

# The American Shropshire Registry Association - The First Hundred Years



1st Prize KAS Woburnhampton 1871.



Front Cover: "HAMPTON HERO"

First prize Shropshire Shearling Ram,  
1871 Royal Agricultural Society Show, Wolverhampton, England.

Bred and exhibited by Charles Byrd, Littywood, Stafford  
(Pictured among founders in chapter one)

Detail from a 20 × 24 inch oil painting by R. Whitford,  
courtesy of Vivian and Douglas Chambers.

**THE AMERICAN SHROPSHIRE REGISTRY ASSOCIATION —  
THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS**

*Compiled by*  
Doug Chambers

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## PREFACE

If you believe the first Shropshires bolted out of the 'The Ark' looking just like those in your backyard - read no further - this story will shatter such illusions.

If you wonder, however, what pithy decisions were made in official meetings at the 'Blitz', 'The Four Georges Tavern', Toronto's Parliament Building, the 'Ponchartrain' and 'Omar Khayyam's'.....or why five of the first eighteen Shropshire presidents didn't complete their terms.....or about the Soda Springs Ranch with over 5,000 purebred Shrop ewes.....or what happened when 400 rams were in pens at a sale and only one buyer came to buy five head.....read on!

The is primarily a resume of the sometimes humorous, sometimes misdirected, sometimes progressive first century of the American Shropshire Registry Association and how the men and women chosen to guide its destiny were influenced by changing times. It may enhance the reader's appreciation of the activities during those hundred years to review the known history of Shropshires, the early American Sheep industry and the conditions leading to the formation of the Association in 1884.

What started out as a six or eight-page fold-out brochure for a keep-sake memento at the 1984 Shropshire Centennial banquet has evolved into a booklet. The references were so scattered and the state of their preservation so tenuous that as more and more material was discovered I felt a growing obligation to expand the original concept so that the historic highlights surrounding the development of one of the great breed societies in the world could be preserved under one cover.....and this only scratches the surface!

Thousands of breeders in American Shropshire history, hundreds of skilled shepherds and showmen and the impact of the college flocks are missing from this account. Even if reliable records still exist, to find them and do justice to every important contribution would be an insurmountable task.

The solution (or excuse) was to attempt to record only the events and the elected officers of the anniversary we honor in 1984 - the Centennial of the American Shropshire **Association**! The frame-work for the story was provided by my access to the official minutes of every board of directors and annual membership meeting for the past hundred years. Where appropriate, I have tried to acknowledge the source of quotations, but have not cluttered the story with footnotes.

I readily admit to occasional editorializing or selective inclusions where I thought past errors in judgement, or examples of previous situations this generation unknowingly considers their unique problem, might add perspective and guidance to future leadership. One cannot escape the impact of showing fads: the Shropshire story provides a lesson for all breeds.

We are fortunate to have the portraits and career resumes of every Shropshire president and full-time secretary. I hope that today's breeders, and those who follow, will appreciate the quality of the personalities and unselfish sacrifices by these officers whose general wisdom sustained the Association to the threshold of its second century.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am indebted to many sources, most being listed in the bibliography, but want to specifically recognize editor Larry Mead and the staff of the SheepBreeder and Sheepman magazine for their help.

I dedicate the booklet, however, to six ladies:

To Julia Wade, whose records of meetings were more than just minutes - they were scenarios of heady times - and who collected and perserved irreplaceable data on the early notables.

To Jessie Ritenour and Libby Glasgow, dear friends and devoted, conscientious recorders of the passing parade.

To Margaret Hartzell, proof reader, "encourager" and editor-publisher.

To Sally Lacy, proof reader, friendly critic and artist; the drawings in the book are hers.

And to my wife, for her advice and for patiently indulging my "other love" - Shropshires!





## Chapter 1

### 19th CENTURY ENGLAND

Two hundred years ago the seed stock from which the Shropshire breed developed was a motley aggregate of three semi-wild, unimproved native strains in isolated habitats of Salop (Shropshire), near the border between Wales and west-central England. **Morfe Common** (public land), abutting on the river Severn, contained only 4,000 acres but from June through October 10,000 so-called "Morfe" sheep grazed its short grass and spiny browse. Twenty miles away **Long Mynd** (mound) sheep were indigenous to a ridge by that name near the Welsh highlands.

Both of these primitive strains had small horns, dark or dark-speckled faces, sheared 2 or 2½ pounds and at three years of age weighed less than a hundred pounds. In neighboring Staffordshire the extensive Cannock Heath (waste), with better climate and feed, favored a slightly larger kind known as **Cannock Chase**. These sheep were coarser-boned, naturally polled, grey-faced and sheared about three pounds. All three were described as "nimble and hardy." They were tended primarily for the fine quality of their wool, for which this 'Shropshire Region' received written praise as early as 1343 and again in 1641 and 1792.

Only eight decades later, at the Royal Agricultural Society Exhibition at Shrewsbury in 1884, the descendents of these crude foragers generated one of the most sensational displays of infectious popularity in purebred history. In the Shropshire classes, which had been officially recognized just 25 years, sixty breeders showed 875 animals; over twice the combined total of "Southdowns, Hampshires, Lincolns, Leicesters, Cotswold, Mountain and all other distinct breeds." Why - and how - could this miracle of breed improvement and recognition happen so rapidly?

A practical explanation was given by Dean W.C. Coffey in a 1919 'Breeder's Gazette' article: "*Breed progress and prosperity depend largely on two factors. One is the demand for the products yielded by the class of animals to which the breed belongs. The other is the degree of energy and enthusiasm possessed by the main group of breeders supporting the breed. Of the two, the demand for products yielded is probably the more significant.*" We will see this statement proved true for Shropshires, first in the British Isles between 1775 and 1875, and then in America during the next fifty years.

Simultaneous with the Revolution that gave us the United States of America two phenomena, unrelated to the political revolt, were occurring in the tiny island that lost her colony. Other kinds of revolutions were in progress: the industrial revolution and the animal science revolution. As coal mining and iron foundries sprang up in the hinterlands and villages grew into cities England became the only country where a large body of consumers could afford to indulge their tastes for meat of high quality. Thus, the emphasis in sheep raising moved from wool toward earlier-maturing, bigger, meaty types.

Two pioneering animal-breeder geniuses, generations ahead of their time, set the stage. They not only lay the groundwork for better farming methods such as improved and irrigated pastures and the use of 'roots' for

winter feed to support the new types of livestock, but with little outside help perfected the two genetically prepotent British sheep breeds most widely used in subsequent selective crossings, speeding the development of all mutton breeds, including Shropshires.

Robert Bakewell (1725-1795), on a veritable 'experiment station', 400-acre farm at Dishley, Leicestershire, studied, tested and perfected strains of cattle, hogs and sheep that made more efficient use of feed, matured earlier and produced tender, meaty carcasses. Bakewell goes down in history unchallenged as the father of modern stock farming and animal breeding. His greatest living monument was the Leicester sheep.

John Ellman (1753-1832), on 580 acres near Glynde in the chalk hills, 'the Downs', in the south of England, developed the prototype flock and stud source for the most influential mutton breed ever known, the Southdown.

The canny and skilled tenant-farmers of Shropshire and Staffordshire sought a larger sheep that returned the maximum net return from both wool and mutton. The two earliest well-known flocks given historical recognition were created by different means and were thus dissimilar in type. Samuel Meire, of Barrington, was an excellent judge of stock and he set to work during the 1820's on the coarse 'Shropshires', going chiefly for three points: straight back with well sprung ribs, oblique shoulders and good rumps. He introduced Southdowns, buying or hiring rams from the celebrated John Ellman. Aptitude to feed was derived from crosses of Leicester blood. Having obtained his desired form of animal he endeavored to fix the same by close breeding. He succeeded, and founded a strain from which came animals to improve many other flocks.

That talk of crossbreeding was not mere jealous gossip was verified when Mr. Meire (carefully using third person) made these remarks to an 1858 'Farmers' Club': "It is not attempted to be denied that the Shropshire is a cross-breed sheep. The original breed was horned, and the first attempt at improvement was to get rid of these incumbrances, and there is little doubt that this was effected by a cross of the Southdown. This sheep was well adapted for the Downs, but for the inclosures to Shropshire something more docile was required, consequently recourse was had to the Leicester."

Another approach to improvement was used by George Adney of Hartley, who also started his work in the 1820's. He stuck to the coarse Shropshires as he found them, taking care to keep the dark-faced character and good wool. His most fortunate production was 'Buckskin', who was descended from a Southdown cross. 'Buckskin' then sired 'Old Patentee' who was one of the earliest show winners (1858), and whose blood influenced every Shropshire flock of note.

Beginning in 1851, Mr. Adney established an annual sale where he sold or leased the services of rams. Eventually - "upwards of 800 gentlemen partook of the luncheon, well supplied with wine and other beverages. Competition was keen and large prices were easily realized. Buyers attended from Australia, France, Ireland and several English counties."

After about fifty years of experimenting with different combinations of native sheep and improved breeds, certain farmers began to exhibit animals called Shropshires. As early as 1845 John Davies and a Mr. Forester displayed several rams, but the turning point in drawing universal attention to this new breed came at the 1853 Royal in Gloucester when nine breeders displayed them. Their general superiority was apparent, and from that time on breeders awakened to the possibilities resulting from careful judgement in selection and breeding.

The first Royal show with specific classes for Shrop-

shires was at Warwick in 1859. The 192 improved Shropshires entered were a far cry from their mountain ancestors, with a writer in 'The Farmers Magazine' describing them as weighing 160 to 175 pounds at eighteen months and averaging a 6 to 9 pound fleece. However, they had arrived by several paths, having been modified, refined and culled by many flockmasters; no preeminent Bakewell or Ellman dominated Shropshire development! They had a deserved 'mixed' reputation, lacking the stamp of uniform breed character.



*Founders of The English Flock Book Society (1875)*

*Seated, left; J. Mansell, father of Alfred Mansell, the lifetime secretary of the Shropshire Sheep Breeders Association and export agent for most shipments to America.*

*Seated 2nd from right (white suit); Charles Byrd, breeder of 'Hampton Hero', the ram pictured on the front cover.*

*Standing 4th from right; J.H. Bradburne, father of Tom Bradburne who became one of the leading shepherds in America (chapter 8).*

The leading Shropshire producers of this period were ambitious for the breed and very cooperative in efforts to stabilize the points of excellence. They petitioned the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society of England to appoint well known judges to act **for a term of years** at the Royal show for the purpose of fixing the true type and

character of the Shropshire. The Council granted the petition and the appointed judges officiated consistently and their decisions were so closely studied that the end sought - uniformity of type - came much sooner than expected.





*Five English Shearling Ewes  
First Prize, R.A.S.E., Shrewsbury, 1884 - Bred by Joseph Beach*

Thus came into being a recognized, true-breeding type - a meaty, medium-to-large black-faced breed with the best and heaviest fleece of the mutton breeds - an all-purpose '**farmers' sheep**'. The Shropshire Story demonstrated the ultimate potential reward for energetic cooperation by far-sighted breeders offering the best answer to a new demand: the rapid overwhelming of all competition, both at

home and around the world. The accomplishment was formalized when leading breeders created the Shropshire Sheep Breeders and Flock Book Society. Their flock book, the first ever published, was printed in 1883, and during November that year in the 'new world' plans were started to form THE AMERICAN SHROPSHIRE REGISTRY ASSOCIATION.

## Chapter 2

### AMERICA - COLONIAL DAYS TO 1884

In the opening paragraph it was pointed out that during the late 1700's the English sheep population was mostly composed of small, light-shearing, half-wild native strains. With the exception of remnants of the bare-headed, hairy-coated, small but rugged Spanish 'churros' type that came into parts of Dixie through Florida, and the southwest and California from Mexico, such was not the case in America. The early sheep industry in the colonies descended from either Merino fine-wools or improved British breeds.

Vermont, directly or indirectly, was the source of seed stock for most American fine-wool stocks. "Vermont Merinos" became world famous, combining the best traits of strains from Spain, France and Saxony. They were not, however, the only 'good' kinds. A few Leicesters had been smuggled, to avoid a Royal embargo, into Virginia and New Jersey before 1775. After independence, George Washington corresponded with Robert Bakewell and was involved in Leicester importation. Thomas Jefferson, also an avid agriculturalist, vigorously promoted better breeding and management, issuing an order in 1808 to his overseer to destroy every dog owned by his slaves because they had been killing his prized Merinos.

Lincolns came into Massachusetts in 1796, Southdowns were in New York by 1803, followed in 1838 by Cotswolds and Cheviots, and in 1840 Oxfords entered Delaware. On the Pacific Coast, Dr. John McLoughlin, Proctor for the Hudson's Bay Company in the Northwest and Oregon territories, brought Merinos around Cape Horn in 1824, and ten years later shipped in Southdown, Cotswold, Cheviot and Leicester breeding stock. There were Southdowns in Illinois in the 1850's - and in 1855 a new breed was imported into Virginia; they were called Shropshires.

In 1860 Samuel Sutton brought a ram and twenty ewes to Maryland and in 1872 Julian Hoyt visited England and brought back one hundred Shrops to his ranch near

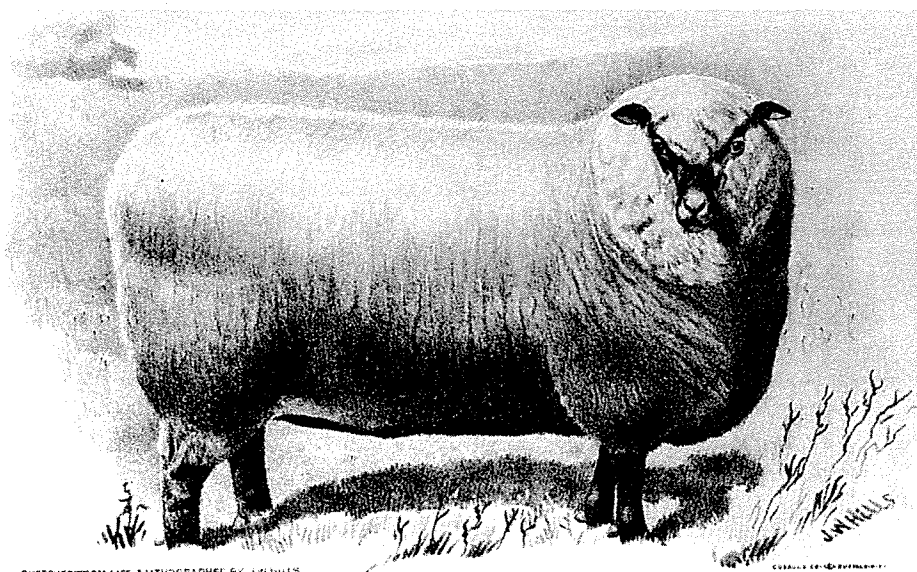
Suisun, California.

Fine-wools and their blends never-the-less dominated the American scene. Numbers were disastrously expanded in response to the artificial \$1-per-pound wool prices created by the Civil War's needs. In the late 1860's when wool could not even pay for the shearing, flocks which never should have been started were liquidated by the tens of thousands at \$1 per head, or less.

While at the time the War was blamed for this ruination, in retrospect we know that a major evolution was in progress that permanently altered the United States sheep industry;

1. During the 1850's and early '60s a vast network of railroads spread over the country which, along with improved roads to the railheads, gave impetus to creating huge central livestock markets and their satellite feed lots and slaughter facilities.
2. The industrial cities filled with foreign-born working classes accustomed to eating sheep meat, now made available at moderate prices by the new marketing system.
3. Rising values forced landowners to cultivate much of what had previously been pasture and range. Diversification, cross-fencing and accessibility to crop residues and surplus grain put a premium on animals that could most economically convert feed to meat - as well as wool.

