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WINTER 1992-93

## THE ANGLO-SAXON SHIRLEY'S

*DATA GATHERED BY YOUR EDITOR FROM VARIOUS SOURCES WHILE RESEARCHING IN ENGLAND IN 1992.*

Only three families are said to be able to trace their lineage in the male line to an Anglo-Saxon Domesday forebear. The SHIRLEYS are one of those families.

The history of the most ancient Anglo-Saxon surname SHIRLEY reaches far into the chronicles of the Saxon race. The Saxon Chronicle, compiled by Monks in the 10th century, now reposes in the British Museum.

The Saxons, a fair skinned people, were invited into England by the ancient Britons of the 4th century. Their home was in the Rhine Valley, although some were as far north-east as Denmark.

The Saxons settled in the county of Kent, on the south east coast of England. Gradually, they spread north and westward, and during the next four hundred years, forced the Ancient Britons back into Wales and Cornwall in the west, and Cumberland to the north.

The Angles occupied the eastern coast, the south folk in Suffolk, and the north folk in Norfolk.

Under Saxon rule, England prospered under a series of High Kings, the last being Harold.

In 1066, the Normans invaded from France and were victorious at the Battle of Hastings. The Saxons who had remained in the South were not treated well under the hostile Norman rule. They moved northward to the midlands, Lancashire and Yorkshire areas to get away from the Norman oppression.

In 1070, William the Conqueror took an army of 40,000 north and wasted the northern counties, forcing many rebellious Norman nobles and Saxons to flee over the border into SCOTLAND.

### DICTIONARY INTERPRETATION OF ANGLO-SAXON

**ANGLO-SAXON:** 1. A member of one of the Germanic people (Angles, Saxons, and Jutes) who settled in Britain in the fifth and sixth centuries. 2. Any of the descendants of these peoples who were dominant in England until the Norman Conquest of 1066. 3. Any person of English ancestry.

**ANGLES:** A member of a Germanic people that migrated to England from southern Denmark in the fifth century, founded the kingdoms of Northumbria, East Anglia and Mercia, and together with the Jutes and Saxons formed the Anglo-Saxon peoples.

**ANGLO:** Indicates English or England.

**SAXON:** 1. A member of a West Germanic tribal group that inhabited northern Germany and invaded England in the fifth with the Angles and Jutes. 2. An Englishman as distinguished from an Irishman, Welshman or Scot. 3. A native or inhabitant of Saxony.

**SAXONY:** 1. A former region with undefined boundaries in northwestern Germany. 2. A former duchy, kingdom, and electorate in central Germany. 3. A former province of Prussia in central Germany.

**JUTES:** A member of any of several Germanic tribes, some of whom invaded Britain and settled in Kent in the fifth century. People of Jutland.

**Jutland:** A peninsula of northern Europe, comprising mainland Denmark in the north and Schleswig-Holstein, West Germany, in the South.

### SHIRLEYS FROM SCOTLAND

*Surnames of Scotland: Their Origin, Meaning, and History.*  
By: George F. Black, Ph.D.

Shirley, Shirlaw, Sherlaw, Sheirlaw. Of English origin, but as here shown the name has had a long sojourn in Scotland. There are places named Shirley in Derbyshire and in Warwickshire, from either of which the name may have come.

Walter de Skirlawe and his men had a safe conduct in England for a year, 1370 (Bain, IV, 160). Nicol Schirlaw was "maid commoun herde" of the burgh of Lanark, 1488 (Lanark, p.1). Matho Scherlaw and Alexander Scherlaw, followers of the Earl of Cassilis, were respited for the murder in 1526 (RSS., 1, 3386), and William Schirrilaw was one of those hanged in 1570 for holding Paisley against the King and his regent (Diur. Occ., p. 201). Walter Schirilaw was admitted guild brother of Glasgow, 1610 (Burgesses). Janet Sherrilaw is recorded in Corro-Mylne parish of Lesmahago, 1673 (Lanark CR), and David Skierlaw appears in Eyemouth, 1792 (Lauder).

### SCOTLAND SHIRLEY'S to ONTARIO CANADA to USA

Robert Shirley b. July 10, 1824 Lanarkshire, Scotland, died March 5, 1896 Allerton, Wayne County Iowa. Wife: Betheiah b. ca. 1825 Scotland, died Feb 15, 1885.

#### Children in 1880 census of Wayne Co. Iowa:

1. David D. b. ca. 1856 Canada
2. Margurite b. ca. 1859 Canada
3. James R. b. ca. 1861 Canada
4. Isabelle B. b. ca. 1863 Canada
5. Janette b. ca. 1866 Canada
6. Grace R. B. ca. 1871 MO

David D. Shirley b. ca. 1856 Canada, married Lena Morgan and they had only one child, Jean, born in Iowa. She married Chester Tharp in Denver Colorado in 1912. Their son, Chester Tharp, born in 1914, sent the following about his family.

The Shirleys came to Ontario Canada and lived in a log cabin in the country.

Mother said one of her uncles was maybe 18 years old and never had shoes. He took beef hide to a tannery on his back and then the leather to a shoemaker who made him shoes. The shoemaker kept the leather as payment.

Mother told me about one of her uncles who dreamed he was going swimming in a creek. He stood up in the bed and dove off on to a rough hued log floor. Guess that woke him up!

My mother and father are buried in Manola Alberta Canada. Janette and Grace were school teachers and lived together in Colorado Springs Colorado. They were old maids, they never married.

Grace is buried in Colorado Springs CO. I met her in 1944 when I was at Buckley Field Colorado, training for the Air Forces. Janette was already deceased.

