

PINTLALA



HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

C/O PINTLALA PUBLIC LIBRARY

255 FEDERAL ROAD

HOPE HULL, AL 36043

Founded in 1987

VOLUME XIV NUMBER 4

OCTOBER 2000

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	Julianne Hataway	281-4338

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Pintlala Historical Association's October program will be a visit to "The Hill," the 1830s home of Thomas and Becky Pickens in Collerine, Alabama where Becky will share the history of this lovely landmark with us. Those who have made reservations will meet at Pintlala Baptist Church at 4:30 PM on Saturday, October 7th, arrange transportation and depart at 4:45 to arrive at Collerine around 5:30. We hope to schedule another trip there next spring for PHA members who could not go this time. Many thanks to Alice Carter for organizing what will be a most enjoyable and memorable event!

I hope that each of you has had a excellent Year 2000, will have a wonderful holiday season, and a great 2001!

JACK HORNADY
President, PHA

JONES FAMILY REUNION: A reunion for descendants of brothers **Daniel Jones, John Andrew Jones** and **Levi Jones**, who came to Alabama from the Carolinas around 1825, and settled in what is now Crenshaw County, is planned for:

Saturday, October 7, 2000, at 10:00 A. M., at Chick's Restaurant in Highland Home on U.S. Highway 331. For information, contact Fred D. Jones, 1821 Palmetto Court, Daphne, Alabama 36526, Tel. 334-621-0462
Email: fjones@zebra.net

Children of Daniel Jones and his wife Mary Jane Parker, were John W., Mary, Henry W., Owen S., Jasper N., Margaret Ryvanna, Lucy Jane, George W. and Thomas Jefferson. Daniel Jones and his second wife, Elizabeth Hamrick, had children, Daniel James and Eugenia.

Children of John Andrew Jones and his wife, Elizabeth C. Hines, were George Washington, Matilda, Louisa, Andrew Jackson, Sarah M. and Paralee.

Levi Jones married Nancy Churchwell. Their children were Lucy, Eliza and Levi, Jr.

Fred Jones particularly asks descendants of those early settlers to attend the gathering and help organize an annual family reunion. Also, if anyone has knowledge of any descendants of those brothers, please give him that information.

IN MEMORIUM: Sincerest sympathy to the families of Mrs. Tommye Jean Sellers Carter and Mr. Leroy Richard Priest. Mrs. Carter of Oakton, VA, was the daughter of Ronald E. Sellers, Sr. and Mattie Stallings Sellers. A life long educator specializing in early childhood development, she grew up in Mt. Carmel and attended Pintlala School and Ramer High School, graduating in 1946. Mr. Priest of Pintlala, a retired Air Force officer, served as General Patton's chaplain. He was a long time Baptist minister - one of his charges was the Sampey Church at Ramer - and was past president of Judson College.

LASSITER FAMILY REUNION The family of the late Frank Grant Lassiter and Annie Merle (Brady) Lassiter met at the Liberty Church of Christ Fellowship Hall on June 24, 2000. The 55 persons attending, including Mark Jones, pastor of the church and his family, came from Jackson, TN, Gulf Shores, Pike Road, Montgomery, Tuscaloosa, Moundville, Lowndesboro, Sprague, and Hope Hull. Their ages ranged from 3-month-old Lacy Spear, the beautiful little great-granddaughter of Jo and Glenn Lassiter, to 97-year-old Cousin Beatrice Woodard. They particularly enjoyed getting together with the four brothers, J. B., Felix, Glenn and Clarence, who made the trip with his daughter, June. The group had a great time visiting, taking and looking at pictures, enjoying delicious food and looking forward to the 2001 reunion! *(Many thanks to Miriam Lassiter Williams for the account of the Lassiter Family Reunion.)*

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: Mr. and Mrs. August Shegon
3124 DuPont Street
Montgomery, AL 36101
Phone: 265-9473

Gail Shegon, the daughter of school teacher and history enthusiast, Mrs. Eloise Haigler Stewart, wrote a beautiful letter stating how much her mother had enjoyed her association with PHA. Thank you, Gail!