By 1870 progressive stockmen who still considered sheep a sound source of income began casting about for ways to "modernize" their existing, mostly fine-wool, flocks. They sought to increase lambing percentages, finishing traits and carcass desirability. Southdowns were the most readily available source, but these matings produced lower fleece weights in the replacement ewes and smaller-than-desired market lambs. On the other hand, offspring from crosses with long-wools lacked vitality and matured slowly.



SKETCHED FROM LIFE & LITHOGRAPHED BY J. H. HULLS

English Shropshire Ram, Imported in 1887 by Henderson and Levering, Lafayette, Indiana.



About this time the new Shropshires began to appear, particularly around Lafayette, Indiana, where a man named Levering was promoting them and renting out "test flocks" to farmers in the area.

A U.S. Department of Agriculture report claimed; *"This (ideal) combination of wool and mutton most of the Indiana farmers believe they have found in the Shropshire sheep, and it is the belief in that combination that makes the sheep so popular in the State, where they are increasing with a rapidity that threatens to drive out all other sheep. Their mutton is considered nearly as good as that of the Southdown, and they shear as much money per head as the wool breeds, so called, and are every way superior to them for mutton. They stand close herding in large numbers; are quiet, very strong and healthy; are exceptionally free from foot-rot; require no extra feed and but little care, and on the whole will give large returns with the least trouble. They weigh from 170 to 300 pounds. One is on record as weighing 400 pounds. An Indiana breeder reports one as weighing 328 pounds at two years old, and giving 18 pounds of wool. They have been found very prolific, producing at least 40 percent*

*twins. The lambs are strong, are on their feet nearly as soon as dropped, and give but little trouble."*

The same publication had this to say about the situation in Michigan, which had a sheep population of almost two million head in 1870; *"It was with much reluctance that some of the Michigan sheep raisers abandoned fine-wool growing, gave up their pure-bred Merinos and turned their attention to English breeds of mutton sheep. By those who believe that mutton should be primary and wool the secondary consideration in sheep husbandry, or who seek a happy combination of both in the same sheep, the Shropshire is looked to as this double or all-purpose sheep. They are prolific, producing often 140 to 150 percent increase, and the lambs fatten readily at any age. Pure Shropshire ewes from one to three years old weigh 160 to 250 pounds according to condition and mature rams weigh 175 to 300 pounds and over. They shear, according to care and generosity of feeding, fleeces weighing from 8 to 18 pounds of what is known as medium wool, commanding a good price. These sheep are being imported into the country by thousands, and Michigan takes a good share of them."*



*American Shropshire Ram, owned by Joseph Edgerton, Nassau, Iowa - about 1887.*

With official "press releases" like that, the number of imports, the only source of quality breeding stock, exploded. Alfred Mansell, the secretary of the British Flock Book Society and owner of the major exporting agency, claimed that in the years up to the early 1890's, 25,000 Shropshires were shipped from England to North America.

There was an added attraction to Shropshires; their stylishness, distinctive type, 'fittable' fleece and easy handling made them the favorite show breed. They had a separate classification at the St. Louis fair by the early '70s. 'Old-line' showmen added a string of Shrops as soon as they were available, and many abandoned their former breeds entirely. By the '80s there were very few major shows in America where Shropshires were not the predominant breed. For those three decades it was assumed that it took an import to place high in tough competition.

Now, for the second time, we see the vivid truth in Dean Coffey's simple analysis of why breeds succeed or fail; there was suddenly a tremendous **demand** for sheep

with those very characteristics only recently perfected and fixed by the English flockmasters of Shropshire, and there was also an **energetic** and **enthusiastic** group of breeders supporting the breed - on both sides of the Atlantic!

Demand turned to craze. As an early historian put it: "Their great popularity has induced importers to bring into the market other breeds closely resembling them in appearance." Simultaneously, from all parts of the country came the question; "How are we to know the distinguishing characteristics of our Shropshire sheep?" The need for a Registry was apparent, "whereby owners might know the foundation of their flocks and keep the breed pure and distinct."

During the Fat Stock Show at Chicago in November, 1883, a group of leading Shropshire breeders decided, at the suggestion of Mr. Albert Henderson, to make a call to all owners of this breed to meet at Purdue Agricultural College in Lafayette, Indiana, for the establishment of a permanent record for registering Shropshire sheep in the United States and Canada.

## Chapter 3

### THE FIRST QUARTER CENTURY - THE LEVERING ERA

The organizational meeting of the American Shropshire Association was held on February 5, 1884 in Agriculture Hall, Purdue Agricultural College, Lafayette, Indiana. Eight people showed up. A young professor named W.C. Latta was chosen temporary chairman. What better way to describe the scene than to quote his eyewitness account?

At a gala banquet in 1924 on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary celebration in the new 'Assembly Hall' of Chicago's Stock Yard Inn, Professor Latta was the guest of honor and recreated the founding for the 300 members and friends in attendance. He recalled;

"We met in an upper room of the old two-story building with some six or eight rooms and a back wing for storage of grain. The place of the Association's birth is unimportant. The Purdue School of Agriculture had scarcely an existence except on paper. The professor was a tyro, fresh from college. The State of Indiana made no marked contribution for, although Shrops were shown at her state fair as early as 1875 in the class with Oxfords and Hampshires, they did not secure a separate class until 1890. The Association might as well, or perhaps better, been born in Illinois, Iowa or Missouri.

"I fancy not one of the founders had any idea of what was to come from that small beginning unless it might have been Mortimer Levering. I am inclined to believe from the character of the minute book and the system in which the records were made that he did have, more than anyone else, a clear vision of what was to come.

"Albert Henderson, a monument dealer with farming interests, was one of nature's noblemen, a patron of all good causes. He was actively and officially interested in the Tippecanoe County Fair Association. Mr. Levering, a son-in-law of Mr. Henderson, was a successful businessman. I do not recall his first business, but he was a private banker when I first knew him as secretary of the American Shetland Pony Club. Though a Shropshire breeder, he thought it best not to enter into competition as an exhibitor with other breeders.

"Spencer R. Quick was the first president and a breeder of Shorthorn cattle and Shropshire sheep. Walter Quick, his son, was a student in Purdue and a livestock enthusiast. I recall nothing of I.Q. Farquhar except his very dark complexion and quiet demeanor. He was doubtless a breeder, though not an exhibitor of Shropshires.

"George Allen was a burly, grizzled farmer of eastern Illinois and a breeder, exhibitor and judge of Shropshires. John L. Thompson was a highly successful breeder and exhibitor. He and George Allen rendered large service in bringing Shropshires into prominence in Indiana by their annual exhibits at the state fair."

There it is -- relived by one of the early pioneers; eight men, upstairs in a combination classroom - granary, a humble beginning!

Professor Latta went on to pay tribute to "our Canadian brothers who early in the Association's history cast their lot with those on this side of the border."

What more do we know about these people?

W.C. Latta graduated from the Michigan Agricultural College in 1877; he came to Purdue as an instructor in agriculture in 1882; was made professor in 1883 and in 1889 was named to organize the Farmers' Institute in Indiana, a post he held until 1923. As mentioned above, he presided during the first meeting and appointed the organizational committees. The professor was then elected to the original executive committee and attended nearly every meeting during the next twenty years. From 1887 until professional accountants were hired in 1900 he chaired the auditing committee, served on the pedigree and memorial resolutions committees and was 1st vice-president from 1901 through 1904; a reliable, devoted hard-working founder!

S.R. Quick of Columbus, Indiana, was elected the first president. He presided at one executive committee meeting and, owing to sickness, was replaced at the next annual meeting.

George Allen, Jr. of Archie, Illinois, was elected 1st vice-president, but he also served less than a full year. Mr. Allen was born in Staffordshire, England, in 1848, the third generation of a famous Shorthorn cattle and Shropshire sheep-breeding dynasty. His father sent young George, just 23 years old, with several cargoes of sheep to America, to exhibit for the first time at St. Louis in 1871 and at Dayton and Indianapolis in 1872. That venture, followed by several subsequent shipments, was so successful that in 1879 the entire family, with 100 Shropshires, moved to the U.S. They purchased a 960-acre stock ranch in Vermilion County, Illinois. Their farm, 'Shropshire Park', became a show place, "having more the appearance of a fair-ground than a farm."

The 'master-mind', the guiding genius, the early financial guarantor and the internationally respected symbol of the Shropshire organization was its secretary for the first 25 years, Mortimer J. Levering. Born in Philadelphia, he moved to Lafayette, where he took over the management of twenty farms and engaged in banking. On his home farm, 'Richmond Hill', he bred Jerseys, Shropshires, Shetlands and poultry. He was secretary of the National Wool Growers Association for many years and a director of the American Saddle Horse Breeders' Association.

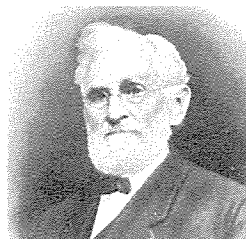
While attending the Toronto Show in 1899 Mr. Levering, R.B. Ogilvie, secretary of the Clydesdale Association, Arthur G. Leonard, manager of the Chicago Union Stock Yard, and G. Howard Davison, a prominent stockman decided to try to form a national show in Chicago. Later that year Mortimer Levering presided at the meeting creating the International Livestock Exposition and was elected the first secretary of its Board. He also was a founder, and secretary, of the Saddle and Sirloin Club and one of the first stockmen honored by the hanging of his portrait in its Hall of Fame Gallery.

Obviously much thought and planning had taken place before the first meeting. After their selection, with only a one-hour recess, the committees were able to present a proposed Constitution and a Charter for a 400-share





George Allen  
Vice President



S. R. Quick  
President



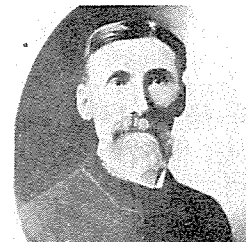
W. C. Latta  
Executive Committee



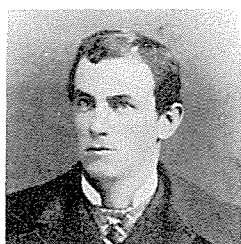
Albert Henderson  
Founder



Mortimer Levering  
Secretary-Treasurer



John L. Thomson  
Pedigree Committee



W. J. Quick  
Senior Purdue Univ.



I. J. Farquhar  
Executive Committee

## CHARTER MEMBERS

### AMERICAN SHROPSHIRE SHEEP REGISTRY ASSOCIATION

stockholding association "to establish a record for keeping and tracing pedigrees of purebred Shropshire sheep in the United States and Canada."

Also adopted were provisions for fees and eligibility for registry. Rule number 3, the key requirement, stated; "Shropshire sheep bred by reliable breeders in the United Kingdom of Great Britain, and their purebred descendants, and no others, may be admitted to registry on satisfactory proof of their having been so bred and descended."

At the first Annual Session held on November 18, 1884, in the Grand Pacific Hotel of Chicago, the two major items of business were the approval of a motion "requesting all fair organizations to make separate classes for each of the several breeds of sheep," and the appointment of a five-man committee to prepare a Standard and Points of Excellence.

Seth H. Todd, of Wakeman, Ohio, succeeded Mr.

Quick as president and served six terms, retiring in 1891. Mr. Todd grew up on the farm carved out of the wilderness by his father. He attended Oberlin College three terms then briefly taught school before going to Kansas to support the Abolitionist movement. Returning home he developed "Todd's Chester White Hogs," which won \$2,370 at the 1893 Chicago Worlds Fair and gained a national reputation. He climaxed his show career, and proved his versatility, by winning the 50-head carlot championship at the 1907 International with Shropshire lambs. In 1890 he won champion wether at the Madison Square Garden show but had been unsuccessful in the breeding classes at the Chicago Fat Stock Show until....now let him tell the story:

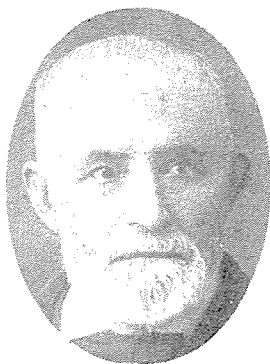
"My farmer friends, when we are going through this world, if we expect to succeed, we have to keep our eyes open. I discovered that the animals that were bringing prizes were fed a half ration of bran. I went back to the

farm and commenced making rations part bran....at the next show I got one first prize. The next year the Shropshire Record Company offered great inducements to bring out Shropshires. I was there with my sheep, competing not against the intelligence of America but against the intelligence of England. England had twelve representatives at the show, and prizes to the amount of \$540 were offered. After the show was through, with the experience I got feeding sheep, \$430 of it came to Ohio."

Mr. Todd organized the Wakeman Banking Company, serving as its first president, and was active in the Farmers' Institute, being widely known throughout the United States as a lecturer. One of his talks was published in the 1900 Biennial Report of the Kansas Board of Agriculture; entitled "General Mangement in Mutton-Making" it espoused a novel theory worth repeating:

*"For mutton we should have an animal with a short, broad face and wide on top of the poll. The width on top of the poll designates the brain of the animal. An animal without a good brain is unprofitable to consume either grain or hay. We want a sheep with a brain not only large, but active. How can we tell a sheep with an active brain? We can tell it by the expression of the eye as well as the motions of the jaw when it is consuming food. The active-brained sheep will make three motions of the jaws while the inactive and sluggish-brained sheep will only make two. While this is very desirable in sheep for feeding purposes, it has its objections. This is a nervous sheep and is always trying to get out of your way. Hence, it makes it sometimes disagreeable (when you are undertaking to handle the sheep in the fold), by running over the lambs. But I am here to say this sheep is always fat and in good condition."*

Later in the article Mr. Todd gave suggestions on internal parasite control for lambs by rotating them to clean pastures or cultivated and seeded crops such as oats, rye, peas or rape; still an excellent tactic.



S.H. Todd  
1884 - 1891

In August, 1885, Secretary Levering published Volume I, Flock Books of the American Shropshire Registry Association. One hundred eighty-one flocks were listed, with 73 in England, 13 in Canada, 6 in Scotland and 88 from 17 of the United States. Indiana was represented by 12 owners, who registered 209 sheep in the initial book. Ohio was a close second with 10 breeders listing 194 sheep, then Michigan with 8 owners and 157 Shrops, New York with 7 owners and 108, and Illinois with 5 and 97 head. (The largest flock of registered sheep listed was owned by Eugene Hatch of Jefferson, Wisconsin, who had 104 head.)

Sheep names were popular, 535 being listed by owner and pedigree. There were 51 'Ladys', including Lady Clinker and Lady Godiva and such originals as Big Gun, Bittie Smead, Bright Eyes, Broad Back, Brown Glove, Canterbury Patentee 2nd, Chicken, Countess of Swathmore, Erastus Jones, Girl Twin, Golden Fleece, Kentucky Ewe, Queen of Knobs, Romulus, Second Best, Short Legs, Long Fellow, Long Wool, Lop Ear, Nigger Baby, Othello, Pulley Ewe, Smut Face, Snow Ball, Stem-Winder, Willie's Ewe and Wooley Eyes.

The first 'standard' was presented and approved at the next Annual Meeting in the Sherman House of Chicago in November, 1885. (Other than a preoccupation with distinctive briskets and a call for short legs, the Shropshire 'ideal' has not changed much in 100 years.)

## POINTS OF EXCELLENCE - 1885

For purebred Shropshire sheep recorded or eligible to registry in the American Shropshire Registry Association Record.

### Constitution

Constitution and quality indicated by the form of the body; deep and large in breast and through the heart, back wide, straight and well covered with lean meat or muscle; wide and full in the thigh, deep in flank, skin thick but soft and of pink color; prominent, brilliant eyes and healthful countenance. 25 points  
Objections: Deficiency of brisket, light around the heart, fish-back, pointed shoulders, tucked-in flesh, pale or too dark skin.

### Size

In fair condition when fully matured, rams should weigh not less than 225 pounds, and ewes not less than 175. 10 points

### General Appearance

General appearance and character, good carriage; head well up; elastic movement, showing great symmetry of form and uniformity of character throughout. 10 points  
Objections: Head dropping, low in neck, sluggish movement.