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From editor: I looked for Robert Shirley in the records I have for Lanarkshire Scotland. The only Robert I have that is close in age to the above Robert is one christened April 19, 1829 Lanark to William Shirley and Christian Ross.

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WASHINGTON SHIRLEY, 8TH EARL FERRERS married Frances Ward July 24, 1781 Gretna Green, Dumfries, SCOTLAND.

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#### NEW HAMPSHIRE SHIRLEYS FROM IRELAND/SCOTLAND ?

James Shirley b. ca. 1649, came from Ireland about 1730 and settled in Chester, New Hampshire.

James Shirley and his ancestors may have been a native of Scotland, according to his descendants. They believe he with his parents may have been among the exiles driven from Scotland in 1669 under the persecutions of James Graham of Claverhouse, who was the tool of James, Viceroy of Scotland, and brother of James II. These immigrants from Scotland were Presbyterians, (as was the James Shirley family).

In 1612, many of the their ancestors had settled in Ulster Ireland on lands confiscated upon the overthrow of the Earl of Tyrone, who rebelled against James I. This immigration kept up until 1641, when the hatred of the natives had so increased that it culminated in an attempt to exterminate the entire Protestant population. In the attempt, 40,000 Protestants were slain. The massacre was avenged by Cromwell, who for the first time brought Ireland to England's feet.

For forty years more the Scotch and Irish lived side by side in the north of Ireland, always hating and always at feud with each other.

The expulsion of James II from the throne of England in 1688 was followed by the accession of William III and a new religious war in Ireland, the Catholic Irish supporting James and the Presbyterian Scotch rallying about the standard of William.

It was during this turbulent period, 1690-91 that the famous siege of Londonderry occurred. William triumphed, and in the battles of the Boyne and Aughrim, the cause of James and the Catholics were overthrown. But the brave defenders of Londonderry fared but little better than their Catholic besiegers. The acts passed, in the interest of the Church of England, bore as heavily against the Scotch Presbyterians as against the Irish Catholics.

Many emigrated, and among the number was the faithful band that settled Londonderry in New Hampshire USA. They sailed in five vessels and landed in Boston Massachusetts Aug 4, 1718.

That winter they passed in Casco Bay, suffering terribly. The next year they heard of Nutfield on the Merrimack, settled there, and renamed it Londonderry. Thence they spread, and they and their children became the pioneer settlers of Derry, Chester, Windham, Bedford and Goffstown.

James Shirley arrived in Chester in 1730, age 76, bringing a full grown family. Some of the family lived in Goffstown. Descendants living NY, MA and PA in 1800's.

[Info from booklet sent by members of this branch of Shirleys]

# NATIONAL SHIRLEY CONVENTION

Week End of

June 12, 1993

**St. Louis Missouri**

at

**EXECUTIVE INTERNATIONAL INN  
4530 North Lindbergh Blvd.  
Bridgeton, Missouri 63044**

*Please write to the Shirley Association for a Convention reservation form, if you didn't receive one. For overnight accommodations, please contact the Executive International Inn at (800) 325-4850 or (314) 731-3800. Mention the Shirley Association for better rates.*

*The St. Louis MO Genealogical Society's 24th Annual Fair is Sat. June 19, 1993, one week after the Shirley Convention. Thought I would mention it as some of you might like to spend some time researching in the St. Louis area during the week and attend the Fair on Sat. If you are interested, contact the Society at (314) 968-2763. There is a charge to attend. Their address: 9011 Manchester Rd #3, St. Louis MO. 63144-2643. Info from: Betty L. Shirley.*

## SHIRLEY'S FROM CHAMBERS CO. ALABAMA TO TEXAS

*James Madison Shirley, born about 1835, was the son of Hezekiah Shirley. Esther Shirley was the mother of Hezekiah. His father's name is not known. Esther appears in the will of Rebecca Shirley, wife of John Shirley who was born in 1738, Culpepper County Virginia. He died in Laurens County South Carolina. John Shirley was the son of Richard and Mary who came from Virginia to South Carolina and received a land grant about 1738.*

*James Madison Shirley was married and had three children when he was in the Confederate Army in the Civil War. He and another soldier became very hungry while on patrol duty. They came to a farm house that had a lot of bees and decided they would rob one of the hives. James opened the lid and got some honey. The bees stung him so bad his arm was swollen double in size by the time they got back to camp. They told the officer that he had injured his arm. He was given leave to go home until his arm was better. The story goes that this is when his wife, Margaret, became pregnant with James Madison Shirley, Jr.*

*He was in the Battle of Vicksburg Mississippi. When the war was over and he was headed for home, there was no food to be had anywhere. He came to a small stream and could see where the deer had been crossing. He climbed into a tree just above the trail and waited until a deer came by. With only a knife as a weapon, he jumped on the deer. He had deer for super but he would laugh and tell how he didn't have a stitch of clothes on when the battle was over.*

*Robert Columbus Shirley b. Feb 1860 Chambers Co. Alabama, son of James Madison Shirley, married Mary Frances Fletcher Dec 14, 1880 in Coryell County Texas.*

### CHILDREN all born in Texas

- |                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Wm. Columbus Sept 1881  | 11. Nora June 1895      |
| 2. Sara Elizabeth Feb 1882 | 12. Dora June 1895      |
| 3. Annie March 1884        | 13. Stoney July 1898    |
| 4. Martha March 1885       | 14. Wm. Luther May 1900 |
| 5. Eugenia June 1886       | 15. Inez                |
| 6. Alice Sept 1887 d.1888  |                         |
| 7. Ellie Mar 1889          |                         |
| 8. Emma Sept 1890          |                         |
| 9. Joel July 1892          |                         |

