



ISSN 089301275

CUPERTINO, CALIFORNIA 95014

WINTER 1994-95



**THE DAVID ALBERT SHIRLEY FAMILY**

Gentleman on left with cap is David Albert, Harvey next to him with his cap. Bertha is the lady on right with glasses. Harvey and Harry are two of the small boys and Evelyn one of the small girls.

Photo courtesy of Naomi (Shirley) Barrow

See: Shirley NEWS, Spring 1994, page 11. David Albert Shirley is a brother to George Richard Shirley.

Peter Shirley, (#27 on the list of branches), was the father of Frederick Shirley born in 1836. Frederick and his wife Hannah were the parents of 10 children.

George Richard born 1861 VA  
Maria born 1863 WV  
Charles Edward born 1866 WV  
John W. born 1867 WV

Robert Nelson born 1870 WV  
Martin Luther born 1872 WV  
David Albert born 1875 WV

Emma Florence born 1878 WV  
Isaac born 1880 WV  
Henry Frank born 1884 WV

David Albert married Jane. Their children were: Harvey, Elwood and Bertha. Elwood had no children. Harvey had eight children: Evelyn, Mary, Frances, Margaret, Irene, Henry, Harry and Harvey.





Three robbers lying on a bed. "The Kid" (youngest of the three men) lies there cleanshaven, naked breast with hands folded, nostrils up and eyes open; Jim Shirley lies in the middle with ruffled hair, heavy beard, dark moustache, clothes torn wide open on his breast, bullet wound in his left breast; George Law sleeps with his eyes closed, teeth gritted, heavy dark moustache, naked breasts with bullet wound in right breast.

Sent by the Curator of the Museum of NW Colorado

From your editor: I received a call from Colorado asking if I might know anything about this Jim Shirley. I suggested the material be sent so I would write a story about it for the NEWS. I said I would ask our readers if Jim belongs to any of their them. Would you please write to me if you know who this Jim Shirley is? Thanks!

On the afternoon of October 13, 1896, three horsemen rode into Meeker Colorado and robbed a bank. One of the three was Jim Shirley. He walked with a slight limp. He was a pleasant-faced, medium sized man of about forty-five. He wore blue goggles which helped disguise his face, covering deep-set, bluish gray eyes.

One of the robbers pulled the trigger which alerted the townspeople of the robbery in progress. Some of the local men ran up the streets spreading the news of the robbery, and minutes later the village were running for their guns. Armed men appearing at doors, windows, and behind buildings, were waiting to greet the bank robbers when they came out.

Inside the robbery was not going well. There was trouble opening the bank door. Jim Shirley, the ringleader, stumped up to the manager of the store and remarked pleasantly, "Mr. Cashier", we want you! "Unlock the bank door," Shirley ordered. Shirley was determined to carry out his plans and took another fatal five minutes to secure all of the rifles and ammunition in the store. He filled the magazines of three and broke the stocks of the others.

The robbers went out to their horses knowing they were being watched by an army of hidden marksmen bidding their time, waiting for an opportunity to shoot without endangering the hostages. Then Jim Shirley spied one of the townspeople peering at him. He jerked up his Winchester and fired.

The unusual procession continued on for about thirty more feet to where their horses were tied. Jim Shirley and his partner started to untie them while the other partner kept guard.



Shirley smiled as he reached for his bridle reins. The worst seemed to be over. Then suddenly one of his prisoners aching shoulders had finally become exhausted to keep his arms up any longer. As he dropped his arms he ran for shelter. Shirley grabbed for his rifle. The prisoners all scrambled to safety and the townspeople opened fire. Shirley went down with a bullet in his left lung. Game to the last, he whipped out his six-shooter, and though unable to regain his feet, he sprayed lead in all directions until he died.

Seventeen days after the attempted robbery, a resident of Meeker ran across the camp of the dead bank robbers at the head of Three Mile Gulch, a tributary of Strawberry. There he found the three relay horses, three rifles, and bedding. The horses had been without feed and water for seventeen days. One was dead and the other two were so weak they could barely stand. All the bark within reach of the starving animals had been chewed off the cedars to which they were tied.