PINTLALA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, one of Montgomery County's oldest public elementary schools, has served as many as four generations since 1922. With classes from kindergarten through the sixth grade, Pintlala boasts 16 certified teachers with an average of 15 years teaching experience, (60% have advanced degrees) and ratio of approximately 19 students per teacher. There are music, reading and physical education programs, and computers (with supervised internet use) in every classroom. Volunteer readers share weekly stories with students at the Pintlala Public Library next door. In 1992, Pintlala Elementary School was added to the Alabama Historical Register. In 2000, 66% of the students scored above the national average on SATs!

All interested persons (alumni, parents and relatives, community residents, history buffs, or any champions of better education) are invited to join. Suggested donations are: Patrons - \$25; Sponsors - \$15; or Supporters - \$10. This organization plans to provide continued support and encouragement to Pintlala Elementary School well into the new century. For additional information, contact Janice Anderson, phone 613-0130, or David Stewart, phone 281-6381, or write:

Friends of Pintlala Elementary
PO Box 262
Hope Hull, AL 36043

PINTLALA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH HOSTS HOMECOMING AND REVIVAL:

Pastor David Stewart welcomed friends and members to the September 24, 2000 Homecoming at Pintlala UMC. Former pastor, Darren Gillespie of Lexington, Kentucky was the guest speaker who also conducted the three day revival. Everyone seemed to enjoy the inspiring messages, beautiful music, fellowship and delicious food.

PHA JULY PROGRAM ON MAXWELL AFB: As usual, Alice Carter arranged a superb program for the July meeting! Dr. Daniel L. Haulman, historian at the Air Force Historical Research Agency at Maxwell Air Force Base, presented the very interesting and informative program. That was a special treat, particularly for the many PHA members and friends who are, or have been, associated with Maxwell or Gunter.

100 YEARS AGO It May Be Hard to Believe

(Many thanks to **Mamie Sellers**, who shared this from a book, WHEN MY GRANDMOTHER WAS A CHILD, by Leigh W. Rutledge, which begins, "In the summer of 1900, when my grandmother was a child...")

The average life expectancy in the United States was forty-seven.

Only 14 percent of the homes in the U.S. had a bathtub.

Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone. A three minute call from Denver to New York City cost eleven dollars.

There were only 8,000 cars in the U.S. and only 144 miles of paved roads.

The maximum speed limit in most cities was ten mph.

Alabama, Mississippi, Iowa, and Tennessee were each more heavily populated than California. With a mere 1.4 million residents, California was only the twenty-first most populous state in the Union.

The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower.

The average wage in the U.S. was twenty-two cents an hour. The average U.S. worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.

A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2,000 per year, a dentist \$2,500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,000 per year, and a mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year.

More than 95 percent of all births in the U.S. took place at home.

Ninety percent of all U.S. physicians had no college education. Instead, they attended medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press and by the government as "substandard."

Sugar cost four cents a pound. Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen. Coffee cost fifteen cents a pound.

Most women washed their hair only once a month and used borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

Canada passed a law prohibiting poor people from entering the country for any reason, either as travelers or immigrants.

The five leading causes of death in the U.S. were:

1. Pneumonia and influenza.
2. Tuberculosis
3. Diarrhea,
4. Heart disease,
5. Stroke.

The American Flag had 45 stars. Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Hawaii and Alaska had not yet been admitted to the Union.

Drive-by-shootings - - in which teenage boys galloped down the street on horses and started randomly shooting at houses, carriages, or anything else that caught their fancy - - were an ongoing problem in Denver and other cities in the West.

The population of Las Vegas, Nevada was thirty. The remote desert community was inhabited by only a handful of ranchers and their families.

Plutonium, insulin, and antibiotics hadn't been discovered yet. Scotch tape, crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea had not yet been invented.

