

retinue of eight esquires and 18 archers were there.

It was Ralph's son, another Ralph, who married as the first of his three wives the heiress of Staunton Harold Hall, which became the Shirley's principal estate. A grandson of this thrice-wed Shirley, yet another Ralph, married four times.

George Shirley was created a baronet in 1611, the year when James I established the order of baronetage, and his son, Sir Henry, married a daughter of Queen Elizabeth's favourite, the Earl of Essex. This gave subsequent Shirleys the right to quarter the royal arms, as the Essex family was descended from Richard Plantagenet, grandson of Edward III.

THE TOWER

A panel of the Ettington frieze shows the committal of their son, Sir Robert Shirley, to the Tower by Cromwell in 1656. Sir Robert built the church at Staunton Harold — the only one to be built during the Commonwealth.

"If he can afford to build a church he can afford to supply a ship," said the Cromwellians, but Robert was a faithful Royalist and went instead to the Tower, where he died in 1656 "not without suspicion of poison."

But the father-figure of this fascinating family is undoubtedly his son, Robert Shirley, created Earl Ferrers by Queen Anne in 1711. He married twice, first Elizabeth Washington of Wiltshire, by whom he had 17 children, and second Selina Finch of London, who bore him ten more — a grand total of 27 to which must be added 30 illegitimate.

After these astonishing feats of fecundity he died in 1717. His titles went to his eldest surviving son by his first wife together with his estate at Staunton Harold. Ettington went to his son by his second marriage, George, an outsize egotist who had an enormous monument constructed to his parents, with them standing modestly on either side while he sprawls across the top.

STAUNTON HAROLD



This is the showpiece of the Shirley transept in the ruined church at Ettington—the second Earl Ferrers having refused it a place in Staunton Harold Church where he had installed a more seemly memorial to his father who is buried there.

The egregious George is himself buried at Ettington, along with his son George—Robert's grandson—who emulated his grandfather by marrying twice, but had no issue by either wife.

What we are to deduce from this I'm not sure, but while the Ettington Shirleys were quietening down, the senior line at Staunton Harold was producing a colourful character in the 4th Earl Ferrers.

When his wife divorced him for cruelty and her trustees appointed the old family steward John Johnson to collect rents for her settlement, the earl shot him. The enraged villagers besieged the hall all night, but in the morning when the earl appeared on the bowling green brandishing a blunderbuss they scattered.

One brave miner stood firm. He disarmed Ferrers, who was arrested, tried by his peers, and sentenced to death.

WHITE SILK

On May 5, 1760, the 4th Earl Ferrers set out on his last journey—from the Tower of London. He was dressed in his wedding suit of white silk laced with silver, and he chatted with the chaplain and harangued the crowds as he was borne to Tyburn in his own landau drawn by a high-stepping team of six horses, and escorted by soldiers.

It was an impressive cavalcade, as well it might be. For in his death the 4th Earl Ferrers was a pioneer. When the rope was round his noble neck there was no undignified push off the cart to launch him into eternity. For him it was a trapdoor and the drop.

His lordship was the first person to die on a scaffold such as we use today.

LOCAL FACES

LAURENCE SHIRLEY, 4th Earl of Ferrers, was aged 25 when he succeeded to the title on the death of his uncle in August, 1745.

Although his behaviour was occasionally eccentric, he was regarded as capable when not in one of his outbursts of temper.

In 1752 he married a daughter of Amos Meredith, son of Sir William Meredith, of Henbury, Cheshire. Six years later she obtained an Act of Parliament for separation, the grounds being "cruelty of the said Earl."

At this time the estates became vested in trustees, and John Johnson, the earl's steward, who had been for many years in the service of the Shirleys, was appointed receiver of rents.

Ferrers, thereafter, disliked Johnson, fancied the man was against him, and on January 18, 1760, when they were alone together, he shot him with a pistol.