### Body

Well proportioned, medium bones, great scale and length, well-finished hind quarters, thick back and loins, twist deep and full, standing with legs well placed outside, breast wide and extending well forward. 15 points  
Objections: Too fine bones, short body, deficient in twist, legs close together, light in brisket.

### Head

Head short and broad; wide between the ears and between the eyes; short from top of head to tip of nose; ears short, of medium size; eyes expressive; head should be well covered with wool to a point even with the eyes, without any appearance of horns; color of face dark brown. 10 points  
Objections: Horns disqualify, white face disqualifies, head with prominent bones, bare on top of head.

### Neck

Medium length, good bone and muscular development, and especially with the rams, heavier toward the shoulders, well set up, and rising from that point to the back of the head. 5 points

### Legs and Feet

Broad, short, straight, well set apart, well shaped, color dark brown and well woolled to the knees. 10 points

### *Fleece*

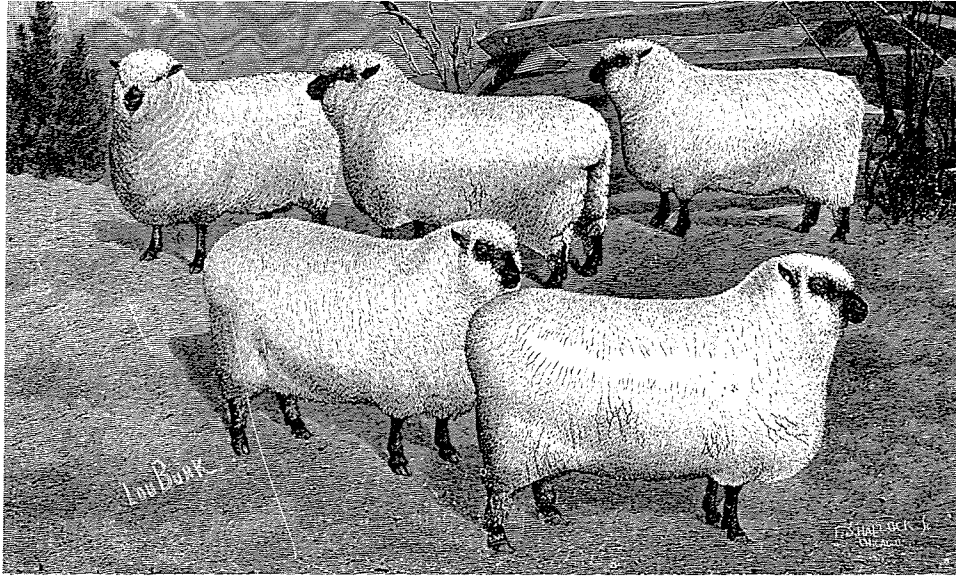
*Body, head, belly and legs to knees well covered with fleece of even length and quality; scrotum of rams well covered.*

10 points

### *Quality of Wool*

*Medium, such as is known in our markets as "medium de-laine" and "half-combing wool," strong, fine, lustrous fiber, without tendency to mat or felt together, and at one year's growth not less than three and one-half inches in length.*

10 points



*Shropshires Owned by J.S. and W.G. Crosby, Greenville, Michigan - 1890  
Ram (upper center) and ewe (upper right), U.S. Bred in 1889  
Ram (upper left) and ewes in foreground imported from England.*

Apparently breed purity was an early concern, as in 1887 this rule was added to the by-laws: "Membership in this association...shall, after January 1, 1889, be restricted to persons who are breeders exclusively of Shropshire sheep on the same or adjoining farms. This rule shall not apply to Agricultural Colleges." The rule was rescinded in 1892.

In 1889 the executive committee designated \$500 for prizes in 15 wether and carcass classes at the Chicago Fat Stock Show, and voted themselves \$5 per day and railroad fare to meetings. 1890 was the year the Association began providing free ear tags.

At the first meeting held outside Chicago, in Buffalo, N.Y., on November 5, 1891, the Hon. John Dryden of Toronto, Canada was elected president. Mr. Dryden served until December, 1904; his 13 year term was by far the longest in association history. He served in the Ontario Legislature from 1879 to 1905 and had also been Provincial Minister of Agriculture. He was an importer and breeder of Shorthorn cattle, Shropshire sheep and Clydesdale horses. His 'Maple Shade Farm' was a mecca for stockmen from all over Canada and the U.S. Both John Dryden and his son, Will, were inducted into the Saddle and Sirloin Hall of Fame Gallery.

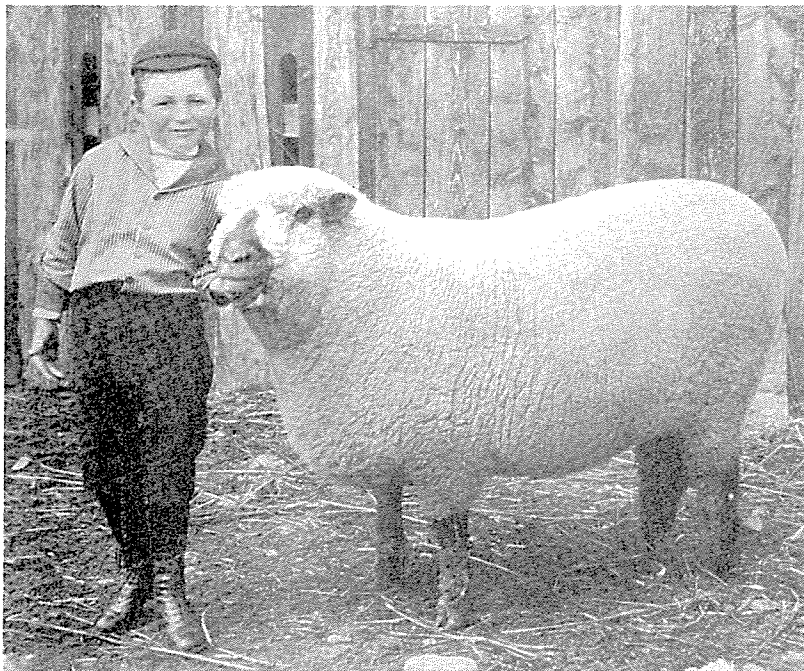


*John Dryden  
1891-1904*

After eight years there were 737 members, Michigan being the leading state with 154. Of the 11,515 pedigree applications received during the year 8,400 were rejected. Although there were 12,940 registrations in 1894, the 10th anniversary year marked the first signs of the severe agri-

cultural recession that plagued the industry the remainder of the decade. The auditors noted; "Expenditures exceeded receipts by \$1,690; \$1,100 of this is accounted for in the special premiums given at the World's Fair and there is some falling-off in receipts no doubt owing to less numbers of imported sheep than in previous years, which may continue to be the condition of the future."

At Detroit in 1895 the executive committee voted to provide the names of 12 "expert judges" to 20 state fairs. If one of these men were selected, the association agreed to pay half of the traveling and hotel expenses, "providing this association shall not have to pay more than \$25 at any single fair."



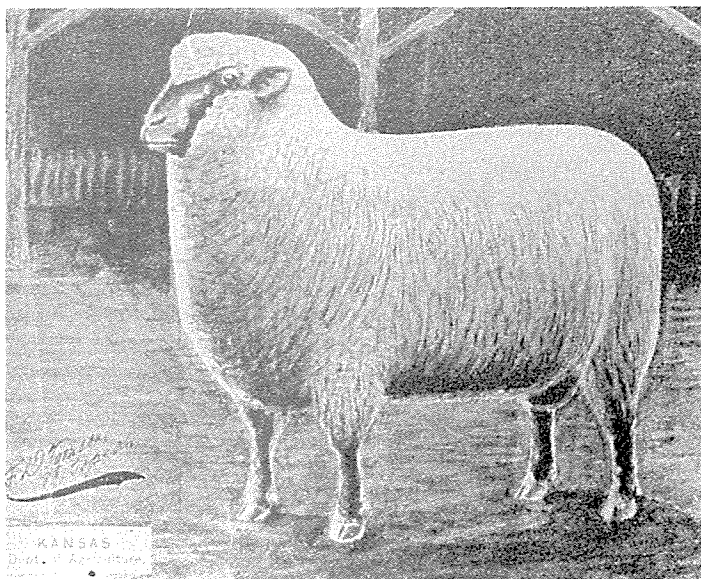
*English Shropshire Ram, Champion R.A.S.E. - 1896  
Breeder, Mrs. Maria Barrs, Atherstone, Warwickshire*

In 1895 and 1896 the Annual Meetings were held in the Holland House in New York City, then back to Chicago's Sherman House in 1897.

Writers for the stock magazines of that period, apparently unfettered by fear of libel suits, each year gave their candid opinions of the major breed shows at Chicago.

From the following report in the November, 1897 'Sheep Breeder & Wool Grower', one might conclude that the 'Allens' were either delinquent in their advertising or had otherwise offended the correspondent: "Shropshires - In the two years old class Allen won with a coarse, rough sheep, one that would have been much more at home in the Hampshire class; Newton second on a better one. In the shearlings Allen won on a weak sheep, decidedly off-type; Gibson second on a heavier and riper one of correct make-up. The only place the winner beat him was in brisket and fore-flank, (bare head) and when he was selected eventually as best specimen not a Shropshire breeder could understand the award!"

Two big events in 1898 were the Trans-Mississippi Exposition in Omaha, where the Annual Meeting was attended by 75 members, and Mr. Levering's announcement that both income and new members had doubled over the previous year. The 1899 meeting was held in Toronto, Canada in conjunction with the Exposition.



*Shropshire Ram - Topeka, Kansas - 1898*

At the executive committee meeting in February, 1900, it was announced that there would be a Shropshire sale at the Indiana State Fair, limited to 500 head: "Each



party contributing sheep to the sale will dictate the manner of payments for his sheep, and must be responsible for collection of the money due him."

In 1901 the executive committee approved \$1,100 in special prizes at four expositions and two state fairs; the awards to be made only if these shows used judges recommended by the Association. By this time the ASRA had reduced the upper limit on sharing half the judges' expenses to \$15. During the year \$146.30 was paid for judges expenses. At the 1902 general meeting a motion was adopted that "hereafter all premiums and prize money offered by the Association shall be for Shropshires bred in America."

Somewhere in this period an event took place that must be included in any Shropshire history. The story is found on page 547 of Edward Wentworth's 'America's Sheep Trails.'

*"Shortly after 1900 the Secretary of the Shropshire Record Society, Mortimer Levering of Lafayette, Indiana, and a leading breeder, Dr. G. Howard Davison of Millbrook, New York, started a Shropshire ram sale in connection with the International Livestock Exposition. Four hundred rams were consigned, but owing to the lateness of the season only one bidder appeared, and he took only five rams."*

A group of Chicago men who believed that an opportunity for good stock was being overlooked, bid-in the remaining rams and shipped them to George Webster's ranch in the Pecos Valley of New Mexico. A plan was formed to put them out to the Navajos, and Webster paid for their progeny twenty-five cents above the prices customarily offered the Indians. The first crop of lambs showed remarkable improvement in both flesh and quality, and new Shropshire rams were brought in for several years. After the fifth season, however, the mutton blood became so concentrated that the sheep lost their flocking instinct, and the extra herding required caused the project to be abandoned."

This abortive ram sale was but one example of the ambition Levering and Davison shared in behalf of Shropshires, one of them nearing the end of his pioneering years the other on the ascendancy in a career that influenced nearly every facet of livestock promotion. Dr. G. Howard Davison had degrees from Cornell, Yale and American Veterinary College. He was elected to the Shropshire executive committee in 1897 and succeeded John Dryden as president in 1904. Dr. Davison and Mr. Levering traveled widely, including trips to Washington, D.C., and England, working on import problems.



G. Howard Davison  
1905 - 1907

On his 'Altamont Stock Farm' Davison raised Dairy Shorthorns, Guernseys, Shropshires and harness and saddles horses, but it would seem that he had little time for farming or practicing his profession. In 1893 he was mana-

ger of the New York State Fair, he was an organizer and served as president of the National Stock Show in Madison Square Garden, was a founder and sheep superintendent of the Chicago International Livestock Exposition until 1917, when he became its president. He was president of the American Shropshire and American Dairy Shorthorn Associations, director of the National Wool Growers and National Horse Show Associations, chairman of the National Agricultural Society and publisher of two magazines, member of the Royal Agricultural Society, at least eight other breed societies and show organizations and an early inductee in the Saddle and Sirloin Gallery.



Richard Gibson  
1908

Richard Gibson of Delaware, Ontario, became president of the ASRA in December, 1907. Emigrating from his native England at age 21, he served as manager of two large stock farms in New York before moving to his own 'Belvoir Farm' in Canada, where he developed internationally known Shorthorn and Shropshire herds and flocks, serving as American president of both breed Associations. Mr. Gibson judged from coast to coast and at his death was 1st vice-president of the International Livestock Exposition. He was inducted into the Saddle and Sirloin Portrait Gallery. Perhaps his most lasting contribution to Shropshires and the livestock industry was to sire a famous son, H. Noel, who will appear at intervals throughout this history. Actually, because of illness, Richard Gibson never chaired a meeting and vice-president Wardwell was elected to replace him in December, 1908.

Two other eminent Canadians should be mentioned at this point; John Miller emigrated to Ontario from Scotland in 1835, where he developed 'Atha Farm' which became a rich source of breeding stock for North America. He imported and bred Shorthorn cattle, Clydesdale horses and Shropshire and Cotswold sheep. This stud flock provided the original foundation for the McKerrow Shropshires in the late 1800's. John Miller was inducted into the Saddle and Sirloin Hall of Fame, as was his son, Robert F. Miller of Broughton, Ontario.

Robert was better remembered for his contributions to Shorthorn history but he continued the fine Shropshire tradition, establishing a reputation for his discrimination in selecting animals for importation from England. He declined a nomination as a Shropshire director in 1892 but served as a regional vice-president and on the important pedigree committee.



*H.L. Wardwell*  
1909 - 1910

H.L. Wardwell was a New York state farm boy who ultimately built up the brokerage firm of McIntyre and Wardwell, which in 1890 did the largest grain business in the U.S. On his farm in Otsego County, New York, he had

register-of-merit Jerseys and Berkshire hogs. His Shropshires, many of which he personally selected in England, dominated the major shows in the early 1900's, winning innumerable championships and the get-of-sire class three successive years, 1910, 1911 and 1912 at the Chicago International. Sheep from his flock were exported to South America.

Although Mortimer Levering was unanimously re-elected secretary-treasurer at the 1907 meeting those were the last official minutes he recorded. C.A. Kurtze and then Howard Chandler served as secretary pro tem until Levering's death at his home in Cincinnati, Ohio, December 1, 1909. Notice of this stunning loss subdued the Shropshire Annual Meeting under way in Chicago. In the 25 years under his stewardship as founder, secretary, publisher of the first flock book in America, arbiter, promoter and guiding hand to six presidents, his legacy was the leading breed association in the world, with 3,885 members and 306,600 certificates issued. The first quarter century can fairly be called 'The Levering Era'.

## Chapter 4

### THE SHROPSHIRE TANGLE

On the morning after receiving news of Mortimer Levering's death, the executive committee, in emergency meeting, named the head office clerk, Miss Julia M. Wade, acting-secretary at her existing salary of \$1,500 per year. Four months later, however, she was returned to clerk and Mr. L.E. Troeger was hired at \$1,800 to serve as secretary-treasurer until the next annual meeting.

In the December, 1910, 'Sheep Breeder and Wool Grower,' Troeger reported that when he arrived to take over the office in Lafayette he found "tons of old water-soaked, rat-eaten flock books which had been drawing annual space rent of \$150, evidence of 'hen parties and spreads' during office hours, unopened mail, office supplies strewn about and careless systems that allowed the recording of an impossible number of progeny to certain rams and ewes."

What appeared on the surface a petty personality clash, was in reality a major struggle for control of the 4,500-member association. For backgrounding this contention it is necessary to start at the beginning in 1894. The Shropshire founders, seeking ways to raise funds to start the organization, designated it as a stock corporation, selling 400 shares at \$5 per share. Because of this structure only stockholders could vote; members with no stock had no voice! In 1909 there were 2,500 'no-vote' members and 2,000 stockholders.