*10 Alvin Valentine Jan 31, 1894 Coryell Co. TX d. 1963 buried in Westwood, Los Angeles CA. He married Vesta Fay Warren. He fought in France in World War I. Their son is Bill Shirley and he was a pilot for American Airlines. He retired in 1991. [Credit to Mildred Shirley & Jere Fletcher for the information].*

PASSENGER AND IMMIGRATION LISTS INDEX

- 1619 **Daniell Sherley**, 30 yrs., Virginia  
 1623 **Lidia Sherley**, - Virginia  
 1624 **Susan Sherley**, - Virginia  
 1678 **William Shirley**, - Barbados  
 From: author, John Camden Hotten's THE ORIGINAL LIST OF PERSONS OF QUALITY; Emmigrants; Relligious Exiles; Political Rebels; Serving Men sold for a term or years; Apprentices; Children Stolen; Maidens Pressed; and others who went from Great Britain to the American Plantations, 1600-1700.
- 1622 **Ensigne Sherley**, - Virginia  
 From: Colonial Records of Virginia. LISTS OF THE LIVING AND THE DEAD IN VA., February 16, 1623.
- 1633 **Robert Sherley**, - Maryland  
 From: author, Hester Dorsey Richardson's THE ARK AND THE DOVE PASSENGERS. [Side-Lights on Maryland History].
- 1715 **Elizabeth Shirley**, - America  
 1744 **Mary Shirley**, - America  
 From: author, Peter Wilson Coldham's ENGLISH CONVICTS IN COLONIAL AMERICA. Volume 2: London 1656-1775.
- 1774 **John Shirley**, - America  
 From: author, Peter Wilson Coldham's ENGLISH CONVICTS IN COLONIAL AMERICA. Volume 1: Middlesex 1617-1775.
- 1818 **Benjamin F. Shirley** - Philadelphia PA  
 1825 **Cephas Shirley** - Philadelphia PA  
 1844 **John Shirley** - Philadelphia PA  
 1846 **John Shirley** - Philadelphia PA  
 1846 **Robert Shirley** - Philadelphia PA  
 1856 **Hugh Shirley** - Philadelphia PA  
 1868 **James Shirley** - Philadelphia PA  
 1868 **Frederick Shirley** - Philadelphia PA  
 1868 **John Shirley** - Philadelphia PA  
 1870 **Joseph Shirley** - Philadelphia PA  
 1870 **M. James Shirley** - Philadelphia PA  
 From: United States Works Projects Administration. Index to Records of Aliens' Declarations of Intention and/or Oaths of Allegiance, 1789-1880, in United States Circuit Court, United States District Court, Supreme Court of PA, Quarter Sessions Court, Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia. Compiled by W.P.A. Project #20837. Sponsored by PA Historical Commission. [The Shirleys above are in: volume 10; letter S, page 166.
- 1822 **Edward Shirley**, 31 yrs, New York NY  
 1822 **Esther Shirley**, 27 yrs, New York NY  
 1821 **Mary Shirley**, 48 yrs, New York NY  
 From: Untied States Department of State. Passengers Who Arrived in the U.S. Sept. 1821-Dec. 1823.
- 1874 **John Shirley**, - Texas  
 1874 **William Shirley** - Texas  
 From: Trevia Wooster Beverly, compiler, INDEX TO NATURALIZATION RECORDS - GRAYSON COUNTY, TEXAS, 1855-1907.

INFORMATION SENT BY: Lucille Tilton

**FROM: MARRIAGE AND DEATH NOTICES FROM BAPTIST NEWSPAPERS OF SOUTH CAROLINA 1835-1865, Compiled by: Brent H. Holcomb.**

Issue of December 22, 1847

Married on Wednesday, 8th December, by Professor James C. Furman, Mr. **John R. Shirley** to Miss Martha Ann, daughter of Col. George Leitner, all of **FAIRFIELD CO. SC.**

Issue of August 25, 1852

Married on Thursday the 5th inst., by the Rev. W. W. Rollings, Mr. **John R. Shirley**, of **FAIRFIELD CO. SC.** to Miss Mary Ann, third daughter of Alexr. Fewell, Esq., of Ebenezer ville, York District, SC.

Issue of October 22, 1862

Died on Sunday, October 5th, **Sallie McMeekin**, third daughter of **John R. and Mary Ann Shirley**, aged 6 years and 7 months.

**FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL MAGAZINE  
JULY 1900 ISSUE, page 223.**

Rules of the St. Cecilia Society, Agreed upon and finally confirmed, November 22, 1773.

This Society was actually organized in 1762 but it appears the above date is when the first organized rules were made.

[A few items found in the rules I found interesting to note here]. It will consist of 120 members and they will be charged 20 shillings currency towards defraying the expense of the dinner. The Society will elect a Pres., V.P., Treas., & Steward, and 11 other members, residents in **Charlestown SC** who with the forenamed officers shall be constituted Managers for the current year. and...in case any member, a resident of Charlestown, shall, upon his election, refuse to serve as Officer or Manager of the Society, such person so refusing, if an Officer, shall pay a fine of 10 pounds currency; if a Manager, a fine of 5 pounds currency; and the Society shall proceed to another election.

The first mention of the St. Cecilia Society was found in THE SOUTH CAROLINA GAZETTE for Monday, November 30, 1767. It mentions a meeting of the Society which had taken place on Tuesday, November 24th, when Alexander Garden had been elected President; David Oliphant, Vice President and **THOMAS SHIRLEY**, Treasurer.