There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.

One in ten U. S. adults couldn't read or write. Only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.

Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at corner drugstores. According to one pharmacist, "Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach and the bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health."

Coca-Cola contained cocaine instead of caffeine.

Punch card data processing had recently been developed, and early predecessors of the modern computer were used for the first time by the government to help compile the 1900 census.

Eighteen percent of households in the U.S. had at least one full-time servant or domestic.
[comment: I think that we call them "Mom" now.]

About 230 murders were reported annually in the U.S.

Many thanks to Mary Lillian Rosier for sharing her wonderful experience tracing her heritage, described on the following pages! It was very interesting to note the variations in spelling.

HERITAGE TRIP TO ENGLAND

By Mary Lillian Shirley Rosier

On July 5, 2000 I flew on U. S. Airlines to Charlotte, N. C. where I met my traveling companion from Jacksonville, Fla. Together we flew to Gatwick Airport 30 miles south of London. Arriving at 8:30 a.m. on July 6th, we were met by our coach driver who took us to Heathrow Airport, 15 miles west of London, where we picked up the remaining eleven people of our party. They hailed from California, New Mexico, Texas, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

The tour was conducted by Betty Shirley who had been researching the Shirley family for about 22 years and who has a web page on the internet. It is through her that I learned of this trip. Our primary purpose was to visit manor houses, churches, chapels and cemeteries connected to the Shirley family. While touring, we also visited other places of interest in England.

Our first night was spent in Stratford-Upon-Avon in the Thistle Arden Hotel across the street from the Shakespeare Theater. The following afternoon we made a three hour tour of Warwick Castle.

In the late afternoon of July 7th we arrived at Ettington Park, located in the county of Warwickshire, the original seat of the ancient Shirley family. Ettington Park is unique in that it is the only property in England still in the same family ownership at the time of the Domesday Book in 1086. The manor was originally held by Sewallis. His grandson later called the name 'de Shirley'. His lineal descendent, Evelyn Philip Shirley, with John Pritchard as his architect, created one of the finest Gothic revival country houses in England. The current owner, Major John Shirley, the 33rd Lord of the Manor, has leased the property to be used as a hotel. There are few hotels in England to match the grandeur of this luxurious 48-bedroom hotel which includes nine suites. The patrons enjoy the Great Drawing Room, Library bar, paneled dining room, long gallery and indoor swimming pool, as well as the beautiful grounds and tennis courts.

Since it doesn't get dark in England until after 9:30 p.m., we visited the chapel adjacent to the Manor house. Although the exterior doors need some repairs, the interior was well maintained and the structure itself is sturdy. There are several stained glass windows, an altar and pews for the worshippers. Tombs of several of the early Shirleys are memorialized and many coats of arms hang on the walls. I am not qualified to adequately describe this or the other unimaginably beautiful places we visited.

We enjoyed dinner together in the Chapel Dining Room. The brother and sister-in-law of the heir to Ettington, Hugh Shirley and his wife of London joined us in the Drawing Room for coffee. We adjourned to another room to view a video of the 1986 visit by more than one hundred of the Shirleys from the United States. Hugh Shirley showed a video about the Domesday Book, which was a record of the first census of England as ordered by King William I shortly after the Norman Conquest.

The following morning we departed for a short visit at the Astwell Manor House, dating from 1453. It passed into the Shirley family through marriage in the mid-1500's of John Shirley, son of Francis Shirley of Ragsdale and Staunton Harold, to a female descendant, Jane Lovett, of Astwell. At one time a moat surrounded the property. Many alterations and changes have been made to the original structure but it is still most impressive.