While Jim Shirley was a comparative stranger in Meeker, H.S. Harp, a cattleman of that area, claimed that Shirley had worked for him at one time. Harp referred to him as "one of the pleasantest fellows I ever met, a dandy stock tender, a good cook, and a man who always kept a clean cabin."

Where Jim Shirley came from and just who he was continues to be a mystery.

From: SUNSET SLOPE, True Epics of Western Colorado, by Wilson Rockwell, Big Mountain Press, Denver CO.

Newspaper clipping from: Newlin Shirley

JOHN SHIRLEY

#### THE MOST FAMOUS ENGLISH PUBLISHER

The influence of the professional bookseller was considerable. In the fourteenth century a bookseller probably in Oxford produced a set of small booklets, some scientific, some poetic, each of which sold for two or three shillings; this is now Bodleian Library, MS Digby 166. A London bookseller compiled the Auchinleck (pronounced Afflek) Manuscript, a well-known collection of English verse romances. In the fifteenth century booksellers may have produced anthologies to order (a "bespoke" trade); this seems to have been the case with the "Grete Boke" of Sir John Paston, prepared by the bookseller William Ebsham; it contained works of chivalry and romance. The most famous English "publisher" was John Shirley, who is responsible for many of the "aureate" collections of poetry by Chaucer, Lydgate, and others; of these fine books the most famous is the Fairfax Manuscript, now in the Bodleian Library. Such collections were made into the sixteenth century; here we may note the Scottish anthology known as the Bannatyne Manuscript, which contains both Middle English and Middle Scots poetry.

#### Elvis's cousin elected sheriff

TUPELO, Miss. (AP) — The jailhouse could be rockin' in Mississippi's Lee County, now that Elvis Presley's cousin has been elected sheriff.

Harold Ray Presley won a runoff Tuesday to fill the remaining two years in Sheriff Jack Shirley's term. Shirley died of cancer a year ago.

Presley had 5,834 votes, or 56

percent, to Chief Deputy Robert Armstrong's 4,614 votes, or 44 percent, according to unofficial returns.

"It will be a new jailhouse rock in Lee County, Miss.," said supporter David Turner.

"God has blessed the Presley family," said Presley, who had been the department's chief narcotics investigator. He was to be sworn in today for the \$50,800-a-year job.

**HARRISON COUNTY KENTUCKY RECORDS**

FROM: Lois Crayton

**Deed book N, Drawer 11 Box 702, Shirley heirs listed:**

Richard Shirley  
Thomas Shirley, Jr.  
Lettis Cullins and Wm. Cullins  
**HEIRS OF THOMAS SHIRLEY, DECEASED!**

Polly Shirley  
Lettice Shirley  
Thomas Shirley  
**HEIRS OF ELIZABETH SHIRLEY, DECEASED, LATE OF BARREN CO. KY**

Isaac Dale, attorney to represent them in selling Harrison Co. Ky. land on Raven Creek.

Wit: James Shirley  
dated: 11834

**SHIRLEYS IN TAX RECORDS OF HARRISON CO. KENTUCKY**

1820 tax book missing  
1821 William, 97 acres 1 white above 21, 4 children 4-14 years  
1822 William  
1823-1829 No Shirleys listed  
1830 William  
1831-32 Tax book missing  
1833-1835 No Shirleys listed

**William T. Shirley**

My great grandfather, William T. Shirley, born 1806 KY., married Mary "Polly" Hitch Worrell were married in Claysville, Harrison County, Kentucky on December 26, 1829.

In 1832 they moved to Gosport, Monroe County, Indiana. From there they moved in 1839 to a farm near Bellville, Hendricks Co. Indiana. Later they moved to Pecksburg, Hendricks County, where William, previously a tailor by trade, ran a store, was postmaster, and railroad station agent.

William T. Shirley married a second time to a neighbor, Lucinda Taylor. They had a daughter, Georgia.

Ola Marshall Hubbard, who had grown up in Pecksburg, pictured Pecksburg in 1845 in a "History of Pecksburg" written in 1938-39 for a Pecksburg (Hendricks County Indiana) homecoming.

"(Pecksburg) boasted of two churches, Methodist and Lutheran, blacksmith shop, schoolhouse, two stores, gristmill, two doctors, post office, picture gallery, shoe shop, and millinery store.....