**FROM THE HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL MAGAZINE of October 1902  
Volume 3, #4 page 232.**

Among the mutilated records of "Deeds and Landgrants" for Virginia in 1681 is a grant to Elizabeth Otey, in New Kent, of property formerly belonging to **Elizabeth Shirley**, deceased, by virtue of the will of her father, **Richard Shirley**, and deeded to Elizabeth Otey, heir of the whole blood to Elizabeth Shirley, Jr., deceased.

Information sent by: Gary F. Shirley

**MEMORIES OF MY "GROWING UP YEARS" ON THE OLD HOME PLACE IN  
HOWELL CO. MISSOURI**

*By Catherine (Shirley) Sigler*

The old place was in the SHIRLEY family many, many more years than even I knew.

Frances (MEADOWS), (Shirley), Jarrett, my gr gr grandmother deeded it to Thomas P. Shirley, my gr grandfather, and he deeded it to Orville William Shirley, my father.

I lived there until I married. It lies 1/2 mile or so from the Free Union Cemetery where my family, from Thomas P. Shirley on down, are buried. I don't know where John or Frances are buried.

I remember my father telling me about an awful tornado that blew away the first house when he was a small school age child. I can remember seeing the huge rocks that were the chimney to the fireplace. He said it took dishes and such right up the chimney.

My great grandmother, Elizabeth (Keel) Shirley was Cherokee Indian. I forget if he said half or full blood.

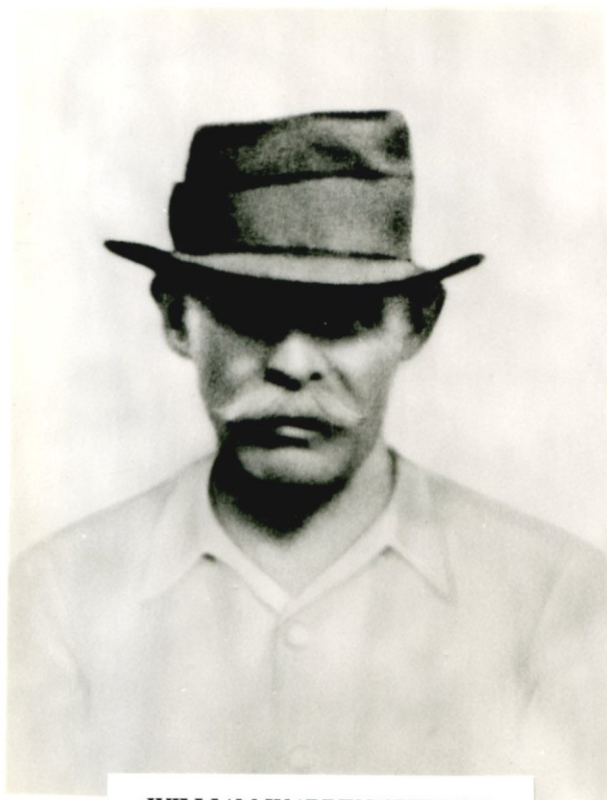
My father told me about working in the oil fields around Cleveland Oklahoma when he was a young man and seeing the famed "Doc Holiday" on the street there. My father worked in the Almond orchards around Paso Robles California for awhile.

We lived for a period of time in the Boston Mountains of North Arkansas below Jasper. I think it was for my grandmothers health.

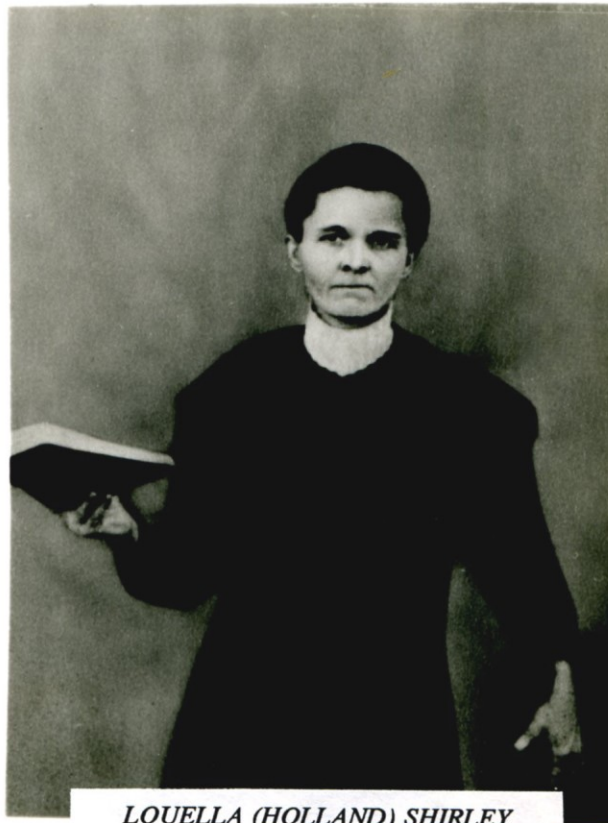
My father was the Justice of the Peace for a number of years in the 1930's/40's. I remember the first marriage he performed. It was for our neighbor's girl.

By the time I came along, all that was left of my fathers family was he and his two sisters.