As stockholders quit raising Shrops or died, Mr. Levering had been acquiring stock from them or their heirs, accumulating 117 such shares by the time of death. Each share was entitled to one vote, but as far as is known Mr. Levering never intended to use this block to manipulate policy; in fact, while he lived he never cast more than one vote. However, it is easy to see how the accumulation of large blocks of stock in the hands of selfish or unscrupulous interests could pose serious consequences, particularly when over half the breeders had no suffrage.

The second innocent judgemental error by the charter members involved the relationship between the elected directors and the management of the office. For his other wide-spread business interests Mr. Levering maintained his own office, hired, paid and supervised the staff, ordered all printing, etc. An arrangement was worked out whereby a percentage of each registration and transfer was deducted by Levering for office operation. The balance, originally 15¢ out of each 50¢, went to the Association for executive expenses, promotion and premiums.

An audit early in 1910 revealed that because income had not recently been covering expenditures approved by the executive committee, Mr. Levering had simply been issuing himself IOU's and reduced by 5¢ what was his entitlement for office expense. His estate, represented by his son, Richmond, and attorneys for the Lafayette Loan and Trust Co., claimed that \$1,686 was due. A compromise resulted in a final settlement of \$784.92.

Julia Wade had been Mr. Levering's private secretary and office manager. In her judgement she had no direct obligation to the Shropshire Association. Because of this interpretation neither she nor Richmond Levering would

turn over the office records, including the vital list of stockholders, to new secretary Troeger or the auditors.

This is the time to discuss the involvement of G. Howard Davison, the immediate past-president and very close personal friend of Levering, and Henry Wardwell, then active on the New York Stock Exchange and in the middle of his two-year term as ASRA president when Levering died. There never was another time in American Shropshire history when two such dynamic, capable and successful personalities so completely dominated the breed. It is interesting, and may have adversely impacted their reorganization schemes, that both were well-to-do New Yorkers. As will be shown in the next chapter, they were intense rivals in their breeding programs, the show ring and their interpretation of Shropshire type.

However, when the reputation and future of the Association were threatened these experienced businessmen put loyalty and dedication to the Shropshire breed above all other considerations and willingly gave of their valuable time and wisdom to correct past mistakes and reorganize voting rights and office procedures.

Davison and Wardwell had justified the retention of the old system during Mr. Levering's later years on the fact that he had personally paid for many of the costs of the infant Association in its formative years and had built a national recognition for Shropshires, but they realized that new personnel and systems were essential to a clean start. This meant opposition, without rancor, to the Levering-Wade interests. They immediately instituted the hiring of neutral Chicago accountants to audit the records, and in April pushed through a unanimous executive committee vote to replace Julia Wade with Troeger.

Another irregularity surfaced when it was discovered that because the Association was chartered as an Indiana corporation all stockholder meetings held outside the state were technically illegal.

Into this tangle the editor of the 'Sheep Breeder' joyously threw himself body and soul. For two years he rode the train from his office at the Chicago Stock Yards to Lafayette for his 'detective work', he telephoned and wired key people; he even served as one of the agents holding stock certificates, relishing the publicity this growing squabble in the lofty and sanctimonious Shropshire ranks created among his subscribers and the minor breeds.

After Mr. Troeger displaced her, Miss Wade, having the only access to the list of stockholders, began to solicit proxies on her own behalf; and as the critical Annual Meeting approached, Robert's Rules of Order, corporate law and principles of accounting superseded the simple business of registering sheep. So many people showed up at the meeting in Lafayette on November 29, 1910 that the location had to be moved from the office to the Hotel Lahr.

Obviously it was a face-off between the eastern power-brokers with their 'new broom' Troeger, and the Hoosier country-folk defending 'the good old Levering-Wade days'; simply a matter of the votes controlled by each side. Harry Wade, representing his sister, had 134 approved proxies; between them Davison and Wardwell car-

ried 103. Nine other stockholders in attendance with ten uncommitted proxies made it apparent that while voting would be close, there was no question who would prevail if the 117 shares accumulated by Mortimer Levering were certified. Using some intricate parliamentary maneuvering, president Wardwell ruled that since the proxies held by Richmond Levering had not been transferred from his father on the books prior to the meeting they were disqualified. The Levering estate, therefore, was denied a vote. This interpretation was later invalidated by U.S. Senator Will R. Wood, a Shrop breeder and parliamentarian, at a 1912 executive committee meeting then rewriting the Constitution.

As it turned out, the 117 votes were not needed to control the meeting; J.C. Duncan, a third successive New Yorker, with no previous experience on the executive committee, defeated Mr. Wardwell for the presidency. Mr. Davison, without opposition, was reelected 1st vice-president. In the crucial balloting for secretary "J.M." Wade retired Mr. Troeger. She was subsequently reelected each year until 1931 when, under clouded circumstances, Oscar Clogg replaced her for three months. After the durable Miss Wade's second reinstatement she served (in addition to managing the American Shetland Pony Association out of the same office) until December 1946, a total of 36 years as Shropshire secretary.



J.C. Duncan  
1911 - 1912

J.C. 'Jamsie' Duncan was a jovial Scotsman and popular judge. The candid 'Sheep Breeder' editor provides this personality sketch in his printed reaction to the election; "Wardwell is cursing his luck at the 'ticker', Julia M. has flown with her proxies to the mud baths at Attica, while the new president, 'Jamsie' Duncan is eating Connecticut pie, smoking his favorite Pittsburg stogie, indulging in unheard-of flights of oratory at Connecticut sheep breeders conventions - and laughing up his sleeve at the whole bunch."

Born in Scotland, Duncan came to America when he was 22. For three years he did landscape work in the Buffalo city parks then went to Mr. Rumsey's 'Niagara Stock Farm' in Lewiston, New York for the remainder of his active livestock career. That Mr. Duncan was greatly respected can be gauged from the fact that he judged at the Chicago International in 1910, 1919, 1920 and '22, was first alternate four other years, went west to judge at the Panama Pacific and Pacific Internationals and was back on the board as vice-president in 1924-25.

"THE SHROPSHIRE TANGLE" - this bold-faced headline in the November, 1911 'American Sheep Breeder'

riveted the attention of the purebred sheep industry on the factional strife with a florid lead-article, editorial opinions, quotes by dozens of breeders, copies of letter, telegrams and minutes and even a poem by an "anonymous writer," from which are here quoted the opening three stanzas:

#### SHROPSHIRE NURSERY RHYMES

(With Apologies to Mother Goose)

*Higgledy, piggedly, Shropshire hen,  
She lays proxies for women and men;  
Sometimes "500" and sometimes "ten",  
Higgledy, piggedly, Shropshire hen.*

*Piggledy, higgledy, Shropshire ram,  
He grows wool and don't give a \_\_\_\_\_;  
Whether it's "Julia" or whether it's "Hen", (1)  
Who gets the proxies and bosses the "pen".*

*Higgledy, piggedly, Shropshire wether,  
Gives his hide for wool or leather;  
Laughs at the lawyers mixed in the tangle,  
Bites his turnip and chews his mangle.*

(1) Henry Wardwell?

At this tense and critical time, however, motions by Davison, strongly supported by the younger Levering, were passed to start revising the Constitution to correct its obvious faults. Henry Wardwell and Richmond Levering were appointed to this task. The difficulty was in converting the power from stockholders to members. The only dividend proposed in exchange for the stock was one membership per owner, not per share. It took two years of complicated, grudging give and take.

The 1911 Annual Meeting took place in the Majestic Hotel of Hammond, Indiana, just across the state line from Chicago. The details of all that took place are unclear, but it is a matter of record that after other business was out of the way, newly elected director George McKerrow teamed up with Senator Wood to propose three motions. First, "that the committee working on reorganization be discharged." After that was carried he moved to increase the Capital Stock to \$50,000, divided into \$5 shares; apparently a tactic conceived in some 'smoke-filled room' to facilitate the eventual conversion from stock to membership. Following the adoption of this surprise Mr. McKerrow moved "that the executive committee and the secretary-treasurer be requested to draft amendments to the Constitution and presents aid amendments at the next Annual Meeting for action." When this carried, the 1911 meeting adjourned.

That did it! Editor Burch, in the next issue of his magazine left no doubt that he, not the executive committee, was responsible for trying to salvage what remained of the ASRA. Under the headline "PEACE DOVE GONE" he wrote; "For eleven days and nights, at much personal sacrifice, the editor of the American Sheep Breeder has labored with the Wade-Wardwell factions, their lawyers and close friends to effect a compromise in order to secure peace and a satisfactory solution to the reorganization problems so that members, as well as stockholders, may have voting power in the American Shropshire Ass'n. True to his vows the editor has neither shaved, fed or slept while a ray of hope held out. With his left ear glued to the Lafayette telephone, three stenographers receiving and sending Wall Street messages, bill collectors, wife and children pounding at the sanctum door, he has ceaselessly stuck to his job....The Dove of Peace brushed its snow-white wings against the hands of the reorganization committee, and it lacked but a simple word to secure the names to the peace treaty, when the cold, stern voice of the New



York law put to flight the fluttering messenger."

Finally, cool heads prevailed, and at the meeting at the Records Building, Union Stock Yards, Chicago, on December 4, 1912, the revised Constitution was approved and went into effect. Each Shropshire member was henceforth entitled to one equal vote, however, a member who could not personally attend a meeting could designate in writing someone to represent him by proxy.



C.F. Curtiss  
1913 - 1914

J.C. Duncan having announced that he declined to accept a position of any kind, called for election of new officers. Professor Charles Curtiss was unanimously elected to the presidency. C.F. Curtiss was born near Galena, Illinois, but his family moved soon afterward to Story County, Iowa. After graduating from Iowa State, he managed the 1,000-acre family farm and imported and bred "fine breeding stock" for three years before starting a career at the Iowa Experiment Station, ultimately becoming Dean of Agriculture. He was a popular livestock judge.

The big excitement of that meeting seemed to revolve around what action to take on a complaint filed by

two breeders from Greencastle, Missouri, against Howard A. Chandler, a long-time director, a secretary pro tem and Shropshire breeder and dealer from Lucas County Iowa, who was accused of "deception, extravagant descriptions and wrong doing." This petition and intensive testimony from both sides had been under study by the executive committee for a year.

In his defense before the members, Chandler read a statement, part of which sheds some idea of the scope of Shropshire trading going on then; "I make the broad statement that neither myself or the firm of Chandler Bros. have ever knowingly sold to persons at any time or place a Shropshire ram or ewe that was not exactly as represented in breeding quality, age or breeding. I have spent the last six years of my life in trying to build up a Shropshire industry in the United States; I have imported and sold, in the last six years, 6,501 Shropshire sheep, I have sold these sheep to 2,213 different persons...."

Chandler concluded his presentation with a motion that "all claims and charges filed by Henley and Vrooman be dismissed." After questioning by Mr. Wardwell, the call for a vote was made and the motion exonerating the Chandlers was carried.

Following the meeting a spirit of friendship and gaiety prevailed and everyone adjourned to the banquet room of the Stock Yard Inn for an "informal social gathering and smoker. Some excellent speeches were given and before the hour of parting it was voted by all present that the Shropshire was still the most popular sheep."

Even the ubiquitous editor Burch was euphoric. He wrote; "As prophesied, the stock proposition went through with a whoop. A spirit of harmony prevailed throughout the Annual Meeting. The 'smoker' held in the evening was a truly love feast of Shrop enthusiasts. It was a gala week for the 'rent payer', the Shropshire exhibit overshadowing all other breeds in point of numbers and interest manifested by sheep fans."

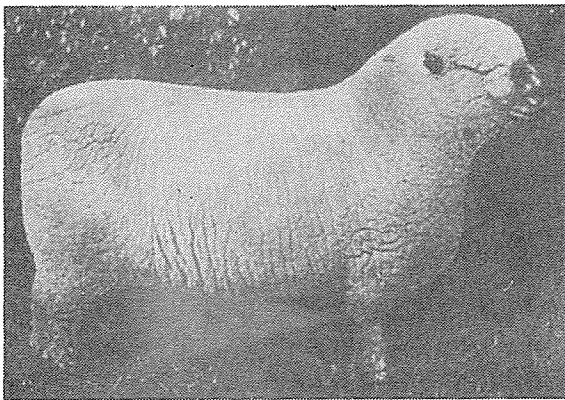
The legal tangle was settled; the type tangle was next.

## Chapter 5

### BREED TYPE AT THE INTERNATIONAL

The minutes of Shropshire meetings and most articles in sheep publications from the late 1800's to the present evince the purebred industry's over-riding concern for the show ring as a trend setter, to the almost total neglect of performance or the needs of the commercial industry. Conservatively speaking two-thirds of all that was discussed and written about involved judges, premiums and show standards. Observers of livestock trends around 1910 saw a widening gulf in size and type within breeds. Forty years had passed since English breeders, "using a panel of the same judges for a period of years at Royal shows," had fixed the ideal Shropshire type. But times change, and so do sheep!

The same two New Yorkers who worked together to modernize its constitution and whose world-wide reputations enhanced the Shropshire breed through their leadership, by choosing different goals in their breeding programs, first attracted national publicity to the growing schism in type. Henry Wardwell had paid the then 'princely' sum of \$900 to import a large, upstanding English ram which was defeated at the 1909 Syracuse State Fair by a low-set, compact, home-bred ram shown by Dr. Davison. A page and a half in the 'American Sheep Breeder' was devoted to this contest. Included were pictures of each ram, both nearly wool-blind, and comments from both sides and the judge, Arthur Drake.



Champion Ram - 1910 New York State Fair  
Bred & Exhibited by G. Howard Davison,  
Altamont Stock Farm  
H. Noel Gibson, Mgr., Millbrook, New York

Wardwell, whose ability as a forecaster had propelled him to great success on the commodity exchange and Wall Street, prophesied; "If the Shrop men breed the smaller type I predict we will lose that proud supremacy the Shropshire sheep holds today." Disregarding the warning, breeders, and the judges they chose, spent the next half-century trying to prove the wisdom of that statement - and they succeeded!

The controversy heated up in most breeds, but particularly in Shrops, and the December, 1911, 'Sheep Breeder' devoted most of the issue to the topic, "BREED TYPE AT THE INTERNATIONAL: A study of the All-important Question." Dr. J.L. Towar analyzed the whole show - its impracticality, its lack of effort at real education

of the public, the fact that "a star-struck farmer, inquiring of the price of a prize sheep finds it will cost the price of his best horse, or even more...."

He then addressed the problem of breed type, writing: "The stockman who....has undertaken to start a flock of purebred animals cannot be sure what is the right type from what he will find on exhibition at the International. Take the Shropshires for instance: there were Shropshires of all types from the low-set, compact Southdown types to the large-framed, rugged, heavy-boned Hampshire and Oxford types. Fancy points (and it is unfortunate for utility animals to be encumbered with many fancy points anyway), of the Shropshires are mainly confined to their heads. If the standard of excellence adopted by the American Shropshire Registry Association is not right it can be revised, and if the Shropshire is to continue in its high position as a mutton breed of a fixed type generally known as intermediate, there must be constant endeavor on the part of all breeders to a high and unyielding standard consistent with the demands and environments of the country.

"If, on the other hand, a uniform standard cannot be adopted and pursued, our breeders will continue in the liberty of their own ideals and individual fancy. Competing at shows will be a gamble on the views of the judge, exhibitors will find progress difficult and discouraging and the public will never be educated up to the true merits of the breed." Towar asked, "CAN IT BE THAT THE FREQUENT WINNINGS BY SOUTHDOWNS IN THE FAT CLASSES IS INFLUENCING THE SHROPSHIRE BREEDERS TO IMITATE THE SMALLER BREED? If the larger type of sheep will attain the proper size and condition more quickly, where is the argument for the smaller type?"