Uncle Bill Shirley's (William T.) store was on the south side of the railroad and west side of the road. He handled everything that anybody wanted, especially peppermint stick candy for the children. He was the postmaster too!

There was a long platform between the railroad and the store where the passengers could alight, and naturally when Uncle Billy would flag down a train, all eyes were open. A man with long whiskers or a lady with a long dress and hoop skirt might get off the train, climb in a buggy, and drive away. There were no telephones or radios in existence then.

When there weren't any passengers to get on the train, Uncle Billy would fix the mail bag on a crane and the clerk would gracefully hook it in and with a friendly wave go on...."

We had a town pump, the flagpole raising, loyal church members, good schools, town hall, town crier,



prize fighters, pretty women, fast horses, hog callers, horn tooters, coon hunters, hounds and horse doctors.

In those days we went to Sunday School and Church and our choir carried off honors with Bill Shirley (William T.) as the leader."

I assume that there was one thing you couldn't get at Uncle Billy's store. My mother told me that her father-in-law, William R. Shirley got his wedding suit at Springtown.

About 1975 the schoolhouse was completely destroyed and the bricks incorporated into a modern home and in 1982 the railroad tracks were taken up. Since then there has been no visible sign of the town that was Pecksburg, home of the William T. Shirleys, including my grandfather, William R. Shirley.

William T. and Polly were the parents of:

1. James born Sept 26, 1830 Harrison Co. Kentucky. Married Prescilla Jackson April 19, 1854. They had one son, Orville. James served in the Union Army from July 6, 1861 to Jan 10, 1866. He was severely wounded, somewhat disabled, and nearly blind the rest of his life.
2. Lucinda born Feb 20, 1833 Gosport, Monroe Co. Indiana. Died Sept 23, 1906. Married James Worrell.

Their children were:

A. Charles who married Eliz. Edmondson

- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| a. Dee     | d. Helen   |
| b. Maurice | e. Dorothy |
| c. Beth    | f. Shirley |

B. Albert who married Mary Ader

Their children were:

- |            |         |
|------------|---------|
| a. Willard | c. Ruth |
| b. Kate    | d. Lee  |

C. Ella who married Will Peck and they had one daughter, Ethel.

3. Sarah (Sallie) born Oct 20, 1833 Gosport, Monroe Co. Indiana. Married Robert N. Harvey and they had three sons: George A., Dr. W. Dayton and Frank.
4. Meranda J. born Sept 8, 1838 Gosport, Monroe Co. Indiana. Married Himelius Kendall and had one son, Milo.
5. Robert Eldridge born Oct 6, 1845 Gosport, Monroe Co. Indiana. Died July 23, 1837
6. William R. born Aug 15, 1845 Pecksburg, Hendricks Co. Indiana. Died Aug 4, 1902  
married 1st Sallie Maria Phillips Sept 22, 1869 (4 children)  
married 2nd Ruth Masten Hodson Sept 20, 1898

children:

- a. Etta Lenore April 1, 1852
- b. Fred Grant Feb 2, 1873 (father of Lois Crayton)
- c. Alva Roy Jan 1, 1875
- d. \_\_\_\_\_

In 1871, two years after William R.'s marriage to Sallie Phillips, Sallie acquired 40 acres of land on the south end of the present Shirley farm. (A dowry?). There the young couple built their first home, a log cabin and a barn. A little later they built a brick house a little farther north, where all children, except Ettie, were born.

Throughout his adult life, William R. Shirley was a singer and choir leader. Miles Furnas recorded this incident: Arrangements had been made for a highly recommended choir from Indianapolis to present a choral program at the Mill Creek Meeting House. The house was filled in anticipation of a special treat. The choir sang its first number....no response from the audience. They sang until intermission and the audience sat on their hands. During the intermission while the choir was resting, the crowd began calling for "Bill Shirley's choir." Finally his choir responded and the audience came alive and expressed great enthusiasm. The visitor from the big city slipped away without finishing their planned concert.