*[This family can be found on the cover of the Summer 1991 NEWS and a related family on the cover of the Fall 1991 issue. This branch of Shirleys was in White County Tennessee in the early 1800's].*



**WILLIAM WARREN SHIRLEY**  
*(son of Thomas P. Shirley)*



**LOUELLA (HOLLAND) SHIRLEY**  
*(wife of Wm. Warren Shirley)*



USAF photo by Jeff Marshall

*Air Force Intelligence Command Vice Commander Brig. Gen. Graham Shirley (right) receives his retirement certificate from Assistant Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Thomas McInerney at Lackland AFB, Tex. General Shirley retires with more than 3,000 flying hours to his credit, including 200 combat missions during the Vietnam War.*

1. Anne Bumpus & Betty Shirley, at James Young's
2. James Young & Elwood Shirley
3. Anne Nosov, Sister Carmel Claxton, (Shirleys) & Betty Shirley, (your editor), in Ireland.
4. Fletcher Shirley of Georgia, (GA. Shirleys).
5. Graham Shirley was with us at 1986 Celebration in England. (Nov '92 clipping from Alan Lamb).



EDWARD BENNETT OF LONDON AND VIRGINIA

by John Bennett Boddie

Edward Bennett, Merchant of London, had an important part in the early settlement of Virginia which the early Virginia histories do not mention as they were more concerned with the changing political life of the day, rather than the actual physical settlement of the colony.

Edward Bennett not only established the first large plantation in Virginia but he and his family sent over at different times about 800 immigrants. He was the owner of a fleet of vessels which traded with Virginia. He was Commissioner of Virginia at the court of England and was the first person to advocate the prohibition of the importation of all tobacco to England except Virginia tobacco. His plantation in Isle of Wight County resulted from the following action taken by the London Company of Virginia. At a meeting of the Virginia Company, Oct 24, 1621, the Deputy Governor mentioned: "That the first patent was for a gentleman that had deserved singularly well of the company before he was a member thereof. And since his admittance he had been att a verie great charge for transporting of people to Virginia, namely Mr. Bennett who now joyns himselfe in the business with Mr. **WISEMAN** and Mr. Ayres."

On Nov 21, 1621, Edward Bennett obtained this patent for a plantation conditioned on settling of 200 immigrants. His associates were Thomas Ayers, **Thomas Wiseman** and **Richard Wiseman**.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY VIRGINIA

Thomas Shurley helped appraise the estate of Robert Cannon.  
Aug 23, 1736. Will Book 4 page 134

Court of December 12, 1694, Mr. Henry Balser and Captain Henry Tooker exec. in trust of last will and testament of Ralph Sherley, deceased.

ABSTRACTS OF WILLS OF CHARLESTON DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

Samuel Carne, late of Sandon, County of Essex [England], but now of Kensington, County of Middlesex [England], Esq., to be interred in vault where my grandfather Samuel Clarke was buried in Paddington Church Yard or in my family vault at Sandon. Wife: Catherine, now in America, 1/7 part of estate of George Paddon Bond during her life, residue of my estate in America. Son: Samuel Charles. Brother: John Carne. Brother-in-law: George Paddon Bond of South Carolina in America, Esq., lately died intestate possessing considerable land there; .....etc. Mrs. Elizabeth Calvert (wife of John Calvert) of Charles Town; expenses of voyage of my wife to England from America; to **Thomas Shirley** of Coleman Street, London, merchant, all my manuscripts and 30 books out of my library and my picture now in his possession; Mrs. Shirley, wife of said Shirley; Edward Neufville of Charles Town; .....etc.

Exors; **Thomas Shirley**; Ann Andrews.

D: Sept 8, 1786 P: Prerogative Court of Canterbury Jan 2, 1787.

Edgar Janney Shirley

Article sent by:  
DONNA LEE SHIRLEY

life

Father Edgar Deary Shirley  
Mother Minnie De Haven  
daughters Mark De Haven  
Clara Frederick County VA.  
an Hunting RidgeWinchester Star  
Va.

Saturday, June 20, 1992

C7

## 90 Years Old, 100 Wild Shirts

By TINA SKINNER  
Star Staff Writer

The eating and celebrating went on longer than the first Thanksgiving.

Finally, on Wednesday, the celebrating of Ed Shirley's 90th birthday drew to a close, two days and three parties after his June 15 birthdate.

You might say the Winchester resident is a popular man, but that would be an understatement. A little man with a grin as big as the space between his ears, Shirley has got more friends than you can shake a barbecued hot dog at.

Ed (short for Edgar) Shirley has got women feeding him and men pulling up chairs all the time, all in hopes of soaking up a bit of this man's sunshine. They buzz around him like moths around a lamp. And he buzzes right back.

Shirley is a people person, and real busy being one.

He was among the first to arrive at his own birthday party sponsored by Frederick County Parks and Recreation at Clearbrook Park to help get the charcoals cooking. Then, when a van arrived from the Northern Frederick County Club, Shirley went, quick as a flash, from the barbecue pit on one side of the picnic shelter to the other side so he could help the ladies.

Shirley is the long-standing president of the Northern Frederick County Club, and a member of three of the county's four senior citizen clubs—it's a ticket to more meals, jokes Jann Hardy of Frederick County Parks and Recreation.

Hardy thinks Shirley is extraordinary. "Most people I know who are 90 aren't out doing things," she said, adding, "he's so colorful."

Indeed, on Wednesday Shirley showed up in polyester splendor, with a shirt that would have muted Tom Selleck's best Hawaiian wear. He has more than 100 shirts on a rack at his home on Fairfax Lane, he said, many of which he picked up at flea markets.