We next visited Sulgrave Manor, the ancestral home of George Washington's family, situated in the beautiful rural village community of Sulgrave, near Banbury. The property was bought by Lawrence Washington, Mayor of Northampton and his descendants lived there from 1539 to 1659 in this home that he built. It is not as grand as the other homes we visited but is a comfortable large country house with a courtyard. For benefit of school children as well as American visitors, a museum features President George Washington. When the English Civil War between Charles I and Oliver Cromwell's Parliamentary Army broke out, many of Lawrence Washington's descendants supported the Royalist cause. After the defeat of Charles I, many Royalists migrated to Virginia. In 1656 Colonel John Washington, the great-great grandson of Lawrence Washington, crossed the Atlantic. My connection to this family is through Anne Pope who married Colonel John Washington. Their great grandson, Captain Augustine Washington, and his second wife Mary Ball Washington were the parents of George Washington, First President of the United States. My Pope connection is through my Grandmother Lillian Clanton(nee Mahone)whose

parents were Susan Irene Pope and Jones Marion Mahone. My mother, Lucille Clanton Shirley, was their grand daughter. George Washington is my fourth cousin five times removed. He has no direct descendants. A second family connection came through the marriage of Lady Elizabeth Washington to Sir Robert Shirley of Ettington.

We traveled on to Derby and checked into the Derby Forte Post Hotel, our home for the next three nights. Leaving after lunch, we arrived at the Village of Shirley early in the afternoon. An early settlement dating back at least to Saxon times was here at the time of the Domesday Survey 1079-1086. Our reason for going to England at this particular time was specifically to attend the Shirley Music Festival on July 8th being held to commemorate the Millennium. The celebration had been a year in planning and the Shirleys from America were to be their featured guests. Upon our arrival we were escorted by Earl Ferrers (Robert Shirley) to the St. Michael's Church. Constructed of sandstone, the structure has undergone several changes through the years. The oldest remaining portion dates from between 1300-1350. The architecture is known as the Decorated style of Gothic or early English. During the restoration of 1842 the chancel arch lost its Norman shape. One of the family pews is carved with the date 1649.

We visited the cemetery behind the church. Earl Ferrers stood beside his father's grave emblazoned with the Shirley coat of arms, and sadly related the story of how the family had to relinquish ownership of their manor home, Staunton Harold. He said it broke his heart. Later when we saw Staunton Harold, I could understand how tremendously expensive it would be to maintain such a large estate.

We returned to the Music Festival. Tables were set up in the yard in front of the Saracen's Head Public House, built in 1791. The name originates from the commemorative coat of arms of the Shirley family, marking service in The Crusades. The Pub is now a Free House and serves bar meals throughout the week. A covered bandstand where accomplished musicians played many popular songs was in the side yard. Many Shirley families of England and local villagers mingled with our group. In the early evening everyone had dinner together in a huge tent set up behind the Pub. I was seated halfway down a long table. Earl Ferrers came and tapped me on the shoulder and asked me to come and sit with him at the end of the table. I arose to follow him but unfortunately someone else had taken the seat he had for me and I didn't get to sit beside him during dinner. It had rained off and on all day and continued into the night. We were supposed to stay for fireworks at 10:00 but we all voted to go to the hotel as everyone was tired.

On July 9th we departed Derby for Chartley Castle ruins. Due to the rain, the fields were muddy so we could only view the ruins from the highway. Chartley Hall had been the residence of the Earls of Essex. In 1904 the descendants auctioned the estate. The advertisement at that time indicated the estate consisted of 8,000 acres, a historical family mansion built in the Gothic domestic style, surrounded by a moat. We drove on to Chartley Manor Farm which had originally belonged to the Chartley Estate and is now a charming bed and breakfast. We enjoyed a delicious lunch served by Mrs. Jeremy Allen, the current owner. We had a little extra time so we visited the Uttoxeter Racetrack where a flea market was in progress. I was able to buy a book I treasure, "Domesday Then and Now".