About 1839 another family of Shirleys settled in NE Hendricks County and spread to NW Hendricks Co. and to the county seat of Danville. Belleville and Pecksburg were in the southern part of the county. If there was a relationship, I do not know. That family of Shirleys came from Kentucky also.

My father, Fred Shirley and his brother, Alva, were at various times mistaken for members of the other Shirley family.

Note from editor: The other family of Shirleys are branches #7, Thomas and Mollie Grubbs Shirley, #8, James and Mary McMekin Shirley, #9, Argeland Shirley. Their families came from Scott Co. and Barren Co. Kentucky. Note that Scott Co. is next to Harrison Co. where the above family was from. Harrison County was formed in 1798 from Scott and Bourbon Counties.

My great grandfather, William R. Shirley, had an older brother, James, who was a soldier in the Union Army through out the Civil War. His biography records that his great grandfather, Richard, was a soldier in the Revolutionary War and was burned at the stake by Indians in New York or Pennsylvania.

The William Shirley that appears on the 1821 and 1822 tax list of Harrison County KY had 4 sons under 14 years of age. William Shirley was listed on the Bracken County tax list of 1817. In the census records of 1810 census index for Harrison County Kentucky, William Shearley with 4 males under 10 is listed. In 1820 a David Shirley appears on the census as well as William Shirley. But in the general index of wills the name David Sheely is given (Box 110 drawer 11 page 1181).

The Harrison County Deeds Index list the following: Drawer 11, Box 694 page 167 and 168

James Shirley (168) page ?

Thomas Shirley 1801 to Spencer Mules Hrs. 250 acres Raven Creek

"	1801 from Daniel Neal	630 acres	"
"	1809 from Daniel Neal	190 acres	"
"			

From 1834 to 1843, Thomas Shirleys heirs sold land thru their attorney, John Skinner to: Wm. D. Stewart 30 acres, John Lail/Hail 10 acres, Richard Northcut 96 acres, Arthur Morris 53 acres, T. Crothwait 148 acres, Pollard McKinney 126 acres.

Thank you for sending us your research Lois!

Note from your editor:

**WHO IS THE FATHER OF WILLIAM T. SHIRLEY** born about 1806 Kentucky? The answer is William T. Shirley was born March 7, 1806 Kentucky to William Shirley and his wife, Jemima Taylor, whom he married in 1801 in Nicholas County Kentucky. In 1810, William and Jemima are living in Bracken County Kentucky and in 1820, Harrison County Kentucky. By 1830 they are living in Monroe County Indiana.

William was the son of Richard Shirley who was born 1755 and was killed by the Indians in 1788 in Woodcock Valley, Bedford County, Pennsylvania. He was a Ranger in Capt. Phillips company. Richard's wife was Rachael Moore. Richard was the son of William Shirley brother John Shirley, the ancestor of your editors husband. (See Shirley NEWS Jan 1982 page 14-15).





**CAPT. PHILLIPS' RANGERS MEMORIAL**  
Graves of ten of Capt. Phillips' Militia killed by Indians, July 16, 1780

Richard Shirley's listed on memorial in PA.

#### BOURBON COUNTY KENTUCKY TAX LIST

1826-27 No Shirleys

1828	John Shirley	1 male over 21	1 horse	
1829	James Shirley	1 male over 21	1 horse	
1830	James Shirley	1 male over 21		
	George S. Shirley	1 male over 21	1 horse	
	John Shirley	1 male over 21	3 horses	
1831	Robert Shirley	1 male over 21		
	George S. Shirley	1 male over 21	2 horses	
	James Shirley	1 male over 21	1 horse	1 black
	John Shirley, Sr.	1 male over 21	2 horses	
	John Shirley, Jr.	1 male over 21	1 horse	