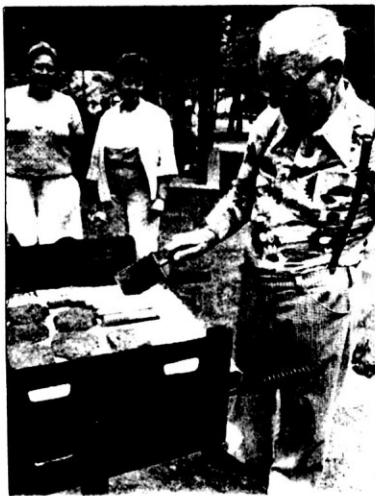
"I see these loud things, and I like them. I've got a lot of wild things," Shirley said. "I like stretch things too," he says, pulling the front of his shirt out so all could marvel at its elasticity. Then he pulled his pointy collars out like wings. "These long-tailed things, they'll come back in style some day," he said.

That comment came from a model of men's fashions, at least hair-wise. For years, Shirley had a barbershop on the south side of Piccadilly Street between Cameron and Loudoun streets. He's still cutting a few curls in his home, including his own white mane.

Shirley was born and raised on a farm on Hunting Ridge near Greenspring. He learned his trade, he says, "shearing sheep and trimming mule tails."

He started cutting hair when he was 22 and got married two years later to Sallie. They had a marriage that others describe as a best friendship for 52 years, going everywhere together, fishing and hunting especially.

Shirley has a cottage—"That ain't a cabin, it's a cottage. I've heard disreputable things about cabins"—on Hunting Ridge, and he spends a lot of time there.



Ed Shirley, 90, snaps his suspenders to show off a colorful shirt at a birthday party in his honor on Wednesday at Clearbrook Park where he also

flipped the burgers under the watchful eyes of Lois Wismer (left) of Winchester and Marie Roberts of Inwood, W.Va.

"I stay outdoors most of the time," he said. "I'm no housekeeper, if you visit me you'll see what I mean. But I have got a pretty backyard—lots of roses in it."

Shirley has been a widower since 1978, and jokes that he'd like to have another woman, "just to cook for me and stuff like that." However, he'd never need to pick just one. There are plenty of women doing just that for him now.

Like the ladies who came to his party at Clearbrook Park. Many, when asked about Shirley, recited his favorite foods.

"He likes rabbit to eat, if you cook for him," says Joyce Chrismore, who lives near Shirley's cottage. "We used to raise rabbits, and I used to fix him one and take it to him."

"He especially likes fish," says Maddie McCarty, who figures she's known Shirley for 60 years. "I used to have him out to lunch every two weeks, we really enjoyed being with him."

His niece, Lois Wismer, makes sure Shirley gets plenty of fish. "I fry it for him, and all he has to do is heat it up," she says.

It might sound like Shirley is getting too old to cook and feed himself. To the contrary, his biggest meal of the day is breakfast, and he cooks it up himself—hotcakes and bacon and eggs. The works.

Rather, all this eating is just a way of socializing for Shirley, who obviously thrives on company.

"Hey, Ed. I had fresh peas out of the garden.

"I'll have to come over and help you eat peas," Shirley offered.

"I knew you'd say that," said his young friend and neighbor of 68.

As for eating, Shirley says, "I like to talk to people better than I like to eat."

Still, at the Clearbrook party, after everyone else was served, he finally settled himself down to one of the hamburgers he helped grill. And then he tried each of the three cakes that had been made for him for the occasion, along with the coconut custard pie.

Shirley is "a fine young man," says Rose Baker, a friend for many years. "He used to be one of our bowling buddies, but he's given up bowling now."

What he hasn't given up are hunting and fishing. And he still keeps bees—three hives right on his back porch. "I like sweet things," he says.

He's a regular at Braddock Street United Methodist Church, though he's late every Sunday, according to his niece, and with the Old Stone Church Memorial Association—the church in Greenspring where most of his family is buried.

And he hasn't given up his sense of humor.

"Folks, hey, listen to me," he calls out at the Clearbrook party. "Get on your feet there, round 'em up into a circle," he directs, calling the two dozen people into assembly for a prayer. Then he leads a hymn, says a short prayer.

FROM EDITOR: While researching in England last year, I came across the following article. It's very interesting. I'd like to share it with you. The article concerns **Servants to Foreign Plantations from Bristol England.**

On 29th September 1654 the Council of the City of Bristol enacted an ordinance requiring that a system of enrolment be set up to record the names of all indentured servants embarking from the port of Bristol for service overseas. On the very next day the first entry was penned in what was to become the register known as *Servants to Foreign Plantations*. The need for a scrupulous tally arose from the long-standing and notorious practice of kidnapping, inveigling, and bribing youngsters onto ships bound for the labour-hungry colonies, there to be sold at good profit. Nor was the practice without weighty precedent, for as early as 1619 the State had connived at the rounding up of vagrant children in London and their forcible shipment to Virginia; but when private enterprise adopted similar measures, the State took exception and prosecuted those responsible. Nevertheless, forcible shipment of servants, indentured or not, continued apace. An Order of Parliament of 9th May 1645 required officers and justices to exercise diligence in apprehending those responsible for the kidnapping and shipping of children, and the City Fathers of Bristol may, perhaps, be considered negligent in having allowed nine years to pass before regulating these matters.

The 1654 ordinance acknowledged that many complaints of kidnapping had been made and, "to prevent such mischief," ordained that "all boys, maids and other persons which for the future shall be transported beyond the seas as servants shall, before their going a shipboard, have their covenants or indentures of service and apprenticeship inrolled in the Tolzey (*i.e.* Council) Books." The enrolments were bound in leather covers to form two volumes, the first ending on 24th March 1662/3, and the second starting on 26th March 1663 and ending on 26th August 1679. Throughout that period of twenty five years the entries appear to be complete with the possible exception of 1673 when the middle months of the year seem unnaturally thin. From 1679 to 1686 (and with the exception of the years 1681-1683 inclusive for which only two entries survive) details of some, and possibly all, indentured servants destined for overseas were written into a rough book with the title *Actions and Apprentices*. Some of the entries duplicate and overlap in date those to be found in the registers, and the very untidy and scribbled notes suggest that the contents may not be comprehensive.