In the early afternoon we arrived at Staunton Harold Manor which is now a nursing home. We could not go inside but took pictures from outside. The first house was built by Sir William de Staunton in 1324 and became the home of the Shirley family in 1423 when Sir Ralph Shirley married Margaret de Staunton, heiress of her family's estate. A five bay wing was added onto the rambling medieval house by Sir Robert's son, also named Robert Shirley, and who became the first Earl Ferrers. During World War II Staunton Hall was requisitioned by the Army for housing of troops, and later for housing Italian prisoners of war. It was handed back in such a state of disrepair that the family was unable to re-occupy it. In the absence of adequate compensation, they decided to sell. On the eve of the auction, October 11, 1954, the 12th Earl Ferrers died. It is said by some he died of a broken heart.

We were able to visit the church built by Sir Robert Shirley in 1653, which in 1954 was presented by the 12th Earl Ferrers to The National Trust. The architecture is an interesting example of seventeenth century 'Gothic Survival'. The interior has seen little change. Its chief glory is the magnificent carved woodwork - pulpit, lectern, box-pews, paneling and screens - which survive in their entirety. The custom of the 17th Century of the separation of the sexes during the church services continues to be observed. Men sit in pews on the south of the aisles and women in pews on

the north. The English-built organ is probably one of the earliest examples that has survived in original condition. The Shirley coat of arms is displayed above the organ. The many stained-glass windows add to the overall beauty of the church.

Leaving Staunton Church, we made a short drive to the Parish Church of Breedon-on-the-Hill. Arriving just a little after their evening service had begun, we were nevertheless graciously welcomed by the Rector. This is a holy place with an authenticated history of Christian worship for over 1300 years. In the late Iron Age (roughly 600 BC to the Roman conquest) it was a defended settlement, traces remaining of the surrounding bank. A Saxon Monastery was established on top of the hill in the late 7th century. In the early 12th century this was replaced by an Augustinian priory to which a parochial nave was added a little later. The following century saw a new chancel added to the east of the tower and with the tower forms the present church. From the Saxon period there remains a remarkable series, probably of the late 8th century, of monuments of various dates and a large enclosed private Shirley family pew behind a screen, dated 1627. This is the family name of the subsequently ennobled Earls Ferrers. I had my picture made sitting in this pew.

In a gentle rain on the morning of July 10th we drove to Sherwood Forest. Some ventured forth in the rain for a walk in the forest. Others visited the museum that featured life-size statues of Robin Hood and his Merry Men.

En route to Scrooby we passed through Nottingham where General Booth founded the Salvation Army and Eliza Shirley established it in Philadelphia. An interesting fact is that the spinning wheel was one of the many inventions made in Nottingham.

Arriving at Scrooby Church in the early afternoon we were greeted by a local guide who told of its history as headquarters for a group of Separatists who met openly in the church until King James I came to the throne and forbade the meetings. About 1606 William Brewster established the Scrooby-Separatist Church at the manor house, meeting in secret. Being faced with possible persecution the Scrooby Church members made their way overland to Boston, where they had made arrangements for a small ship to carry them across the North Sea. However they were betrayed and had to return to England. Their second attempt was made by a different route and by late summer of 1608 the members of Scrooby Church had all reached Amsterdam. They affiliated with another Christian group but becoming dissatisfied, they were granted permission to settle in one of the British colonies in North America.

Leaving in the rain, we drove for another hour and a half to Boston where we visited the GuildHall Museum. The GuildHall was built in 1450, and became the Town Hall in 1546. It is best known as the place where the Pilgrim Fathers were imprisoned and put on trial after they were betrayed as they tried to leave England for the first time. The cells built in 1552 to hold prisoners awaiting appearance in the Court on the floor above are still as they were then. In the rear of the building is a large kitchen equipped with ancient fireplaces and roasting spits as it would have been in the early 17th Century.

We boarded the bus and drove again in the rain to see the granite monument erected in 1957, commemorating the attempt by the Pilgrim Fathers in 1607 to flee England to the continent to seek religious freedom. Near the monument is the spot on the river bank where they had arranged to board a ship but were betrayed, captured and held in the GuildHall cells. They eventually left from Plymouth on September 6, 1620 on the Mayflower. James Shirley was the Treasurer of the Mayflower, but he is not listed as a passenger. The merchants of Boston contributed generously to the cost of construction of the ship.