Next followed a 'survey' by M.O. Cooper, in which he was assigned to spend the week observing the sheep show and interviewing over 50 competitors and visitors on what they considered ideal type and important characteristics. He wrote: "First, in all mutton sheep regardless of breed, practically the same thing is demanded with regard to body conformation. Second, the breeder will tell you in his first few words that you must have strong constitution and good feet and legs in the breeding flock. When I spoke to the president of one of the prominent record associations with regard to type he said, 'You will be lucky if you find any type.'"

Said Cooper, "Look at the Shropshire; while perhaps a majority is working for one type, yet some of the leaders are pulling in a different way. First are a few who are endeavoring to get extreme size and more bone, they want a sheep that rivals the Hampshire and Oxford. Second, there are a large number who are working for a medium type, a thick, low-set blocky sheep of fair size. A third type is brought to light by a leading Canadian breeder who says, 'I want as nearly as possible the body of a Southdown, only with more size.'"

Typical of the diversity of opinion Cooper found are these selected quotations by people at the show:

Will McKerrow, Pewaukee, Wisconsin: "I think the larger sheep is the most profitable. The trouble is, too

many have been catering to fancy points such as fine ears and extreme wooling to the more essential parts of the sheep....the block is the end for all mutton sheep, and the breeder must aim to produce mutton in his sheep. To do this we must have good bone, size and mutton conformation."

W.F. Renk, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin: "I believe in the medium type of Shropshire, not too large or too small, with good bone and a good mutton body. I do not believe in too big a sheep, for we have the Hampshire and the Oxford with the size if we want that."

Ted Ballard, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin: "The Shropshire must be of good size, heavy boned, low down and thick throughout. He must have a wide-sprung rib and strong constitution. Keep away from the small, weak-constituted sheep."

Fred Chandler, Chariton, Iowa: "I like a low-set, blocky, smooth sheep with good mutton conformation.... I do not like the larger, coarse, leggy, open-fleeced type of Shropshire."

Joseph Mumford (Iroquois shepherd), Cooperstown, New York: "I want the low-down, blocky, heavy-set type of Shropshire with lots of quality. The head must be broad, short, strong and be woolled well down over the nose and have a nice fine ear."

J. Lloyd-Jones, Burford, Ontario: "I like the short, thick, blocky, low-set type of Shropshire. Get the quarters long, well filled on the outside and the leg of mutton filled down to the hock. I don't want a high-standing or long-backed sheep because they are liable to be weak in constitution and not able to stand the American climate."

Waldo C. Johnson, Cooperstown, New York: "A smaller type; strong head carried high; neck well filled from top of shoulder to back of ear; shoulders well together and not too bare-breasted, well down short legs well apart."

G. Howard Davison and W.W. Blake (his shepherd), New York: "...we want a low-set, blocky type with quality and individuality....broad, short head, well fleeced, ears fine, wool dense, of good quality and reaching down on legs and face."

H.L. Wardwell, Springfield Center, New York: "I want good size in the Shropshire. It is harder to breed a good big one than a good little one."

The comments of two Hampshire breeders, both of whom later served as officers of the American Shropshire Association, are pertinent to this story;

William Renk: "I want good size in the Hampshire, ruggedness and a strong constitution....I am not in favor of increasing the wooling on head and legs for fear of sacrificing some of the more essential parts which make up a desirable conformation."

H. Noel Gibson, Delaware, Ontario: "I like a low-set, thick, well-fleshed (Hampshire) ram. I like the wool well down on the face and on the legs."

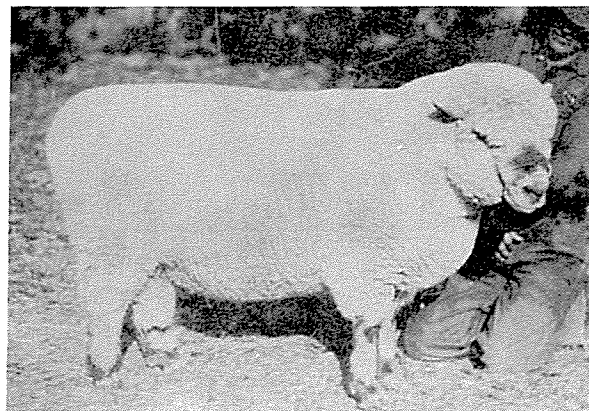
It is unfortunate that Cooper did not include a more widely scattered geographic sampling; he apparently did not grasp the implications of what he was reporting. While Chandler in Iowa opposed larger, leggy Shrops, all of the Wisconsin breeders sought medium-to-large size and good bone. None of those west of Chicago mentioned face covering, ears or "stylishness." Wardwell, alone of those quoted from the northeast, spoke out for retaining size - perhaps motivated more by national, rather than regional, breed popularity (see Knollin, chapter 6). All but one of the New York or Ontario breeders, in addition to calling for

low-down, thick, smaller bodies, put emphasis on fine ears, wool covering the face and legs, and quality.

Here is a lesson that is as overlooked today as when Cooper made his survey; an area as big and diverse as the United States demands a greater range in physical and performance characteristics than the close-knit vales of Shropshire and Staffordshire. *Based on the type of farming or ranching and on markets, there are regional needs and selection emphases that often create more variation within breeds nationally than between different breeds at the local level.* This phenomenon becomes obvious **when animals from far-ranging environments are brought together at one place.**

Professor Jan C. Bonsma, the eminent South African animal scientist writes, "Many a show award should have gone to the showman for his ability to hide a weakness, and not to the animal. There is another factor in judging livestock which breeders should realize, and that is the principle that as little as there is such a concept as a universal breed that is adopted to every environment, just as little should there be a universal show standard for a particular breed."

The northeast was, and is, typified by small, farm-flock, confinement operations in which 'fine points' can be indulged. Wisconsin and the corn belt states, which normally had larger operations and the kind of management systems that made 'pampering' impractical, primarily raised lambs for the big feed lots. From this region carloads of rams were shipped to the western range trade. Those commercial buyers of both lambs and rams demanded bigger, longer-legged sheep that could travel, and turned away from sheep whose legs and faces collected burrs and sharp, penetrating seeds; from wool-blind animals that could not be handled by sheep dogs, would not crowd the feed troughs, or that became separated or 'hung up' and easy prey to predators, if not starvation.



310 lb. ram "Home Grown" owned by Knollin & Finch, Soda Springs, Idaho. Taken in 1913.

All the hubbub about lack of uniform type resulted in the selection of a committee to study the standard. It consisted of John Campbell, H. Noel Gibson and William McKerrow (a son of George and brother of Gavin).

The amended proposal was adopted at the directors meeting, January, 1913, at the Ponchartrain Hotel in Detroit.

Two of the changes reflected the movement toward smaller, woolier Shropshires, but a new section on "fleshing" was added and the earlier emphasis on protruding breast was modified. Typically, a third of the scale of points was allowed for "Type and General Appearance," a high-sounding generality that presumed that everyone knew what a Shropshire should look like: "An alert, attrac-

*tive, stylish appearance, showing at a glance the true characteristics of the Shropshire; (what ever these were.)*

*Below are the major changes with the new Standard in italics;*

#### SIZE

(Old) Rams should weigh not less than 225 pounds.

*Rams should weigh not less than 175 to 250 pounds - (reducing the allowable minimum by 50 pounds).*

(Old) Ewes should weigh not less than 175 pounds.

*Ewes should weigh not less than 140 to 180 pounds - (reducing the allowable minimum by 35 pounds).*

#### HEAD

(Old) Head should be well covered with wool to a point even with the eyes.

*In all cases head and face nicely covered with wool.*

*Disqualifications: Such lack of type as to render it doubtful to a breeder what the breed is. Head quite bare of wool.*

#### FLESHING

*It is the quality of flesh, not fat, which gives value to the carcass. Therefore the parts furnishing the high-priced cuts should be fully developed. Strong bone in the legs conformable with size of body usually goes with a large proportion of lean meat to fat in the finished carcass.*

Having thus set in motion the trend away from the kind of Shropshires so recently brought to America - a practical performer that in fifteen years displaced all other

breeds coast-to-coast - the directors went back to business as usual. At the next meeting they budgeted \$2,000, nearly a quarter of the gross annual income, for special awards at the impending 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco, plus \$1,800 for prizes at 30 other fairs and expositions.

In this year (1913) the most influential breeder among the founders passed away and the editor of the 'Sheep Breeder' eulogized him thusly: "George Allen has answered the last trumpet call. To him it mattered not where he served - as an honored officer or a private in the ranks. His was a rugged, honest nature. He detested sham in any form. He came from a race of shepherds; he knew all breeds, but the Shropshire was his first and his last love. He imported, he bred, he showed, he judged; he knew wool as well as mutton. For years he raised his voice against the **merchandising** of imported sheep. He fought hard the importation of third class Shropshires (see 'Chandler', chapter 4).

"His annual sales were noteworthy events....After he moved from Illinois to Nebraska he broadened the scope of his operations and bred, sold and exhibited Southdowns, Oxfords and Rambouillets as well as Shropshires. He did not believe in extremes or fads. He was a man of simple habits and loved the company of his fellow shepherds. The 'exclusive' sheep circle never appealed to him."



## Chapter 6

### GOLDEN YEARS 1914 - 1924

While Shropshire pacesetters tilted toward smaller, low-down sheep with 'wool pulled over their eyes,' for presidents they continued to elect men of clear vision who 'stood tall' in the livestock fraternity. The new president in 1914 was a man who owned 5,000 purebred Shrop ewes and was the first westerner elected to office in the 30-year history of the ASRA.

A.J. Knollin moved to Kansas City from his native New York in the early 1880's, starting a mutton and veal butchering firm. In 1887 he became a lamb buyer for Swift and Co. Although he left to start his own business in 1893, he enjoyed the continuing support of Edward H. Swift, and from 1896 onward this partnership did the biggest all-around sheep business ever recorded in America. From 1898 to 1903 Knollin handled a quarter of a million sheep annually - range bands, feed lot and slaughter.

He was active from California to the Ohio valley, but eventually centered his headquarters around Soda Springs, Idaho. Here he began cross-fencing, pasture improvement and alfalfa seeding on four scattered ranches of from 900 to 3,500 acres, where he ran purebreds under semi-range conditions. The Knollin Shropshire flock was started in 1898 and imported rams were used the first 15 years. In February, 1913, he personally selected 48 yearling rams (in the wool) from the Wardwell flock and later, after spring shearing, made a final inspection; two rams were rejected and the remainder shipped across the country for breeding to descendants of the English rams.



A.J. Knollin  
1914 - 1916

While Knollin exhibited in Utah, Idaho, and on the Pacific coast, the major emphasis was production of commercial rams; 1,400 to 2,000 were sold every year, mostly for crossing on fine-wool ewes. In his Shropshires he selected for bigger, more upstanding frames, heavy, high-quality fleeces and freedom from wool blindness. On other ranches "A.J." maintained on 800-head Oxford flock and 3,000 purebred Rambouillet ewes.



Part of a band of 4,000 Shropshire ewes on the A.J. Knollin Ranch, 25 miles northwest of Soda Springs, Idaho, in winter quarters, 1919.

Mr. Knollin told a magazine reporter in 1913 it was his intention to build up a flock of 10,000 Shropshire ewes.....but that never happened. By 1915 the wartime demands for more meat and wool spurred interest in bigger sheep and resulted in the heavy introduction of Hampshires, which Knollin began producing. The first mention of Suffolks in that range area came in 1920.

A.J. Knollin's three sons joined his business. In a

letter to the Shrop secretary one of them wrote, "He has studied conditions carefully and made an effort to meet those who were doing better than average in this industry. He has kept in touch with the good results of agricultural colleges, has promoted fairs, sales and exhibits whenever possible and worked for the perfection of the leading breeds of sheep, though the Shropshire has ever been his favorite."

The Panama Pacific International Exposition was held during the autumn of 1915. Although participation was greatly restricted by a quarantine, Shropshires from as far away as Wisconsin were on display for many weeks. On the day of the show breeders from across the nation watched J.C. Duncan place the classes. A banquet for "friends of Shropshires" from America, England and Australia was held in San Francisco on November 11th.

The Annual Meeting was held later that month in Chicago. According to the minutes, "Immediately following the Stockholders' meetings came the annual Smoker, and during the hours which followed if there was anyone present who did not open up his heart to his brother shepherds it was not for lack of time. The fact that there were present not only an unusual number of expert sheep breeders, but also a number of recognized sheep judges, and that every subject from sheep dip to the effect of the war on the wool market was thoroughly discussed, made the meeting possibly the most interesting of the kind ever held in the history of the Association."

During the 1916 directors' meeting a motion was passed "that the salary of the secretary be raised to \$2,000.. with the understanding that she is not to request another increase while the office remains in Lafayette." She remained in that office for 30 more years - but people forgot, or she didn't 'request' - her salary was increased \$500 in 1918 and another 20% in 1920.

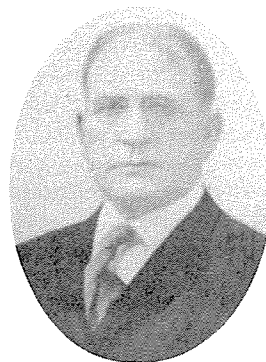
The 1916 Annual Meeting was attended by 200 people, "following two days' judging of the best Shropshire show ever given in America."



Arthur Broughton.  
1917

Arthur Broughton, of Albany, Wisconsin succeeded A.J. Knoll as president. Broughton was the first of three great Badger State flockmasters to produce father-son presidents - the **only** state with such 'duos' incidentally. Arthur was born at 'Hickory Dale,' the farm his father homesteaded in 1842. From Civil War days a large flock of fine-wools had been maintained, but the sweeping wave of Shropshire popularity caused Arthur, when he assumed the farm management, to start a Shrop flock in 1890. Twenty-six imported ewes were bought from A.O. Fox, Oregon, Wisconsin, at that time the leading breeder and importer, and the finest 'Buttar' and 'Mansell' rams obtainable were used exclusively until 1913, when imported 'Minton' rams were brought in. 'Hickory Dale' Shrops were first shown under professional shepherds in 1913 and 1914, but from 1916 until well into the 1930's under family fitting, the show string from Albany, Wisconsin was eminently successful at major midwest fairs and the International.

Arthur Broughton died unexpectedly in his late fifties before he could preside at the next meeting. The U.S. had entered the War in Europe when Vice-president Edward Bishop, San Ramon, California, opened the meeting at which Dr. H.M. Brown was elected president.



Dr. H.M. Brown  
1918 - 1919

Perhaps better known for his activities in various horse associations, Dr. Brown, of Hillsboro, Ohio, had been a Shropshire director for many years and, as chairman of the auditing committee, annually submitted reports that were redundant in their flowery praise of the office procedures. In his acceptance speech he downplayed his prominence as a Shropshire breeder but said, "As a good citizen, under orders and in the stress of our present national necessity for men to obey whenever they are called upon, I accept this offer with extremely great pleasure."

By 1919 the Chandlers of Iowa were back in the news. A special Board meeting was convened in July to hear the complaints. Miss Wade reported that in 1918 Chandlers applied for papers on 18 rams and 133 ewes, of which there were 55 pairs of twins and 4 sets of triplets. Among the sires listed were 'Bright Eyes Emblem' and 'Clover Hill's Emblem,' both ten, and 'Blue Blood,' nine. Some of the dams listed were 8, 9 and 10 years old with no lambs recorded from any of them until 1917.

In the spring applications were received for 169 more lambs, 62 pairs of twins and 6 sets of triplets, many by the same sires, now ten and eleven years old! The minutes reported that "the case seemed very unusual." The issue was presented at the next Annual Meeting that winter and was referred to the directors for action. The next day the new board voted to expel C.W. and Howard A. Chandler from the "privileges" of the American Shropshire Registry Association.

40,572 Shrops were registered in 1919, 40% of the U.S. purebred total. In 1920 the number of purebred sheep in the country was reported at 463,504; Shropshires led the way with 124,453, Rambouillets were second with 106,819 and then Merinos with 59,867.