This decline from the previously high standards set by Bristol has an interesting sequel. Judge Jeffreys' "Bloody Assizes" took him in 1685 to Bristol where he condemned many hundreds involved in Monmouth's Rebellion to be transported from that port to Barbados. On the same occasion he took the opportunity of castigating local merchants and magistrates for their evil practices. A contemporary wrote: "There had been a usage among the aldermen and justices of the City where all persons, even common shop keepers, more or less trade to the American plantations, to carry over criminals . . . and to sell them for money. This was found to be a good trade but, not being content to take such felons as were convicts at their Assizes and Sessions, which produced but a few, they found out a shorter way which yielded a greater plenty of the commodity. What small rogues and pilferers were taken and brought [before the court] were put under terror of being hanged . . . and some of the diligent officers attending instructed them to pray transportation as the only way to save them, and for the most part they did so. Then no more was done but the next alderman in course took one and another as their turns came, sometimes quarreling whose the last was, and sent them over [to America] and sold them." Jeffreys formed the opinion that all the justices and aldermen (including the mayor) of Bristol were tainted by this practice. When he discovered that a boy from one of the city's prisons had been illegally transported he summoned Sir William Hayman, the then mayor, to the bar, accused him of complicity in the crime, fined him £1,000 and bound him and three others over to appear before the King's Bench on further charges of kidnapping the King's subjects for servitude overseas. But, runs the account, "the prosecution depended until the Revolution [of 1688] which made an amnesty; and the fright only, which was no small one, was all the punishment these juridical kidnappers underwent, and the gains acquired by so wicked a trade rested peacefully in their pockets."<sup>1</sup>

Of the total of just over 10,000 emigrants recorded in this book, all but a small handful were labourers, husbandmen or tradesmen, most from the West Country, the West Midlands, and Wales but with a fair sprinkling of intending emigrants from much further afield including London, Cambridge, Lancashire, Scotland, Ireland, France, and even from the American colonies themselves. While many undoubtedly arrived in Bristol having already indentured themselves to overseas service, there is good reason to suppose that a great number came there speculatively in order to seek a considerate master to sign them up on the spot. We get some idea of what terms a good indenture provided from certain of the earliest entries in the registers: a five or seven-year agreement would typically promise the servant, at the end of his or her service, a house, an axe, a year's provisions and double apparel, and sometimes a few acres of land. This, of course, was in addition to the provision of free passage. But it should not be assumed that all servants received such generous treatment nor indeed that all went voluntarily on shipboard; from surviving notes it is clear that errant children could be packed off to the colonies by their parents or guardians, and there is further evidence (see the entry for 20 July 1659) that passengers could be forcibly detained on board ship.

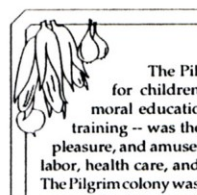
The amount of detail recorded against each name in the registers varied. At the beginning it was plainly the intention to identify the place of origin of each servant, but the practice probably became tiresome as the numbers increased and, by 1661, most entries were abbreviated to show only names of servants and masters, length of service contracted for, and destination. Matters improved again in 1670 when the names of ships were often included, but this custom also lapsed until late in 1675. Every effort has been made to provide an accurate transcription of all the salient information in the registers, and the only liberty taken has been to render the names of

towns and villages into their modern form. To judge from some of the curious entries encountered, the geographical knowledge of the scribes employed at Bristol was limited. There is no certain way of knowing whether they made their original entries by copying from the indentures or by writing down what they heard. The neat and orderly appearance of the two registers strongly suggests that they contain fair copies of entries taken from rough notes (in the same way that most parish registers were compiled) - thus increasing the chances of faulty recording but ameliorating the task of the latter-day transcriber!

The story of how the registers were discovered after 200 years in dusty obscurity is one beloved of archivists. When, in 1925, the Corporation of Bristol decided to rebuild the ancient Council House, the storerooms on the top floor were cleared of a mass of old records and, behind an ancient wall-press, were found the two volumes called *Servants to Foreign Plantations*. These provide a unique record of indentured emigrants who shipped from Bristol, then the premier English port for emigration. Within four years of their discovery R. Hargreaves-Mawdsley published a severely summarised transcription under the title of *Bristol and America*, and that slim volume has well served a whole generation of historians and genealogists. Nevertheless, researchers have long known that the book, despite four reprints, contains a large number of faulty transcriptions, omits much material essential to a proper comprehension of the subject, and lacks adequate indexes. It is those reasons which have dictated the preparation of the present volume.

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AMDG  
Easter 1988.



## The Pilgrim Family

The Pilgrim family, a school for children and servants -- for moral education and for vocational training -- was the hub of spiritual ties, pleasure, and amusement, and a center for labor, health care, and community welfare. The Pilgrim colony was family-oriented. This was one basic reason for its success.

The Pilgrim families, reeling under the blows of the Great Sickness the first winter, demonstrated their loyalty to the orphans as they quickly took in the homeless children.

Religion was an integrating force and creative leaven in the Pilgrim family. The precepts of the Bible, which was in almost every home, established standards of conduct and faith, a panoply of belief under which men and women faced the testings of birth, sickness, death, housework, farm labor, hunger, sorrow, and joy.