1832-33 Tax books missing

#### BRACKEN COUNTY KENTUCKY TAX LIST

1817 William Shirley 150 acres on West Creek 1 male over 21 3 horses

1824-29 No Shirleys listed

1830 Tax books missing

SCOTT COUNTY KENTUCKY

1795	John Sherley			1 male over 21	7 horse	9 cattle 1 black
	Richard Sherley			1 male over 21	3 horses	
1796	Richard Sherley			2 male over 16	3 horses	
	Zekiel Sherley			2 male over 16	5 horses	
	Argey Sherley			3 male over 16	7 horses	
	Thomas Sherley					
	Richard Sherley					
1799	Richard Shirley			2 males over 21		
	John J. Shirley			1 male over 21	2 horses	
	Zekiel Shirley			1 male over 21	2 horses	
1800	Ezekiel Shirley			1 male over 21	3 horses	
1805	Ezekiel Shirley		Eagle Creek			
	Arge Shearly	55 acres	L. Run			
	Edmond Shearly	170 acres	L. Run			
	Margaret Shearly	90 acres	Dry Run			
1826	Ezekiel Shirley	400 acres	Eagle	1 male over 21	3 horses	
	Dickerson Shirley			1 male over 21		
	Elias Shirley			1 male over 21	1 horse	
	Esther Shirley	50 acres	Eagle	1 male over 21	3 horses	2 blacks
	Edward Shirley			2 male over 16	1 horse	1 black
1827	Elisha Shearly	50 acres	LeCompt	1 male over 21	3 horses	
	Elias Shirley			1 male over 21		
	Ezekiel Shirley			1 male over 21	4 horses	
1828	No Shirleys listed					
1829	Esther Shirley	55 acres	L. River	1 child 4-16 yr	1 horse	
1830	Esther Shirley	55 acres	L. River		1 horse	
1831	Esther Shirley	55 acres	L. River			
1832	Tax Book missing					
1833	Mrs. Esther Shirley	55 acres	L. River		1 horse	
1834	Tax Book missing					
1835	Esther Shirley	55 acres	L. River		3 horses	
1836	No Esther					

HARRISON COUNTY KENTUCKY

1826-29 No Shirleys

1830 William Shirley 1 male over 21

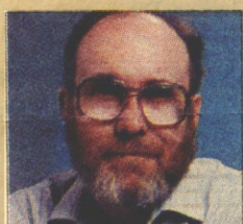
1831-32 Tax Book Missing

1833-35 No Shirleys



Monday, January 9, 1995

# Disquieting dreams of my dad



**JAY  
BRAKEFIELD**  
GUEST COLUMN

Recently I had a really strange dream about my dad, who died last March. In the dream, he came back as a ghastly zombie who refused to die again.

A few days later, I was telling my wife about the dream while we were out shopping. Boy, I told her, a Freudian analyst could really have a field day with that one. Then out of my mouth popped this remark: "It was sort of *Night of the Living Dad*."

Had I been Catholic, I would have crossed myself. Instead, I furtively checked the sky over the supermarket parking lot for lightning bolts.

My father's name was Shirley Brakefield. He didn't have a middle name. He always said Shirley wasn't an uncommon name for boys until the popularity of Shirley Temple, a couple of decades after his birth in 1911.

He was named after an ancestor named Absalom Shirley. People often dipped into the Bible for names in those days, especially in places like Gamble Mines, Ala.

One of these years, I'll figure out if we're related to Belle Starr, who was born Myra Belle Shirley.

Gamble Mines, a coal-mining community northwest of Birmingham, is just a memory now, but there are still Brakefields in Walker County, and a Brakefield Dairy Road, though the dairy is long gone, too.

My grandfather, James A. Brakefield, was the mine foreman, and by all accounts a tyrant at home. When he was dying, my father recounted one of his own father's particularly insensitive deeds and mused to himself, "I don't know how Dad could have done that."

## Coal miner's son

But his father was also a good provider who genuinely loved his children. When my dad was small, his father gave him a wagon and a couple of goats so he could sell coal. Later there was a succession of horses. My dad worked in the mine, too, starting as a child selling ice cream to the miners — a job that earned him a lifelong head scar when he walked into a coal shovel.

His father told him to go to college so he wouldn't spend his life in a coal mine, and he did, working his way through by age 19 — just in time for the Great Depression. That brought him to Houston in search of work.

Shirley Brakefield wasn't a big man, a couple of inches under 6 feet, but he had a commanding presence and a deep, booming voice that scared off the occasional obscene caller who'd seen "Shirley" in the phone book and made an unwarranted assumption. When he was laid out at the funeral home, I remarked, "I know he's dead, but I keep expecting him to sit up and start issuing orders."