We drove on in the rain in the late afternoon to Grantham where we had dinner in a mediaeval inn, now the Angel and Royal Hotel Restaurant in Lincolnshire. Standing on the site of a manor house belonging to the Anglo-Saxon Queen Elith, it became a hostel of the Knights Teplar. King John held court there in 1213. The medieval sign reflects the early connection between religious establishments and travelers hostels. It was rebuilt as an Inn in the mid-fourteenth century and is rich in history. Located on the Great North Road it was one of the first long distance coach stops. The narrow coachway entrance is now closed to traffic, but directly above is a stone angel acting as a corbel for the splendid oriel window, balanced by two bay columns. Having dinner here was a unique experience enjoyed by all.

We checked out of our hotel in Derby on July 11th and drove the 120 miles to Windsor Castle. Our next family-connected stop was at Garsdon Manor in Malmesley near Swindon, where the First Earl Ferrers and his wife, Lady Elizabeth Washington, had lived. The present occupant, Louise Lumley, gave us a tour of the house, which they are restoring. I failed to get the date the house was built. Louise then accompanied us to the church, some distance from the home. It was similar to others visited previously.

Our next stop was a short visit at Stonehenge. Late in the afternoon we drove to Brighton, passing Arundel Castle on the way. Our hotel in Brighton was located across the street from the beach and in walking distance of the boardwalk. The next morning we walked to the Royal Pavilion, one of the most exotically beautiful buildings in the British Isles. Indian architecture contrasts with interiors inspired by China in this breathtaking Regency palace.

Before departing Brighton, we visited Preston Manor, dating from 1250, rebuilt in 1738 and substantially added to in 1905. The four-story house contains over 20 rooms and contains notable collections of furniture, portraits, silver and memorabilia. We were permitted to take a photograph of the full-length portrait of Sir Anthony Shirley who died in 1624. He and his wife, Barbara, daughter of Sir Thomas Washington are both buried in the chancel of Preston Church. The long association of the Shirleys with Preston Manor began in 1503 when Beatrix Shirley, third daughter of Ralph Shirley of Wiston, married the lessee of the Manor. The Manor was sold in the 1700's. I don't know when the Manor was sold again and is now open daily for tours with an admission fee. Adjacent to the grounds is the 13th century parish church, which we also visited.

Next on our itinerary was a visit to Wiston Manor House near Steyning, home of Sir Thomas Shirley, a descendant from the Shirleys of Ettington, visited on July 6th and 7th. The name of Wiston appears under the name of Wistanestun in the Domesday Book, the register of English possessions made by William the Conqueror in 1086. It was then owned by William de Braose. Since that time only six families have owned the Wiston Estate. There was a stone and timber manor house recorded in 1357. The estate passed by inheritance to Ralph Shirley in 1426. Sir Thomas Shirley, born circa 1542, was knighted by Queen Elizabeth at Rye in 1573. He felt the need to rebuild and some of the new construction was completed by 1576. Having a family of six daughters and three sons, and encountering financial difficulties, the estate passed to others. But Sir Thomas Shirley lived there until his death in 1612, paying rent to the Queen. The house has been sold several times. The Goring family owned it for 250 years and occupied it until 1926. During World War II it was used as the Canadian Army Headquarters. After the war it was used as a girls' school. I would have loved to have been a student there.

Wiston House is located in Wilton Park and since 1931 has been used as a conference center for meetings by the British Foreign Office. It was doubtful if we could go inside because of a high level conference in session. However, Betty Shirley was told if we arrived promptly at 3:00 p.m. we could go inside for exactly twenty minutes while the conferees took a break. Who can ever forget their first glimpse of Wiston House as they surmount the rise from the main road? This shows the full extent of the buildings with the Church on the left blending beautifully with the main house, balanced by the 19th Century conservatory on the right. I would have been sick with disappointment had we not been allowed inside.