Johnson died on the following day and the earl was detained and taken to a public house at Ashby, where he was kept for two days, until he was sent to the County gaol in Leicester, then in Blue Boar Lane. The gaoler there was named Lambert, the uncle of Daniel Lambert.

A Grand Jury at Leicester found a true bill, and Lord Ferrers was taken to London to be tried at Westminster Hall before a full court of his peers.

As the law then stood, a person accused of murder could not be represented by counsel, but he could thus present his case without being subject to cross-examination.



Laurence Shirley, 4th Earl Ferrers. From a picture on loan to Leicester Museum.

The earl tried to show that he was not responsible for his actions, but the plea was not accepted.

Dressed in a suit of light clothes embroidered with silver, he drove from the Tower to Tyburn in his own landau, drawn by six horses and there he was hanged.

In his will he left £1,300 to the daughters of the murdered Johnson.

Members of the Shirley family have gone out from Ettington in south Warwickshire to fight against the Saracens, the Scots, the French, and opposing factions in civil wars. Ettington Park has been their property since Saxon days. The present hall, completed in 1862, was the eerie background to a ghost film in 1962, and may now become a College of Antiquities.

THERE was the yellow carpet of aconites just inside the wood as it had been late in January or in the first week of February for many years. It had always been a high spot of one of our earliest rambles — this promise of the annual round of wayside flowers.

I was passing in my car last week, not walking. George, who invariably led this particular ramble, and Jack, an ever-present, have passed on, and I hope there are aconites where these old comrades now stretch their long legs in the Elysian fields.

The aconites grow in a lane beside the grounds of Ettington Hall, six miles beyond Stratford-upon-Avon along the Shipston road. As I drove through the rain beside the over-brimming River Stour along the tree-arched drive I remembered that in 1962 the hall celebrated its century by turning itself into Hill House in a ghost film "The Haunting," starring Claire Bloom and Richard Johnson. A fine location it made, gabled, turreted, the colour of old mustard by day or orange-red by floodlight, flanked by tall wellingtonias and stately cedars.

A century is but a tenth of

The Earl's dynasty of 57 children

the time that the Shirley family has owned Ettington, a fact proclaimed in some of the doggerel which abounds on the walls of this Gothic mansion:

*"When good St. Edward
wore the Crown*

Saswalo here was thane,

*His male stem still this
manor owns,*

Now in Victoria's reign."

The Shirley of today, lineal descendant of Saswalo, is Major Evelyn Shirley of Lough Fea, Co. Monaghan, in the Republic of Ireland. From him, Mr. Barry Homer of Studley has just acquired Ettington Hall on a 75-year lease, and hopes eventually to set up there a residential

college of antiquities aimed at training antique dealers.

Beside the hall a ruined church stands on a lawn. An 18th Century Act of Parliament allowed the Shirleys to appropriate the church provided they supplied another nearer the village of Ettington. This they did, and this in turn fell into ruin and stands, a forlorn tower with an unkempt graveyard, near the Ettington crossroads on the Banbury road. A third church, built in 1903, raises its honey-coloured tower nearby, and its lych gate commemorates one Sewallis Evelyn Shirley.

The first Sewallis, a grandson of Saswalo, married a woman from a Derbyshire

*And this the coat which
his true heirs*

*The ancient House of
Shirley bears."*

In fact, the arms should be gold and blue — "or and azure."

The first earl married Elizabeth Washington of Wiltshire who bore him 17 children, and Selina Finch of London by whom he begot 10 more. He admitted also to at least 30 on the wrong side of the blanket. His titles, and Staunton Harold, went to his son Washington; Ettington to his son George of the second marriage.

Monument

The first earl was buried at Staunton Harold, but his outside monument is at Ettington. It was not only good artistic taste that made the Ferrers refuse space to this monstrosity in Staunton Harold Church — there must have been some family quarrel. The monument was perpetrated by George, and it features his parents, Robert and Selina, standing un-

village near Ashbourne and assumed its name — Shirley — which was to give Warwickshire as exciting a family as the country has known.