Attrition among officers continued; Vice-president Bishop died in 1918 and President Brown developed a fatal illness that prevented his attendance at the 1919 meetings. J.C. Andrew was elected president. "Jess" Andrew was born, lived and died on his 890-acre stock farm, 'The Pines,' near West Point, Indiana. During his career he continued to develop his fine Angus herd, the oldest in the state, and was world famous for his Shropshire sheep and Belgian horses. He was awarded an honorary doctorate for his lifetime support of Purdue University, was a prominent



*Julia Wade and Directors at a Shropshire Field Day - 1920*

state legislator for 15 years and served four terms as president of the International Livestock Exposition in Chicago. His portrait was hung in the Saddle and Sirloin Gallery.



*J.C. Andrew  
1920 - 1921*

For several years Mr. Andrew served as Shropshire representative on the National Society of Record Associations and reported in 1918 that this organization had shared in the legal battle to help the Percheron Society appeal a suit brought by a man accused of making false registrations. The court ruled that any breeding association producing evidence of a breeder having falsified his records can refuse to record for such breeder.

Dean W.C. Coffey was elected in November, 1921 to succeed "Jess" Andrew as president. Coffey (after Professor Curtiss, 1914 - 16), was the second 'college man' to serve the Association in this capacity. From Rugby, Indiana, farm boy to president of a great university - starting his career as an animal husbandry professor, then department head at the University of Illinois, to Dean of Agriculture and ultimately President of the University of Minnesota, W.C. Coffey exerted a profound influence on the purebred industry. "The Dean" was a student of breed history and improvement, a prolific writer, gifted speaker, respected livestock judge and one of seven Shropshire presidents immortalized in the Hall of Fame Portrait Gallery.



*W.C. Coffey  
1922 - 1923*

For an example of his insight: in an early Shrop promotional brochure urging more breeder cooperation and strong **local** organizations he wrote, "The Shropshire owes its origin, and to a large degree, its prominence, to **community activities**. Tenant farmers around Shrewsbury, England....did the essential work necessary to bring the Shropshire before the world as a great farmers' sheep. **Different breeders** in England **used the same ram** to a much greater extent than has ever been practiced in America. English breeders knew more about the breeding of each others' sheep than we do."

Coffey became vice-president when Mr. Andrew was elected president; after his election "Jess" had expressed devotion to the breed. An indication of the Dean's humor can be gained from his acceptance speech: "I am going to trail after the new president and play safe. Shropshires were also my first love, and have been longer than they have been the president's love because I am older than he is and I began loving them earlier in life. Occupying the position that I do, of being called "professor" and being supposed to have an absolute impartial attitude towards all breeds of sheep, I now and then get in trouble over my love for Shropshires; but I maintain that even a professor has a right to love something -- if he cannot help it!"



*Hats and Ties Required at a Shropshire Field Day - 1920*

During Coffey's two-year term the world sheep industry suffered its usual post-war depression. The great price break of 1921 nearly ruined the Knollin organization, although it later recovered. Severe drops in demand for commercial lamb and wool also hit the purebred associations. Shropshire registration income dropped from \$16,900 in 1919 to \$9,800 in 1922 and transfer income from \$2,800 to \$1,400. Printing of flock books was stopped, premium specials were cut back and all expenditures were carefully reviewed.

When passing the gavel to his successor in 1923, Dean Coffey said; *"It is claimed the Suffolk breed threatens to rival our best mutton breeds. Shropshire breeders should sell breeding stock with a great deal of discrimination!"* He warned that the recent passing of Henry Wardwell and long-time, hard-working director and vice-president Acker Ruland, of Lockport, Illinois, should remind us of the importance of Boys and Girls Clubs (later 4H) and "keeping young blood constantly coming into this great organization."

A report was given by the chairman, Dean J.H. Skinner, of Purdue, on plans for the proposed 40th anniversary celebration at Lafayette in 1924. (The committee suggested not waiting until the 50th because two charter members and several early pioneers could still attend.)

And then the fourth straight purebred industry colossus, George A. McKerrow, took the reins as 14th president of the Association. There would be little contradiction to the claim that the one family most nearly synonymous with the first century of American Shropshires was McKerrow and Sons of Pewaukee, Wisconsin. The dynasty began with George, a man of such unselfish energy he was chosen for leadership in nearly every enterprise he undertook. He was a skilled breeder, showman and businessman, a noted public speaker, famous for his renditions of Scottish songs and active in community, state and national affairs. His life reads like the evolution of the U.S. sheep industry.



George A. McKerrow  
1924 - 1925

George became a shepherd at eight years of age when his step-father gave him ten old ewes. At 13 he won his first county-fair blue ribbon with American Merinos. In

1876 he acquired a flock of purebred Cotswolds. These rams were in great demand at \$25 per head for crossing on Merino ewes in Waukeshaw County. Two years later McKerrow took over a Southdown flock, descendants of two rams from Queen Victoria's estate, which had been selected and sent to America as a gift by the Prince of Wales. For 20 years this flock won many championships.

In the same year McKerrow began importing Ox-fords from Canada, and later from England. Until after the 2nd World War his flock provided many of the foundation

animals for America's leading breeders of Ox-fords, as well as nearly monopolizing the show circuit.

The Shropshire flock was started in 1882, two years before the American Association was founded. In 1894, when put in charge of Wisconsin Farmer's Institutes, which required a lot of travel, he decided to cut down on chores by accepting a good offer for his 100-ewe flock. His two oldest boys, George, 14, and William, 12, soon persuaded their mother to suggest bringing back their old favorites, and in 1898 a new Shropshire flock was started.

As the McKerrow family grew (another son, Gavin, ultimately succeeded his father as head of the domain), a nationally acclaimed Guernsey herd was developed and there were at least four stock farms around the area under McKerrow management.

George McKerrow roamed the western livestock world judging and trading in breeding stock, making many visits to the leading flocks in the U.S., Canada and Great Britain, where he addressed the Royal Agricultural Society. He judged at the first International Livestock Exposition in 1900 and represented the industry in Washington, D.C., several times. His writings and talks about his travels and observations were filled with useful ideas.

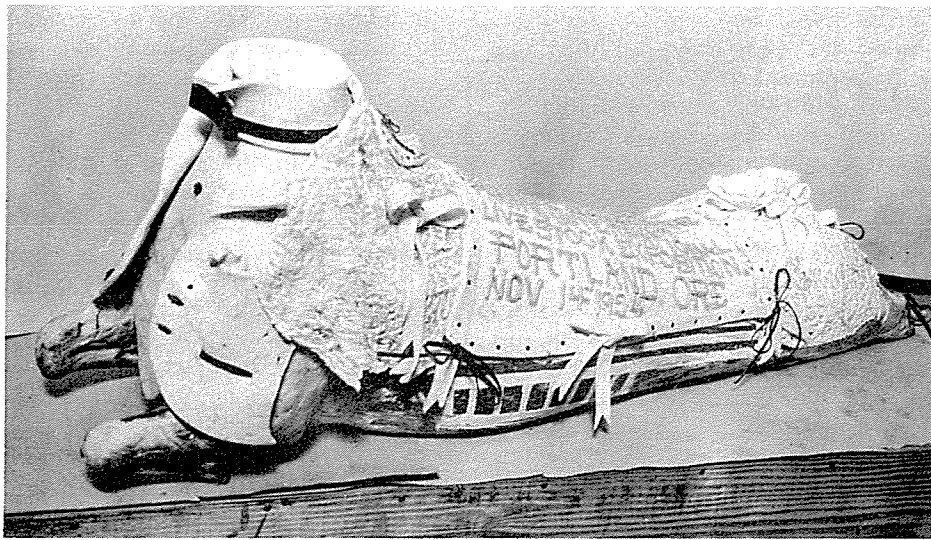
Among the confirmed honors he is known to have received, the most cherished was having his portrait hung in the Saddle and Sirloin Club Portrait Gallery. He served as president of the American Oxford Down Record, the American Romney Breeders and the American Shropshire Registry Associations and probably of others not uncovered in research for this history. It was, however, in the 'get-of-sire' category that George A. McKerrow staked out his claim; three generations of skilled, active livestock breeders followed in his footsteps.

The directors, meeting in February, reviewed the offer from Purdue to return to the scene of the founding for the 40th anniversary, and first mention was made of ordering a permanent memorial plaque to mark the location. It was the consensus that a summer 'pilgrimage' to Lafayette would be poorly attended, so it was decided to hold a dual celebration at the Chicago International in conjunction with the 25th anniversary of the Exposition. Thos. A. Buttar, the noted breeder from Scotland, was wired an invitation to be the honored guest and judge.

John Clay, President of the International, enthusiastically approved and personally pledged \$100 toward travel costs. The Exposition offered free use of the banquet hall in the new Exchange Building and arranged banquet catering with the Stock Yard Inn. The Celebration Committee met later and scheduled two meetings in Chicago; on the night before the show, the Annual Stockholders' Meeting, and the Anniversary Banquet in the evening after the show.

Meanwhile some unique activities took place in early November at the Pacific International in Portland, Oregon, that had impact on the Anniversary banquet. Miss Wade provided the story and copies of letters, telegrams and pictures to the 'American Sheep Breeder' which featured the events in the next issue. Behind the promotion were Mr. Ed. C. Grelle, owner of the Henry Ranch, just north of Portland, and O.M. Plummer, the well-known manager of the Exposition. (Grelle later served as a Shrop director from 1927 to 1933 and vice-president in 1933 - 34.) Unbeknownst to each other these two staunch youth-club supporters bid the Grand Champion Pen of wethers, Shropshires shown by Floyd Fox, of Silverton, Oregon, up to record highs.





*'Sculptured' Champion Market Lamb 1924 Pacific International Livestock Exposition*

When their costly competition was discovered both decided to make the most of the situation; the lambs were dressed in Portland, then the top two were sculptured and decorated (see picture) by a talented local meat cutter, Wilbur Freeze.

The champion was chilled and expressed to President Calvin Coolidge "from the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Northwest." The President wired his appreciation and the lamb was served at the White House Sunday dinner. Mr. Grelle, at his own expense, shipped the similarly decorated pen-mate to Chicago, where it was publically displayed at Swift and Co. and then became the piece de resistance at the Shropshire banquet.

The Annual Meeting took place with 100 people jammed into the billiard room at the Stock Yard Inn, the regular meeting room having been previously reserved for others. The only major business, other than reelecting President McKerrow and naming J.C. Duncan vice-president to replace "Jess" Andrew, was a motion to approve the action of the Memorial Committee in obtaining a 20 x 30 inch bronze tablet, inscribed with the event, date and names of the founders. It was placed at the Purdue University Experiment Station in the building that replaced Agricultural Hall. Like many such ideas, the motion gave no instructions to the committee on how to pay the estimated \$360 cost.

The following evening turned into a festive extravaganza and President McKerrow was at his best as toast-master! Three hundred breeders and friends filled the new Assembly Room to enjoy the prize lamb and another fine lamb donated by Mr. Andrew, to hear the distinguished guest from Scotland, to honor surviving pioneers and to celebrate the "Forty Golden Years of American Shropshire History." Julia Wade wrote, "One of Chicago's best orchestras dispensed delightful music which developed into a songfest as tables were being cleared."

Professor Latta, who conducted the first Shropshire meeting, was the opening speaker. He reminisced about the event and the men who made this celebration possible (see chapter 3). Latta paid tribute to Mortimer Levering: "At the time when there was thought of establishing one or more other Shropshire Registers, Mr. Levering, by his tact and business ability succeeded in pooling Shropshire interests and establishing one Shropshire Association." In

closing the old professor said;

"But what shall we say of the Shropshire sheep? When we come down to fundamentals, the Shropshire itself is the chief cornerstone of the Association's prosperity and prestige. Permit me to express the belief that for sprightly carriage, attractive appearance, adaptability, all-around utility and profitableness, when properly cared for, the Shropshire sheep has no superior!"

These sentimental remembrances, especially in that convivial atmosphere, "brought forth a thunderous, standing ovation."

The chairman next introduced Mr. Clay, president of the International, and recognized his help in bringing the judge to America. John Clay was most widely known for the huge livestock commission company he founded and for his chain of banks scattered from Chicago to Fort Worth to Cheyenne. After briefly sketching his early days in Scotland, eulogizing the shepherds and describing the early native sheep of the British Isles, Mr. Clay introduced Thos. A. Buttar, honored guest and judge of the show.

Among his comments, Mr. Buttar paid tribute to the shepherds and breeders for the "magnificent show of Shropshires brought to this exhibition." He urged breeders to *maintain the size, to pay attention to utility points when breeding and warned against allowing the wool to cover the eyes.* He called the Boys and Girls Clubs one of the most valuable institutions in America; "The youth of this country have a much better chance of gaining headway than they have in the old country."

"I consider it the greatest honor of my life to have been invited to come over here and put the ribbons on the Shropshires at Chicago and Toronto." That statement gains in magnitude when it is a matter of record that the speaker had just received the prized "Atkins Challenge Cup" for the best Shropshire flock in the British Isles. In 1928 the Corston (Buttar) flock was recognized for the third time in five years and permanently retired the trophy.

Mr. Buttar closed to great applause and the chairman called on the orchestra to play "America," which was sung by the standing audience.

Dean Skinner then read a proclamation from the School of Agriculture and Board of Trustees of Purdue University officially accepting the bronze memorial plaque. Following this, Professor C.S. Plumb (Ohio State Univer-

sity) was asked to fill in for the indisposed Dr. Davison, who was to have outlined the early days of Mortimer Levering. Some interesting segments of his talk follow;

"When I went to Purdue in 1890 I found a small flock of Shropshires owned in joint partnership with Mr. Levering. Those first Shrops were rather coarse wooled in comparison to such sheep as you saw today, and some of them had rather mottled faces. I do not mean they had definite black and white markings, but they were more or less greyish or dark brown or blackish in graduation..."

"We kept records of the Shropshires at Purdue. They were registered in the books of this Association and I think were the first college flock of registered Shrops."

Professor Plumb also told of taking students in 1895 to visit the Shrop flock of Chauncy Hill, of Delaware, Ohio, considered at that time very choice, many animals having come from England. "They had very dark faces which were for the most part free of wool; in some cases they appeared to have large rings around the eyes." Another class visited the large flock of A.O. Fox in Wisconsin.

These were probably the first college field trips to inspect Shropshire flocks for educational purposes.

He ended by remembering, "In 1914 I attended the sale at Shrewsbury, hoping to buy a wonderful (Buttar) sheep that I had my eye on, and get him at the right price. However when the Buttar sheep were put up for sale, the prices went up like a skyrocket....later I went up to Cors-ton and purchased a ram that finally found his way to Ohio State University."

And finally, Dean Coffey officially bestowed the first honorary American Shropshire Association membership on Mr. Buttar, tied with a big red, white and blue ribbon. The recipient humbly thanked the Dean and the Association, after which the meeting was closed with all standing and singing "Auld Lang Syne."

In the euphoria of the evening no one in that hall could know that while serenading "old times and long friendships fondly remembered" they were also signaling the apogee of Shropshires as the dominant purebred in America.

## Chapter 7

### HIDE AND SEEK IN LAFAYETTE

Directors arriving at Chicago's Congress Hotel in March, 1925, were told that Clayton Chandler of Iowa was registered and requested a hearing of reinstatement. "In due time" he was admitted to the meeting and took an hour to present his appeal. After his departure and a review of the case, the board voted to allow him back into the Association on a probationary status "contingent upon his future actions."



W.S. Guilford  
1926 - 1927

W.S. Guilford was elected president in November, 1925. He was a relatively new Shropshire breeder, but the scope of his enterprise and infectious enthusiasm were providing a boost to the breed in California. His 'Butte City Ranch' 50 miles north of Sacramento, was a huge, diversified operation and home base for the first Shropshire flock in Glenn County. In 1916 a carload of foundation ewes arrived from Wisconsin, including Broughton, McKerrow and several other bloodlines. In fewer than ten years there were 25 Shrop flocks in the county and a California Shropshire Breeders Organization was active in youth work, shows and commercial sales.