This was by far the most majestic of all the homes we had visited. The decorative plasterwork in the Great Hall is a Goring addition from the 1740's. The double hammer beam roof dates from c.1576, reflecting the character of the work directed by the original owner, Sir Thomas Shirley. The splendid Flemish carvings on the walls of the library were collected by the Rev. John Goring.

The ancient church, a typical English manor church, is now known as St. Mary's. It is mentioned in the Domesday Book. Like the house, it has also undergone many restorations. Among the monuments, most notable is the life-size memorial brass of John de Braose dated 1426. There are marble effigies of Sir Thomas Shirley and his wife, Anne.

We next drove through the small village of Cowfold en route to St. George Church in West Grinstead. We were met by the rector who gave us a brief history of the church once attended by the Shirleys.

En route to Lewes, our destination for the evening, we stopped in East Sussex to see the Prevensy Castle, built in the 13th century on the ruins of a Roman fort.

Our first stop on July 13th was at Ote Hall, the home of General William Shirley, the colonial governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and now owned and occupied by Carola Godman Law and her husband Victor Law. Records indicate there was a manor house on this location during the reign of Edward III in 1341. Ownership passed through several families before it was passed to Thomas Godman. Being bequeathed from father to son, it stayed in the Godman family until 1718 when the male line became extinct and Otehall was willed to William Shirley, the son of John Godman's daughter Elizabeth. In subsequent years, ownership was transferred back and forth between Shirleys and others. In 1936 it was sold back to the Godman Trustees and subsequently inherited by Carola Godman Law. The present house was built in three stages, the oldest part dating to about 1550. The Hall was enlarged by the Godman family in 1600. In 1880 Major-General Richard Temple Godman restored the house and added the south wing. The house is beautifully furnished with valuable antiques. We were served tea, coffee and refreshments - all delicious. After a tour of the house, we enjoyed the beautiful gardens.

Next we drove to Isfield Village in East Sussex for a visit to St. Margaret of Antioch Parish Church. Rector Brian Wilcox and members of his congregation were there to welcome us for a special service in the church. Before closing the service, we adjourned into the Shirley Chapel where explanations were made of the graves of the Shirley family members. After the Lord's Prayer, we ended the service by singing "Amazing Grace".

Like most churches this one has been modified some over the centuries. The first Rector was appointed in 1281 but the arch between the tower and the nave are dated to 1190. A major building program was undertaken in the early 14th century (1300) when the present chancel and the Shurley Chapel were built. The tombs include those of John Shurley who died in 1527, his son Edward and his wife Johanne, their son Thomas who died in 1579 and his wife, Ann. The magnificent alabaster tomb of Sir John Shirley, who died in 1631, and his two wives, Jane nee Shirley who bore the nine children whose effigies are ranged along the front of the tomb, and Dorothy nee Goring. All figures of this tomb are delicately and attractively carved. Sir John's effigy is arranged atop the tomb in the semi-armour of the period. Effigy of Lady Jane is on his right and Lady Dorothy on his left. This was so different and unique to me. I found fascinating that two of the small effigies of the children held a skeleton of a head in their hands. It was explained that these children had died young and not survived the parents.

There is one other monument to a Shurley, a flat tombstone under the star in the altar in the Chancel. It is of Sir George Shurley, a brother of John Shurley. He was born at Isfield in 1569 and died in 1647. The inscription on his tomb indicates he was a Knight and Lord Chief Justice. We were given copies of a Architectural and Historical Guide. This was indeed a fascinating place and I wished we could have stayed longer.

We drove over to the former home of Sir John Shirley, Isfield Manor, and were greeted by the present owners, Andrew and Sarah Jane Tillard. We toured the beautiful grounds and then came into the dining room for a delicious lunch with places set for 24 at the banquet table.