The south transept and the tower of the first church, on Ettington lawns, is preserved as a Shirley mausoleum, and many are the tales it tells. Within its walls lies the Sir Ralph Shirley who died in 1327 and was M.P. for Warwick, as was his son, Thomas, who took time off from his Parliamentary duties to fight in France for Edward III. Their story and that of other Shirleys is told graphically in 14 half-relief panels on the facade of the hall. The oldest directly-descended family in Warwickshire, they play games with the normal allotted span of 70 years, for another verse in what is now the entrance hall reads:

*"Fourscore and four, if God
gives strength,*

The web of life is spun;

*Fourscore and four the
cloister's length*

A statute mile is run."

This seems to suggest that the "cloister" is 21 yards long.

Security

Adolf Hitler, we are told, had various Nazis who impersonated him as a security measure. He was well behind the times. Sir Hugh Shirley was one of four knights who wore identical armour to Henry IV, and at the Battle of Shrewsbury in 1403 he paid for it with his life, as did Sir Walter Blount and Lord Stafford. Shakespeare refers to this when Douglas eventually confronts the king—

*"Another King! they grow
like Hydra's heads;*

*I am the Douglas, fatal to
all those*

*That wear these colours on
them—"*

obtrusively on either side while he sprawls ostentatiously across the top clad in a Roman toga.

The monument is the showpiece of the Shirley Chapel at Ettington, but a lesser memorial, an urn, commemorates a man who made a much greater noise in the world than the egregious Hon. George Shirley. He was Dr. William Croft, born at Ettington in 1677, who became organist at Westminster Abbey. He comes into his own every

November 11 as composer of

the tune "St. Anne" to which we English sing our national dirge "O God Our Help in Ages Past".

The self-important George was himself buried at Ettington in 1787. His grandson, Evelyn John Shirley, became M.P. for Monaghan and for South Warwickshire, and was the first Shirley to live at Lough Fea, still the family seat.

Ralph, the son of Hugh, was one of Henry V's bravest knights in France, but, being ill, he was not at Agincourt though his eight squires and 18 archers were. Ralph's son, yet another Ralph—O for the day when it will be illegal for fathers to pass on their forenames to their sons—was married three times. His first wife, Margaret, was the sole heir of John de Staunton, a marriage which brought Staunton Harold Hall in Leicestershire to the Shirleys. A grandson — yes, another Ralph—was knighted for his valour at the Battle of Stoke in 1487 during the defeat of Lambert Simnel by Henry VII. Equally valorous in marriage, Sir Ralph had four wives, though only two children. His great-grandson, Sir George, was fourth in precedence in the order of baronetcy when James I instituted it in 1611 to pay for the colonisation of Ulster.

The main Shirley line was now living at Staunton Harold, and there the fourth baronet, Sir Robert, built the only church in England during the Commonwealth.

"If he can afford to build a church he can afford to buy a ship," said the Cromwellians. Robert, however, was a dedicated King's man, for which he was incarcerated in the Tower, where he died probably from poison administered by his enemies.

Such were the vagaries of political fortune however that Sir Robert's son, another Robert, was created Earl Ferrers in 1711. The horse-shoes of the Ferrers badge, and a Saracen's head recalling a Shirley's part in the Crusades, are among the many heraldic adornments at Ettington, as is the shield of gold and black, palewise, with an ermine quarter. A verse in the entrance hall beside two shields reads:

*"These be the pales of
black and gold*

*The which Sewallis bore of
old;*

Henry de Ferrariis 1066

ROBERT de Ferrariis 1140

descendants assume the name of 'Ferrers', created Earls of Derby and Nottingham, ancestral home Chartley Castle, Tutbury Castle, In the year 1461 Lady Agnes Ferrers, heiress of William Lord Ferrers' (linial ancestor of Henry de Ferrariis, and 4 hundred years later in history) united in marriage to Walter Devereux, Earl of Essex. The Chartley estate and title of 'Baron Ferrers' of Chartley, devolves by descent from Lady Agnes Ferrers to the Devereux's..