His new board met in January at the office. While waiting for a quorum to arrive through a snow storm, those present reviewed the registration system and other operations. At noon they adjourned to the Purdue Experiment Station to inspect the Founders Memorial Tablet, followed by luncheon, courtesy of the staff, and an inspection of the University flock.

The 1926 meeting was again held in the billiard room of the Stock Yard Inn. The chairman invited J.C. Duncan to describe the visit to the Pacific International, where he had judged the sheep classes. "Jamsie" began with a description of the Portland roses, but he gradually concentrated on sheep. He believed that the Oregon climate, "resembling as it does that of England, was wonderfully adapted to the raising of sheep of all kinds, but more particularly to Shropshires which are able to take on greater weight by reason of more even climate...."

Director W.S. Martin, from Vermont, gave a report on the New England Sheep Breeders Association which had been organized that summer on his farm, 'Greatwood'. W.S. Guilford was reelected president.



Wm. F. Renk  
1928 - 1929

The following year, 1927, saw the leadership bestowed on the third well-known Wisconsin family when Wm. F. Renk of Sun Prairie became the 16th Shropshire president. He was born on the family homestead in 1875. His life was typified by a pioneering pursuit of excellence and service. At age 23 he built the first silo in the state (made of limestone), laid the first tile system (still working), and, in 1936, with his two older sons, formed the first farm family corporation in the U.S. He was a music lover and enthusiastic violinist and singer.

The Renk Shropshire flock was established in 1898, and in 1906 a fine Hampshire flock was added. In 1907 and 1909 Mr. Renk made trips to the British Isles where he selected from the top English flocks in both breeds. In 1910, his brother Henry moved his family to Idaho and Wm. brought-out his remaining interests in Wisconsin. The Wm. F. Renk and Sons Shropshires and Hampshires both achieved highest national awards and recognition.

Wm. Renk judged at the International 13 times and at most other leading shows throughout the country. He was a long-time director and was elected president of both the Shropshire and Hampshire Sheep Associations, as well as serving as Field Representative for the Federal Land Bank and PCA. Mr. Renk helped organize and was president-manager of the Southern Wisconsin Cattle Credit Company. His contributions to the livestock industry were recognized by his peers when he was honored by having his portrait included in the Agricultural Hall of Fame in the Saddle and Sirloin Club in 1948.

The board appropriated \$1,500 for advertising Boys and Girls Club work and \$1,000 for nationwide distribution as added premiums for youth exhibiting at their own state fairs. A motion was also passed allowing club members who had raised and fitted their own Shrops to compete in the open classes at any state or national show. "The Board of Directors wishes it understood that our Association is backing the Boys and Girls movement to the limit - cooperating with the bankers associations in every state."

Pointing to a trend in fat lamb shows, it is of interest here that during the 1928 meeting Professor Pontius, of Purdue, claimed the floor and, "Picturing briefly the ap-

parent tendency toward the Southdown look shown for some years in the International sheep ring as grade Shropshire wethers, and entered as such for our Association Specials, he stated that this is of no value to the Shropshire breed and suggested withdrawing our money in favor of increased moneys for the purebred Shropshire wether classes." Professor Kammlade, of Illinois, sustained the suggestion and moved such action: after discussion the motion was approved.

#### 'Black Monday'

The dust from the 1929 stock market crash had not settled when the directors met in Chicago. Of course no one could then foresee the drastic effect the coming depression would have on farmers and all money-handling institutions, including the high-riding Shrop Association.

The mood was restrained, although the board did approve spending \$704.45 for "officers expenses at meetings," \$43.50 for the annual smoker and \$185 for two new typewriters. Why not? The financial statement at the members meeting the next evening in the beautiful new Assembly Hall adjacent to the Saddle and Sirloin Club rooms, showed income of \$18,518, expenses of \$17,558 and a balance in reserve of \$12,950.

The unknowing and unfortunate breeder 'honored' by election as the next president was Lee B. Palmer of Pataskala, Ohio. Although Mr. Palmer served three years, Miss Wade left no biographical data on him in the files and the author was unable to locate his descendants in Ohio, so there is little known about his career. We do know that when the Ohio Shropshire Association was formed in 1910 Mr. Palmer was one of the vice-presidents, so he was active as a Shrop breeder for at least 20 years when he became president.



Lee B. Palmer  
1930 - 1932

1930, his first year in office, slid by with little hint of trouble ahead. Cash reserves actually increased by \$1,500. He presided over one of the most easy-going meetings on record. "An excellent musical program was provided and those who had put thru a busy day in the show ring relaxed to the enjoyment of the hour."

George McKerrow, who was introduced as "Dean of American Sheepmen," told of the early days of Shropshire importations. *"Americans who went to Britian for mut-ton breeds of sheep carried with them the American sheep-man's idea that had developed the American Merino into the world's greatest producer of choice quality and large quantity of clothing wools, with an even-quality fleece from nose to toes. Shropshire importers paid the British breeders the best prices they had ever received and therefore the progressive English breeders were prompt in putting forth every effort to improve fleeces and covering (see pictures on Sherlowe advertisement in chapter 11). In some cases it has been further improved by breeders in America. It has given us the quarter*

*and 3/8ths blood combing in place of low quarter found on many of the old type."*

H. Noel Gibson, who had just placed the wether classes, gave a 'talk' on selecting sheep for "market stuff." He said, "...pick out sheep that are clean in form and clear in type, stand on their legs and are well descended." This curt reply seems to reveal the total self-assurance of an authority. Mr. Gibson had, in fact, judged the wether show in 1917, 1918 and '19 and this year (1930) was the first of eleven consecutive assignments through 1940, a record 14 times as the prestigious International wether judge.

Gavin McKerrow's comments "should have claimed an hour rather than the scant ten minutes allowed for 4H club interests," the first reference to '4H', successor to the Boys and Girls Clubs. Other speakers followed and "the evening proved all too short...." All officers were re-elected.

There was a spring board meeting held in "The Four Georges Tavern" of the Hotel Sherman. The entire day was spent in allocating premiums to shows around the country and selecting judges.

\* \* \* \* \*



Julia M. Wade  
Secretary, 1910 - 1946

The next episode is so bizarre and is based on such conflicting reports and circumstantial evidence that it will perhaps be better understood by the reader if a brief introduction precedes the chronology of events.

After twenty years of notoriety Julia Wade was a nationally-known symbol of the Shropshire success story. She probably became a little intransigent in her conduct of Association affairs, considering the office her own feudal fiefdom.

In Miss Wade's words, "when a few Ohio breeders tried to throw Julia Wade out of office," these men evidently felt that as the specter of hard times loomed she was more occupied with self-aggrandizement than with trimming costs and particularly in providing more aggressive field service. The coup d'e tat failed because, on advice of her lawyer, Miss Wade disclosed several of the actions were contrary to the Shropshire Constitution and By-Laws. She proceeded under his interpretation that she was the last legally elected secretary and "it is your duty not to surrender possession of said office nor the records of said association, nor the funds thereof....which you are required to keep and have in your possession."

What finally appeared in the official minute book of the Association was an abridged summary of notes taken

by hired stenographers. There was an effort by all parties to avoid the impression among Shrop members, and the magazines, of scandal or dissension. After her death a large folder which she had compiled and secretly maintained was discovered in Miss Wade's personal files. From her handwritten commentary, letters, wires and affidavits it is possible to reconstruct most of what actually happened, a near-comic opera in which ill-prepared insurgents boggled a routine procedure, grossly underestimated her fortitude and proved that her performance satisfied the majority of Shropshire members.

\* \* \* \* \*

The story begins with the minutes of the stockholders meeting on December 1, 1931. It is pertinent to remember that it took place - as had been the practice since 1911 - in Chicago, **Illinois**, contrary to Indiana law under which the Association was incorporated. Other than the auditor's warning that expenses had exceeded income by \$2,200, not much of interest happened until the election. President Palmer was reelected for a third term, the first such instance since 1906 and the first hint of a plot. Vice-president Martin, though not present, and director Gibson were retained.

Cal Broughton, whose directorship expired, was also absent. H.A. Willman from the Agricultural Department at Cornell University nominated Wm. Twells Tiers, manager of Iroquois Farms in New York, to replace Broughton and "this election was duly consummated." The chairman asked for a board meeting immediately following adjournment.

After the call to order it was announced that the purpose was to choose a secretary for the ensuing year and Miss Wade, as usual, was excused and withdrew. The first words spoken were by the newly elected Tiers, who moved that Oscar Clogg, director from Ohio, be made secretary. No further nominations being made, Mr. Clogg was unanimously elected, then he resigned as director. After a long argument about how a replacement was chosen Mr. Yohe, from Iowa, found a copy of the by-laws which gave power to fill vacancies to the board. Delmont Chapman Jr., was chosen to complete Clogg's term.

Next came a wide-ranging discussion about what the mechanics of the change, so impetuously effected, would involve; time of take-over, location of the office, Clogg's duties and salary and dwindling income. When asked how soon he could take over Clogg replied "...almost immediately. Until I came to Chicago and you people approached me about it I was not making any plans...." As the matter of pay came to the point where Tiers was about to move that the Association give Clogg the same as Miss Wade was receiving, \$2,500, Clogg said, "Just a moment gentlemen. It is a fact that the matter is to some extent fraught with danger and uncertainty....my conception of the job is higher than a mere clerkship, and considering the suddenness with which it was brought to me, I did hope that it could be made about \$3,000."

Before voting, the matter of payment of expenses for field work was discussed and finally Tiers hedged the motion to pay on the basis of \$2,500 until the next meeting. Next came a motion to thank Miss Wade for her services; Noel Gibson said, "As far as the records are concerned I don't think she could be beaten. It is just a case of getting somebody in the field to compete against the other live-wires, the Southdown men and the Hampshire men." Yohe chimed in, "She did it as well as any woman could do." In Clogg's opinion "It was never a woman's job!"

"Mr. Clogg stated that it would be the graceful thing for Miss Wade to continue the work until he could conveniently arrange to take over. Mr. Gibson felt that 'out of courtesy to the Association' she could do nothing less." As we shall soon see, she could do a whole lot more - these naive gentlemen misjudged their female adversary.

Chairman Palmer tried to avoid the onus of telling Miss Wade by appointing Mr. Chase and Gibson. They protested that it was the duty of the president, but in the end the hapless pair got the task. In her notes Julia described the aftermath: "When the meeting adjourned without recalling me I walked toward them from another part of the room. Mr. Gibson and Mr. Chase approached me slowly. The others fled." JMW

A cryptic sentence was typed at the bottom of the minutes of these two sessions. "NOTE: The Stock Register of the Association was not available at this meeting and it was not learned until hours later that neither Mr. Willman or Tiers are members."

Apparently his guilty conscience could still not bring Palmer to face the deposed secretary. Instead he sent a wire to her in the same hotel. It read: "I was so completely surprised at what happened in the Board meeting that I could not find words to express myself to you STOP My opinion was that those responsible for change should tell you why the change was made STOP I want to express my personal appreciation for your spendid loyal services to the Shropshire Association (signed) L.B. Palmer.

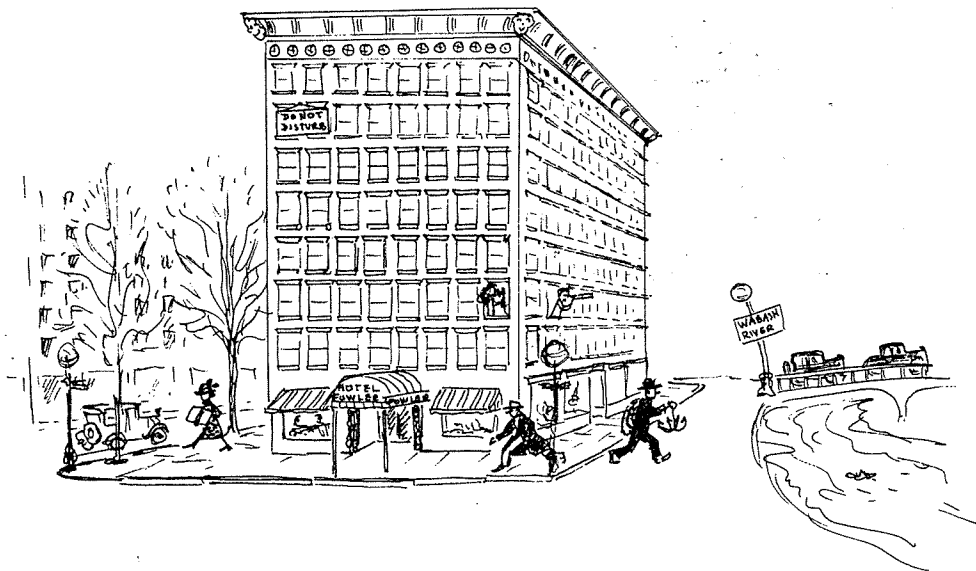
That this was a duplicitous ploy was first exposed by Clogg's admission that he had been approached before the meeting. Secondly, on the corner of the wire, Julia had written, "W.F. Renk had before the meeting tried for an hour to dissuade Palmer," and in an excerpt from a letter Mr. Renk wrote to a former fellow officer he said, "...I also feel as you do about Palmer. He has made the most of this situation. I talked with him for fully an hour before the Annual Meeting and told him Miss Wade should have one years notice before she were laid off, it at all!"

The following week, while passing through Chicago, director Grelle heard about the upheaval, obtained a copy of the record of the meetings and filed a formal protest on the basis that there was not a quorum present. Now in 'hot water' president Palmer sought advice from the Association's law firm on the chances of forcing Miss Wade out of the office. He was urged "from both the legal and practical aspects not to enter into litigation" and advised to call together the last legally elected board (1930) and those involved in the unsettled 1931 sessions. Mr. Palmer sent notices of two concurrent meetings, to take place in Lafayette on March 22, 1932.

When the meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. in room 218, Fowler Hotel, president Palmer, Miss Wade and directors Chase, Clogg, Gibson and Yohe, all elected in 1930, answered the roll, but Broughton was missing. the chairman told Mr. Chase to "call him, room 607." Chase returned to report, "He doesn't answer in his room, he isn't checked out, he was in the lobby this morning." That was the last mention of Cal Broughton during the two days that followed.

Miss Wade presented detailed comparative financial reports dating back to 1928 and gave examples of typical office routine: "During 141 working days ending March 15, we sent out 14,000 first class and 9,609 third class mailings and in the last fifty days answered 59 inquiries about Shrops, referring them to 983 breeders in 23 states." She answered a variety of questions until the meeting was ad-





journed for lunch. Miss Wade claimed that Palmer told her that at the 1:30 reconvening it was to be an executive (closed) session, but they 'might' need her after that. Having been excluded from the lunch and secret meeting she gathered her material and left the hotel.

At 3:30 when the group tried to resume their session, president Palmer told them they needed the material Miss Wade had, that she told him she would be in the office, that she could not be located and he was designating Chase and Gibson as a search committee to find and return with either Julia Wade and the records or Miss Hayes (Julia's office assistant) and "details of the operation." He declared a recess.

Soon the two searchers returned with the very nervous Miss Hayes, but no records. The group now took turns subjecting the assistant to a battery of questions during which she disclosed that since the last meeting in Chicago Miss Wade kept her private office locked whenever she was away, handled all personal correspondence at home, that she (Miss Hayes) was quite sure Julia Wade had the desired information in her brief case but had no idea where she was, having called her apartment and her attorney.

She was finally allowed to return to the office with Chase and Gibson and another recess was called until the searchers returned.

Chase: "Her office is locked as I myself tried the door."

Palmer: "Sure she's not inside?"

Chase: "No, but there is no sound."

Palmer: "You were instructed not to come back until you have the secretary-treasurer."

Gibson: "I am going down and drag the Wabash River."