About five minutes later, somebody else came in and said the same thing, almost word for word.

My father and I had the usual problems of fathers and sons, especially those who are too much alike for comfort. He always seemed like Mr. Businessman with his real estate and insurance office, his sport coats, his big cigars and his Pontiac Bonnevilles.

## Tenderhearted

Actually, he was a tenderhearted person who at some time, for some reason, just kind of froze emotionally and was loath to reveal much of himself — like those males in comedy routines who pretend nothing is wrong when they're bleeding to death.

What happened to him? Unfulfilled ambition? His brief career as a Houston city councilman ended in a smear campaign by a now-defunct newspaper. His marriage to my mother was unhappy. He had to adjust to a world very different from the one he'd come from.

Ultimately, perhaps he never filled that hollow spot we have way inside us.

Who knows what's in a person's heart? I do know that as he lay dying, we communicated, without words, in a way we never had before, and it healed a lot of old wounds.

But I'm still haunted by that dream.

*Jay Brakefield is a Today copy editor.*



## Ex-Sooner Finds Keys To Cold War

By Diane Plumberg  
Staff Writer

Eugene Shirley has brought the Soviet Union out of the cold.

The Edmond native produced a four-part series for PBS on the Cold War that starts at 10 tonight and airs at 9 p.m. on the OETA network the next three Tuesdays.

"Messengers From Moscow" features witness accounts of pivotal Russians from behind the Iron Curtain.

It is the first time many of them have spoken about Stalin, the KGB, the Red army and the fall of the Soviet Union.

"Was the Cold War really necessary or a giant misunderstanding that could have been avoided?" Shirley said in a recent phone interview. "We came away knowing that the Cold War was fought for a very good reason, and we were glad we won."

Shirley said the production crews discovered that the Soviet Union's leaders had no intention of cooperating with the West and were planning to overtake Europe.

The first part of the four-part series, "The Struggle for Europe," features audiotapes never before broadcast in which Vyacheslav Molotov, Joseph Stalin's foreign minister and his closest confidant, described their expansionist aims and justified their mass murders.

In the second program, "The East is Red," leading officials recount how the plan to unite the Soviet Union and China turned into Moscow's biggest nightmare. It points to Stalin as the key to the outbreak of the Korean War.

The third program, "Fires in the Third World," reveals the Kremlin's hand in Cuba and Vietnam.

The final episode, "The Center Collapses," highlights the final decade of the Soviet empire and its collapse.

Shirley said the film changed direction often. "We started the series eight years ago," he said. "We started it, then the whole communist regime collapsed, so we had to redefine the series several times."

After graduating from Edmond Memorial High School in 1976, Shirley studied philosophy of religion at Union College in Nebraska and Claremont Graduate College in California.

He said his religious background led him to Russia to study the effects of oppression on religious practice.

Shirley's first production in Russia was "Candle in the Wind" about religion in the Soviet Union. "Messengers From Moscow" is his first series.



Massachusetts Royal Governor  
**William Shirley**

and the Siege and Capture of  
**Fortress Louisbourg**

June 17, 1745

250th Anniversary Observances

June - October 1995

Boston, Massachusetts

and

Louisbourg, Nova Scotia

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### MEMBERSHIP

Annual dues: \$20

MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ANYONE WHO HAS A SHIRLEY ANCESTOR.

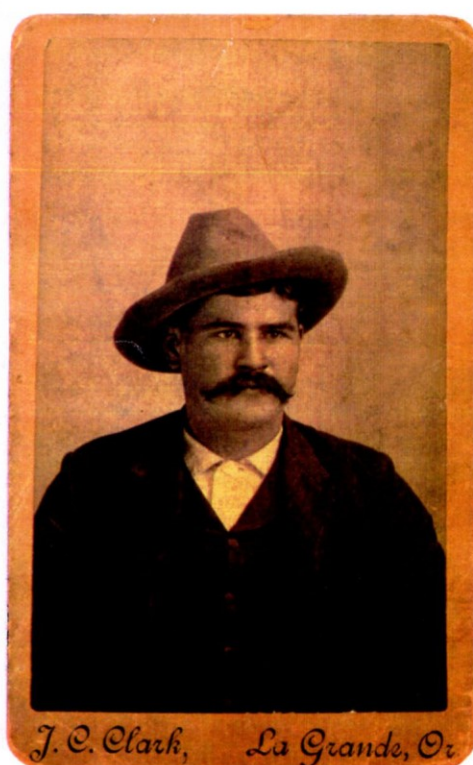
### PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