Special days were set apart in time of crisis, "solemn days of humiliation by fasting, etc., and also for thanksgiving as occasion shall be offered (Bradford in *Of Plimoth Plantation*)." Children of the soil, dependent on sun, wind, and rain, these people worked the earth with their hands and lived in tune with the rhythm of nature. On the fringes of the unexplored forest and the shores of an ocean with its ever-changing moods, their dependence upon the natural order of the creation of their sovereign God profoundly influenced their wilderness life.

Family lifestyle followed an enviably simple pattern. Every family member performed a variety of daily chores: cooking, curing meat, drying fruit, spinning, weaving, mending, sewing, tapping shoes, repairing tools, making soap, churning butter, preparing seed for planting, hoeing, weeding, reaping crops, storing the harvest, chopping wood, feeding fires, carrying water, building and maintaining shelters for man and beast, caring for cows, goats, sheep, pigs, and chickens. The

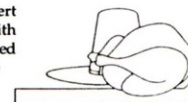
constant work required to increase the security of the household left little time to entertain the temptations of idleness or self-indulgence.

At least eight months out of the year, the inviting outdoor world offered an outlet to relieve family tensions. They hunted in the forest for turkey, partridge, quail, and deer, and in the lowlands for ducks and geese; fished in the ponds for perch, bass, and pickerel, and from a dory on the ocean for cod, haddock, and sole; and gleaned along the beach for clams, quahogs, scallops, and oysters.

Although limited in facilities and luxuries, the family offered stability in the frontier world, a haven of companionship. In these self-sustaining homes, family members preserved and stored away grain and legumes, vegetables, smoked meat and fish, dried fruits, nuts, wool and flax for weaving, candles for light, and wood for fuel. These preparations nurtured pride in the household enterprise and a unity of spirit as members pooled their labor for a common good. Such efforts at planning and self-protection gave the family a feeling of confidence that together they could meet life's challenges.

As the center for teaching morality, the home was an extension of the meeting-house in building Christian character, inculcating spiritual values, and setting the example for righteous living. Regular churchgoing and daily prayer and Bible reading supported the family priority of admonishing and guiding the youth and disciplining the unruly. The unity of the family upheld the morale of the colony and created a sustaining faith rooted in the spiritual values of the Bible.

Adapted from Robert M. Bartlett's *The Faith of the Pilgrims* (United Church Press, 1978)



## Could these be Anne Shirley's ancestors?

As we know, Anne Shirley was a fictitious character created by L. M. Montgomery's imagination. But often, for inspiration, LMM drew on the people, events and landscapes that were a part of her life. This summer our office received a call from Betty Shirley of Cupertino, California asking the question: "Why did the author give Anne the surname Shirley?"

Mrs. Shirley is fascinated with the topic of genealogy and has researched extensively her husband's family, the Shirleys. Mrs. Shirley went on to say that she has searched through her records to see if she could find a Shirley family living on Prince Edward Island during the author's life time but didn't find any. She did find Shirleys in the neighbouring provinces of New Brunswick and Newfoundland, and in the nearby states of Maine, New Hampshire and New York in the mid-1800s. She speculates that there could be other records that she doesn't have, but so far nothing has shown up. Mrs. Shirley thinks that LMM must have been in contact with or had a relative who was a Shirley. "Anne's surname had to have come from somewhere! I doubt it was just made up." Mrs. Shirley asks that if any of our readers, know or have any ideas on this, to please let her know.



## What Anne knows of her "Roots"

*Marilla was determined to return the unrequested girl orphan to Mrs. Spencer. On the buggy ride from Green Gables to Mrs. Spencer's house, Marilla asked Anne what she "knew about herself", and heard a story that was to soften her heart.*

"I was born in Bolingbroke, Nova Scotia. My father's name was Walter Shirley, and he was a teacher in the Bolingbroke High School. My mother's name was Bertha Shirley. Aren't Walter and Bertha lovely names? I'm so glad my parents had nice names. It would be a real disgrace to have a father named—well, say Jedediah, wouldn't it?"

"I guess it doesn't matter what a person's name is as long as he behaves himself," said Marilla, feeling herself called upon to inculcate a good and useful moral.

"Well, I don't know." Anne looked thoughtful. "I read in a book once that a rose by any other name would smell as sweet, but I've never been able to believe it. I don't believe a rose *would* be as nice if it was called a thistle or a skunk cabbage. I suppose my father could have been a good man even if he had been called Jedediah; but I'm sure it would have been a cross. Well, my mother was a teacher in the High School, too, but when she married father she gave up teaching, of course. A husband was enough responsibility. Mrs. Thomas said that they were a pair of babies and as poor as church mice. They went to live in a weeny-teeny little yellow house in Bolingbroke. . . I was born in that house. Mrs. Thomas said I was the homeliest baby she ever saw, I was so scrawny and tiny and nothing but eyes, but that mother thought I was perfectly beautiful. I should think a mother would be a better judge than a poor woman who came in to scrub, wouldn't you? I'm so glad she was satisfied with me anyhow; I would feel so sad if I thought I was a disappointment to her—because she didn't live very long after that, you see. She died of fever when I was just three months old. I do wish she'd lived long enough for me to remember calling her mother. I think it would be so sweet to say 'mother,' don't you? And father died four days afterwards from fever, too. That left me an orphan and folks were at their wits' end, so Mrs. Thomas said, what to do with me. You see, nobody wanted me even then. It seems to be my fate. Father and mother had both come from places far away and it was well known they hadn't any relatives living. Finally Mrs. Thomas said she'd take me . . ."

*Anne of Green Gables, Chapter V*