Harold de Lecha 1141 assumes the name de Staunton

etymology of Staunton stony Town

Breedon connection 'Wetecroft'

Margaret de Staunton united in marriage to Sir Ralph Shirley 1423

descendants of Shirley

died

- | | | | |
|---------|--------------------|---|--------|
| 1) | SASWALO or SEWALUS | Saxon name long before the conquest | 1085 |
| 2) | FULCHER | | 1105 |
| 3) | SEWALUS | first to be named 'de Shirley' | 1129 |
| 4) | HENRY | | 1165 |
| 5) | SEWALUS | owned 35 manors in Warwicks. and Shirley St. 4 miles long toward Birmingham | 1243 |
| 6) | JAMES | Sir James, first Shirley to be Knighted | 1278 |
| 7) | Sir RALPH | | 1327 |
| 8) | " THOMAS | | 1363 |
| 9) | " HUGH | | 1403 |
| 10) | " RALPH | | 1443 |
| 11) | " RALPH | married Margaret de Staunton 1423 Shirley Staunton unite in marriage | 1467 |
| 12) | " JOHN | first Shirley to live at Staunton | 1485 |
| 13) | " RALPH | | 1517 |
| 14) | " FRANCES | purchased the priory church St.Mary St.Hardulph Breedon 1556, | 1571 |
| 15) | " JOHN | died in his fathers lifetime | 1570 |
| 16) | " GEORGE | 1st. Baronet, paid £1095 for the Baronetcy to James 1 May 1611, 1622 Red hand of Ulster. | |
| 17)2B) | HENRY | established the family pedigree, married the Lady Dorothy Devereux, co-heir to the Earl of Essex, descendant of Lady Agnes Ferrers, | 1633 |
| 18)3B) | CHARLES | died age 23 years | 1646 |
| 19)4B) | ROBERT | ardent Royalist, rebuilt the Earl Ferrers Chapel of the Holy Trinity, Staunton Harold, in the year 1653 | 1656 |
| 20)5B) | SEYMOUR | | 1667 |
| 21)6B) | ROBERT | died an infant age 14 months | 1668/9 |
| 22)1E) | ROBERT | created Lord Ferrers; restored to the title 'Lord Ferrers of Chartley' in right of his grandmother Lady Dorothy Devereux | 1717 |
| 23)2E) | WASHINGTON | daughter Selina (Methodist) | 1729 |
| 24)3E) | HENRY | of unsound mind | 1745 |
| 25)4E) | LAWRENCE | also of unsound mind, murdered his steward | 1760 |
| 26)5E) | WASHINGTON | rebuilt Staunton Harold Hall as we know it today | 1778 |
| 27)6E) | ROBERT | | 1787 |
| 28)7E) | ROBERT | | |
| 29)8E) | ROBERT SEWALIS | | |
| 30)9E) | WASHINGTON | died suddenly of an epileptic seizure at Staunton Harold Hall age 38 years | 1859 |
| 31)10E) | SEWALIS | last to live in Baronial style at Staunton Harold Hall | 1912 |
| 32)11E) | WALTER KNIGHT | architect, designed the village Hall at Lount | 1937 |
| 33)12E) | ROBERT WALTER | sold Staunton Harold estate to cover death duty 11.10.1954. | 1954 |
| 34)13E) | ROBERT WASHINGTON | member of Her Majesties Privy Council, The present Earl Ferrers. | |



The Shirley clan at the Ettington Park Hotel. British members of the family are at the front

THE news that American Betty Shirley is related to the English aristocracy is not going to change her. "How can it? I'm a cousin about 90 removed!" says Betty, who is just one of more than 100 Shirleys visiting the ancestral home near Stratford-on-Avon.

The Shirley family are celebrating 900 years as land and property owners at Ettington.

The direct descendants are still there, even if in name only.