That evening we arrived at the Kings Cross Thistle Hotel in London, conveniently located only one block from the bus stop and a few blocks to a tube station. We walked about to get our bearings and make plans for the next day. Before leaving home, I had made arrangements through the internet and obtained a Permit to visit the Parliament Building between 9:30 and 12:00 on July 14th. Learning that the tube was the quickest means, we departed the hotel about 8:00 a.m. on July 14th. Following instructions, we boarded a tube headed for Westminster Station. We had to change tubes to get there. Upon disembarking, we were told we should have gotten on a different tube and to go back to another station and go to Victoria Station. It became very confusing. I'm still not sure what happened but we did arrive at Victoria Station and were only a short distance from the Parliament Building.

We were early and took pictures outside. We were not allowed to take pictures inside. Since Parliament was in session, we could not go to the House of Lords. We spent almost three hours in the House of Commons. The Central Lobby serves as the meeting point between the two Houses. Its vaulted ceiling is 75 ft. high and is decorated with national emblems found throughout the building. There are many statues throughout, and more than one of Winston Churchill. The entire building is

unbelievably beautiful, both inside and out. Upon entering the building I mentioned to a lady attendant that we had visited with Earl Ferrers at Shirley Village earlier in the week. She later sought us out and gave us a guided tour.

We bought a bus ticket good for 24 hours, costing twelve pounds. This included a Thames River Cruise from which we viewed all the buildings on each side of the River. Of special interest was the Tower of London, the Tower Bridge, Shakespeare's Globe Theater, and the Millennium Wheel. We had walked by the Wheel earlier and decided not to board it as it would take too much time.

Leaving downtown London, we boarded the bus for a guided tour. Seeing about ten men in gold uniforms and wearing gold helmets standing at attention on the steps of a building, we inquired as to the occasion. The bus driver said they were awaiting the Queen's departure from the building. We got off at the next stop and ran back and joined the crowd of people on the sidewalk. I asked a "Bobby" what was the occasion and he said the Queen had attended a ceremony in honor of someone. Even though the photos I made are from a distance, and the Queen is not visible but in one, you can see her standing outside of the black automobile. She is wearing a navy blue suit, white blouse and gloves, and a broad-brimmed white hat. She waved as she passed within four feet as the car went out the driveway onto the street. Seeing Queen Elizabeth was an unexpected surprise.

Another really wonderful place we visited was the Victoria and Albert Park and Museum. I read somewhere that the statues in the park had all been painted black during World War II. They were since cleaned and the beautiful white marble restored to its original condition and enhanced with gold-leaf overlay. We took many pictures before going into the Museum where we had lunch and toured many of the galleries. It would take many visits to see it all. We spent a late afternoon and part of the next day there. Upon leaving that afternoon, we boarded the bus for Harrod's Department Store, owned by Dodi el Fayad, the father of Princess Diana's fiancée. We had tea with dainty sandwiches and pastries, which served as our dinner for the evening.

Our last evening on July 15th, our group went about 30 miles south of London where we enjoyed a medieval dinner at Hatfield House. The table next to us was filled with young ladies dressed in appropriate costumes of the times of Henry VIII. Entertainment was a musical comedy about King Henry VIII and some of his wives, featuring jugglers, clowns, fire eaters and audience participation. Arriving back at the hotel, we bid farewell to our newfound cousins and out came the cameras for a group picture.

Sadly we departed very early on July 16th for Gatwick Airport and our flight home. We had learned much about our Shirley heritage and the history of our forefathers. I think all of us were grateful that our particular ancestors were some that had the courage to come to America.

**Pintlala Historical Association
c/o Pintlala Public Library
255 Federal Road
Hope Hull, AL 36043**

**\$5.00 registration fee (one time)
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Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

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(home) _____ **(office)** _____

Areas of Interest _____

If you are interested in genealogy, please indicate family surnames _____

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