Shirley Association  
10256 Glencoe Dr.  
Cupertino, CA 95104





Top row, L to R: Frances Leannah, Henry Grant, Mary Della, George Washington Shirley  
 Bottom row: Nancy Catharine, Margaret Lucy, and Dora Ann Shirley, children of Garret and Mary Cropper Shirley. Garrett, son of Henry Shirley, brother of Jacob, sons of Valentine Shirley of VA. #29 on branch list. Photo sent by Donald R. Young.



**THOMAS WILBUR SHIRLEY**  
 born Aug 4, 1867 Orange Co. Indiana  
 son of Thomas S. and Mary Jane Lafferty Shirley  
 Thomas S. was the son of Jacob Shirley,  
 son of Valentine Shirley of Virginia

Photo's sent by Connie Beam



**LILLIAN VICTORIA SHIRLEY**  
 born Oct 29, 1902 Osage Co. KS  
 daughter of Thomas Wilbur Shirley



**SEVERAL OF MY FAMILY WILL BE COMING WITH ME TO SHIRLEY PLANTATION!**

**From your editor:**

My husband, **Guy, Donna**, (our oldest daughter whose husband was killed in that automobile accident a few years ago), **Delaine**, (my daughter who spent several months in 1994 helping me with the computer work and getting those colored brochures designed and the packets mailed out), **Chris**, (Delaine's husband), **Michael** and **Jessica**, (my grandchildren by Delaine), **Pete Shirley**, (my husband's older brother), and two of his daughters are coming to the Shirley Convention with me. Unfortunately, Barbara (my niece who always travels with me), is unable to come.

**AN OPEN LETTER FROM BETTY SHIRLEY**

This will be the last Nationally organized Shirley Convention. I hope many of you will be able to attend.

Due to pressure from my husband, I must discontinue my Shirley traveling. I will continue for a while longer with the Shirley Association work. I have many loose ends to tie up before I can consider my work done.

My fascination to learn more about the Shirleys and to help others learn about them continues to be as interesting to me today as it did when I started. Probably even more so.

The trips and research have been too costly for my continuance. As a result, I have accumulated a fair amount of debt on my credit cards which I struggle to pay on each month. Part of this debt was for merchandise with the Shirley Crest and the cost of colored brochures plus the postage for mailing those 6000 packets.

My husband is concerned about my debt, and insists that I get myself out of debt. He is right, and I feel overwhelmed by the pressure of the debt which is accumulating interest daily.

I will probably look for another babysitting job or part time employment. I did earn a good income from babysitting my grandchildren. I used part of that income on my travel. That discontinued about 2 years ago and I have been floating with flexible income since. I am not old enough to draw Social Security yet! HA! I receive no financial help from my husband on my travels or other expenses.

I guess I over estimated the importance of having merchandise with the crest available and colored brochures to send to Shirleys, which I thought would give a good image to the Association. I thought a colored brochure would get their attention and they would realize we were different from those other groups who claim they have written books on the Shirley ancestors, etc. These people are becoming a problem world wide.

Although we heard from quite a few Shirleys and many have purchased Shirley merchandise, the initial investment has not been cleared and contributes greatly to my debt. Some of that investment remains tied up in un-sold inventory.

Oh well! This is my problem and I have to deal with it. Just wanted to share this with you so you will know where I am coming from and why I have to curtail some of my activities.

I made a promise to my husband that I would end my traveling after we had one final convention at the Shirley Plantation in Virginia. The reason I insisted on this is because many of you have expressed to me in correspondence that you wanted to come to one of our conventions sometime. Others of you are newer and didn't know about Shirley Plantation and haven't had the opportunity to go there.

By announcing over a year ago that this would be our last convention, gave you an opportunity to make your plans to attend. I hope you've done so.

**I'll look forward to seeing you at the Shirley Plantation in June 1995!**