Major John Shirley is the freehold owner of the Ettington Park Hotel and the 3,000 acres of farmland around it.

His son, Philip, aged 30, and an accountant, is the next in line, followed by brother Hugh, 24.

The succession after that could fall in any one of a number of directions as, so far, neither Philip nor Hugh have children.

So there may be a chance for the American side of the family.

Betty says: "I very much doubt the day would come when we take

Clan in big meeting at old estate

By SHIRLEY (Who else!) JONES

it over. But I know many of those visiting the park from America are seriously thinking of moving back here."

Americans with the common surname Shirley traced their roots back to Ettington during eight years of research. Betty Shirley, from California, acted as co-ordinator.

She says: "As this was the 900-year anniversary of the Shirleys at Ettington in the Domesday Book we thought it appropriate to arrange a trip over here."

Modern-day American Shirleys are content with

lifestyles as teachers, naval officers, ministers and businessmen.

But in the past they have aspired to state governorships and descended to robbery. "There was a Shirley in the Jesse James gang," recalls Betty.

The American Shirleys are spending a few days lapping up the traditions of England.

Philip Shirley, 24th great-grandson of the original owner of Ettington Park, said: "It has been a pleasure to welcome so many with a common surname."

Announcements

SHIRLEY MEETINGS!

HOUSTON, TEXAS

Oct. 3, 1986 7:00 - 9:30 pm

RAMADA INN Hobby Airport West

7777 Airport Blvd.

For Local Reservations: Don and Sue Shirley

Day: 713-338-1818 Eve: 713-488-1615

DALLAS/FT. WORTH, TEXAS

Oct. 4, 1986 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

RODEWAY INN

4110 West Airport Freeway

Irving, Texas

Local Reservations: N.T. Shirley 817-292-5369

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

Oct. 5, 1986 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

RAMADA INN SOUTH

6800 So. I-35

For Local Reservations: Frances Shirley 405-794-6445

NOTE: Please write to your family living near these locations and ask them to attend! There is no charge. We want to meet as many SHIRLEY descendants as we can on this trip! We will show the video and other pictures of our trip to England as well as tell them about this marvelous experience! We will bring our material about the early Shirleys of America and tell their story too! It is also a fun time just meeting other SHIRLEYS!!!
RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE BY CONTACTING THE ABOVE PEOPLE OR WRITING TO THE SHIRLEY ASSOC.

1987 SHIRLEY CONVENTION

JUNE 20 and 21

SHIRLEY PLANTATION in VIRGINIA

(details later)



On the move . . . the family tree is taken from the record office to the museum. Holding it are (left to right) Miss Kate Thompson, Mrs. Di James, Mrs. Gwenith Jones and Miss Lisa Wilson.

Roots go back nine centuries

More than 100 Americans have been exploring their roots in Leicestershire — with the help of a family tree covering 390 sq. ft.

The Americans — who have ignored terrorist scares and braved the English summer — are all members of the Shirley family, which has its ancient seat at Staunton Harold Hall, Leicestershire.

On Saturday, they were able to trace their ancestry from the 11th to the 17th centuries, when they had a special showing of the ancient Greater Ferrers Pedigree — their family tree — at the New Walk Museum in Leicester.

The family tree — made in

1638 — had to be carried up New Walk by Leicestershire record office staff to the museum. The art gallery attached to the museum was the only area big enough to unfurl the hand-coloured document, which is 30ft. long and 13ft. wide.

Mr. Tim Schadla-Hall, deputy director of Leicestershire Museums, said the visitors were unconcerned about the terrorism scare stories that had kept many of their country men at home, and added: "They have had a great time in Leicester and the people have made them very welcome. They are very impressed with the city and the county."

TO JOIN THE SHIRLEY ASSOCIATION AND RECEIVE 4 ISSUES OF THE NEWS FOR 1 YEAR, send \$15 to:

Shirley Association
10256 Glencoe Dr.
Cupertino, CA 95014