In frustration they started issuing resolutions and statements. The first read in part, "...any advertising in breed or livestock papers shall be made only in the name of the Association without mention of the names of any officer or employee." Another set up a committee to investigate office expense, salaries, advertising and the extent, if any, to which funds or facilities in the past six months had been used for the advancement of the interests of any individual, officer or employee.

A 'statement' was drawn up which was to be presented to Miss Wade, if she could be found. It read: "Miss Wade: For the sake of avoiding contention and to produce

harmony in the affairs of the Association, the Board would like to continue you in office as Secretary-Treasurer if it could be certain of your support of the best interests of the Association and of obtaining harmony in its affairs.

"If the Board will continue you in office as Secretary-Treasurer until the next Annual Meeting to be held in December, 1932, without change in salary, will you, on your part, agree to desist from further circularizing the members or officers of this Association in your personal interests, and will you tender your written resignation as Secretary-Treasurer to be effective at the next Annual Meeting and make no further effort for reelection?"

Deciding that without the records no more business could be conducted the group went out of executive session. Mr. Tiers, followed by Chapman, now appeared at the meeting and disclaimed any right to office. Clogg then renounced his resignation as a director. Still unable to find Miss Wade, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

When the meeting was called to order at 12:10 the next day the "courtesy committee" reported that they had finally gotten in touch with Miss Wade and her attorney, presenting each with the proposed conditional hiring statement. With other board members, an informal meeting with Miss Wade had taken place in the office all morning, "endeavoring to secure some harmonious solution." Julia Wade had "unqualifiedly declined to accede to the statement."

A modified version was then prepared, deleting the requirement that Miss Wade agree to resign at the next Annual Meeting and make no further effort at reelection. At 12:30 she appeared at the meeting with the records but there was only time to designate Hammond, Indiana, for the next meeting when Miss Wade's attorney came in at 12:35, called her and they left with the records.

Thwarted, the board voted to reduce all premiums by one-third and when the "courtesy committee" reported that they had neither Miss Wade or her signature on the new proposal, adopted a final resolution which referred to Miss Wade as "the present incumbent" and then took two paragraphs protesting her failure to cooperate and accusing her of using the office to the advancement of her own ambitions. In conclusion it deferred the election of a secretary until *after* the next Annual Meeting. At 1:55 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Between that moment and November 29, 1932 it is obvious that two things happened. First, the finances of

the Association took a very serious downturn; income dipped 40% below 1929 levels but expenses continued unabated, with the obvious result that in less than a year reserves were cut in half. A repeat of this situation would have resulted in bankruptcy. Secondly, Miss Wade was very busy soliciting proxies giving her voting rights.

Expecting a show-down, memberships and proxies were certified at the door of the 1932 Annual Meeting in the Hammond Chamber of Commerce Auditorium, and when the credential committee reported to the chairman Julia Wade held 1,829 (98%) of the total 1,856 members and proxies represented.

Willard S. Martin of Plainfield, Vermont was elected president, followed by "a rising vote of thanks to Mr. Palmer for having guided the Association through a most strenuous period of its existence covering three years of harrassing business conditions."

The new president was apparently a well-to-do, multi-faceted personality. He travelled extensively abroad and developed a wide knowledge of animal breeding. At his 'Greatwood Farms' he built up one of the leading Shropshire flocks in the country and in the late 1920's caused quite a sensation at the International with his exhibits, especially the yearling rams that created many sales at extremely high prices.

Mr. Martin also brought together one of the first American collections of animal paintings and portraits of famous breeders. He could tell many stories of his experiences in securing these works of art and their history. Tragically, Willard Martin died in an automobile accident before completing his second term in late 1934.



W.S. Martin  
1933 - 1934

Cal Broughton returned to the board as vice-president, then, in a seemingly unorthodox voting method, Julia M. Wade was 'elected' by the members to succeed herself as secretary-treasurer for another year. The Constitution stated in Article VII, "All officers **except the secretary-treasurer** shall be electd by ballot at the annual meeting of the stockholders..."

How Miss Wade was able to maneuver her 'election' by the membership, instead of her 'hiring' by the board, which is specifically given this responsibility, (especially with two attorneys at the meeting who had been studying the constitution) remains a mystery.

By whatever means, this indomitable woman served another 14 years until her voluntary retirement in 1946.

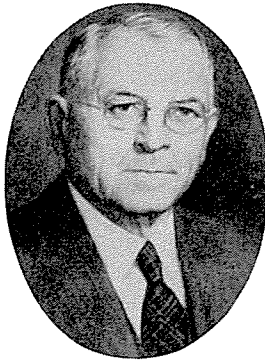
## Chapter 8

### THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

At least four men who were among the most respected and influential in the purebred industry during their careers, together spanning the first century of the American Shropshire Association, served as vice-presidents but never went on to the presidency.

First, of course, was George Allen, Jr., one of the founders and the initial vice-president (chapters 3 and 5). Next was professor W.C. Latta who presided at the charter meeting, served faithfully during the early critical years and was vice-president from 1897 through 1904.

It is time now to recognize the third, H. Noel Gibson, Mt. Bridges, Ontario, Canada. In 1931, as a token of esteem for this man, the members conferred on Mr. Gibson a life-time honorary vice-presidency. Noel, the son of Richard Gibson, 5th Shropshire president, was born in 1878 and spent his boyhood learning the livestock business at their 'Belvoir Farm.' At age 11, without help, he took a show flock to Toronto, and as a young man spent some years in New York state as the farm manager for Dr. G. Howard Davison before settling for life with his Shropshires and Shorthorns at 'Belvoir.'



*H. Noel Gibson*

He was one of the most active livestock judges in North America, placing all breeds of cattle and sheep at the major shows and was the only man from this continent ever invited to judge Shropshires at the British Royal. An admirer wrote, "I have known many judges who in the show ring could appraise the length, depth and thickness of an animal, but Noel Gibson seems to have that sixth sense which enables him to look right through an animal into its breeding future."

Jess Andrew, Shrop president in 1919 to 1921, life-time exhibitor and sheep superintendent at the International, in 1931 said, "I consider Noel Gibson the best all-around sheep judge in the United States and Canada." Noel received the Queens Coronation Medal for distinguished service to the livestock industry of the British Commonwealth and his portrait was hung by that of his father on the walls of the Saddle and Sirloin Club.

The depression took its toll in the early '30s: Miss Wade accepted a 20% cut in pay, office help was curtailed and Shrop premiums in all open classes were dropped. In 1933 most of the discussion of Shrop affairs took place at

an informal get-together at the International, but a poorly attended 'official' meeting was held in Hammond, where Martin, Broughton and Wade were returned to office and efforts continued to find a legal way to meet outside Indiana: "talk of moving the office produced an expression that it would be safer in Lafayette under the jurisprudence of Purdue University." Large banners were authorized as awards to the winning Shropshire flocks at 13 major fairs and expositions to highlight the 50th Anniversary of the Association in 1934.

A special meeting of the board was called in October 1934 following the accidental death of president Martin. Calvert Broughton of Albany, Wisconsin, was elevated to the presidency and C.E. Grelle chosen to fill his term as vice-president.

'Cal' Broughton was the first son to follow his father in this office. He had been actively involved in management and showing of the 'Hickory Dale' Shrops, especially after his dad's untimely death in 1917. That same year Broughtons won 8 of 9 firsts and both championships at Chicago. It was 'icing on the cake' that in the year Cal became president their flock won the Anniversary banner at Wisconsin and placed at or near the top in most classes at the International. The Broughtons were firm believers in sires of their own breeding; from 1919 through 1934 no outside rams were used. This produced great uniformity and reliable performance.



*Calvert Broughton  
1934 - 1936*

Fifteen flocks were exhibited at the 50th Anniversary Shropshire show at Chicago. Andrew won the ram championship on a recent importation from England and Broughtons took the ewe championship. Other flocks placing well were Duncan (Illinois), University of Illinois, Iroquois (New York), McKerrow (Wisconsin), Michigan State College and Yohe (Iowa).

On December 4, 1934, the regular Stockholders' Meeting took place in a temporary dining room off the south corridor of the Inn. A fire had nearly destroyed the old landmark the previous summer and record crowds at the show made meeting rooms, chairs and eating a problem. The replacement officers chosen in October were reelected by the membership and recognition was accorded to the flocks

winning the purple satin Anniversary banners. They were; Missouri, H.H. Chappell & Sons; Wisconsin, A. Broughton's Sons; Michigan, Armstrong Brothers; Pacific International, Floyd T. Fox (Oregon); American Royal, Oscar Winchester & Sons (Oklahoma); Illinois, J.D.A. Green; Iowa, R.C. Yohe; Eastern States, Iroquois Farms (New York); Indiana, A.J. Moore; Oregon, J. Thompson and Ohio, E.E. Guthery.

The next evening, December 5th, over 200 members, guests and friends attended the 50th Anniversary banquet; "A good orchestra and most able colored quartet furnished music during the evening. Often the guests joined in the singing." The toastmaster was Dean W.C. Coffey. He read the roll call of past presidents, seven of whom were dead, five sent their greetings and five were present.

The speaker of the evening, as he had been at the 40th in 1924, was one of the founders, 84 year-old W.C. Latta. The professor presented statistics to illustrate the growth of the Association: 1895 - 69,620 registered: 1907 - 232,978: 1919 - 436,248: 1928 - 686,299 and 1934 - 804,874 - the largest registry society in the world. He quoted from opinions submitted by five leading animal scientists on what they thought accounted for the Shropshire success: they all agreed that Shropshires were the ideal farm-flock, all-purpose, profitable breed.

Mr. Latta spoke glowingly of Mortimer Levering and of the great men he attracted to the breed: "Mr. Levering and G. Howard Davison were great friends, as chummy as two school boys. They would attend meetings, take care of business and when concluded they went somewhere - I don't know where - and had a good time." (This 'brought down the house' with laughter.)

The professor's final provocative challenge has equal application as the American Shropshire Association concludes its 100th year:

*"In closing, permit the reminder that, owing to the plasticity of the animal organism, the livestock breeder has almost divine creative power to stamp his ideal on the animals which Divine Providence has given him control. May the word FORWARD be our slogan for the coming years, and may every breeder of purebred livestock have the persistent aim to maintain, not only purity of blood but also prepotency in transmitting vigor,*

*quality, utility, symmetry and beauty to the animals under his molding hand!"*

Ornate canes were presented to esteemed shepherds Tom Bradburne and Joe Mumford. Dean Coffey had been a student worker one summer under Tom when he was shepherd for Dr. Davison, and he regaled the audience with incidents from that experience.

(Miss Wade, in reporting the ceremony, wrote, "Some badinage between the professor and Tom is here omitted - Tom used a swear word!") After he left Mr. Davison, Mr. Bradburne became shepherd for Jess Andrew at 'The Pines,' West Point, Indiana where, for six straight years, 1916 through 1921, he fitted and showed the grand champion wether at the International - three Shrops and three Southdowns. Reminiscing about his boyhood in England, where his father was a noted shepherd, Tom recalled that the early Shrops were "bald" and he and his brothers put caps on their heads to keep them from being bothered by flies.

Shropshire wool blankets were awarded to Professor Latta and George McKerrow. In his introduction Dr. Coffey related his first experience with Mr. McKerrow: "Years ago in a hotel in Salt Lake City I met a man I thought rather elderly. He stepped to the middle of the room and turned a hand-spring; 'Young man, can you do that?' I said no sir, I never could. The white haired gentleman told me, 'day before yesterday I was 65.' Tonight we honor this legend in our time, who was in the show ring yesterday at age 83 years." The toastmaster told another amusing story: "When I was in England I was told by many breeders that this man McKerrow was the keenest judge of sheep of anyone visiting their flocks. One told me, 'you want to watch that man! He will take some good sheep away from you at low prices.' Well, he is Scotch!"

Finally Dean Coffey introduced "Miss Julia M. Wade, competent as the helper of a great secretary whose memory we honor, faithful and accurate as a secretary in her own right, militant in making and holding a place in the sun for the breed of her heart - the greatest lady ever in Shropshiredom!" The directors honored her with a beautiful shawl.

Again, after toasts to friendships and the future, the meeting adjourned to the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

## Chapter 9

### "MISS JULIA" RETIRES

The 1935 Annual Meeting took place off the International grounds because of the huge crowds overflowing the Stock Yard Inn. Dr. Coffey delivered a eulogy in memory of the recent passing of J.C. Duncan. He told of the first time he met Jimmie Duncan; at the time (1904) Mr. Coffey was the shepherd at the University of Illinois and had purchased a ram lamb from Duncan, whom he described as a physically unattractive man with a long nose and slightly deformed eye. Through the years he watched Jimmy exhibit and judge at dozens of major shows, was with him at Chicago when the delegation came from Lafayette to tell him he'd been elected president during 'the Shropshire Tangle' and they served together on the board for many years. Dean Coffey described why he rated Jimmy Duncan at the very top;

"....I don't know a place, an exposition in the United States or Canada where he would not have been gladly accepted as the judge because he was fair, he was honest, he was capable. Jimmy Duncan had the habit, when he was judging, of moving amongst the sheep as though they were his own, and where he was weighing a sheep in the balance it was if to determine whether or not it ought to be accorded a place in his own fold - what I mean by that is, I never knew him to look up into anybody's face to make sure whose sheep he was judging; it made no difference to him!"

"Whenever he served he was as a balance-wheel to make things more sane, to make things better. We have lost a great friend, a great supporter. We suffer when we lose a man of that sort."

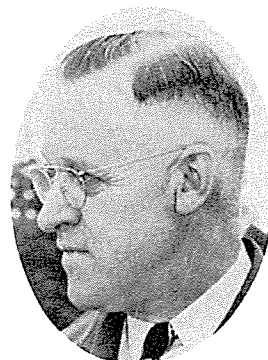
The very next year the Dean was memorializing another lost friend; G. Howard Davison died in September, 1936, in England. Excerpts from the memorial add to the appreciation of what this man meant to Shropshires....and vice versa:

"Ambitious to have the best Shropshires in the world on American farms, Mr. Davison personally selected his own sheep for export from England. Later he exhibited at the British Royal and elsewhere in that country to demonstrate that the best could be produced in America. \*(Davison was the only American who ever sent stock of his own production across the Atlantic.) He spared no effort or expense in presenting the Shropshire at its best in American shows. He searched the English flocks for animals of highest quality; he employed the best talent he could locate to bring the Altamont flock to the highest state of perfection.

"Mr. Davison preached for the Shropshire in both high and low places. He was influential among men who had the financial ability to invest heavily in Shropshire breeding, and he was always attentive to poor young men who were anxious to know and to breed Shropshires but were without sufficient money to invest in a flock.

"To Mr. Davison the breeding and exhibiting of Shropshires was more than a business - it was a romance as challenging as the romance that enticed armored knights of old into mortal combat. In 1929 when the writer called on him at Altamont, he took me into a room where he brought out pictures of sheep that have today a historic

place in Shropshire show-ring stories. And, as we looked, his old enthusiasm returned and he said, 'Gad! Coffey, those were great old days!'"



Phillip Anderson  
1936 - 1938

Professor Phillip A. Anderson, Minnesota Agricultural College, followed Professor Curtiss and Dean Coffey as the third animal scientist president but unlike those two, with their farm-boy backgrounds, Professor Anderson was a city boy and the only Shropshire president who never owned sheep. On the St. Paul campus he helped develop the first meats laboratory in the U.S. with complete slaughter and research facilities. He was also in charge of all sheep operations including the college Shropshire flock, was superintendent of the state fair sheep department and judged sheep and carcass shows throughout the country.

By 1937 the financial situation had improved to the extent that \$2,500 was granted for added Shropshire Association premiums and director Holycross initiated the action on a policy that has continued for 46 years; the awarding of trophies to the winning flock at major shows. This board also voted to discontinue prizes for yearling wethers.

Gavin McKerrow was elected president in 1938. Gavin was George's youngest son and the second Wisconsinite repeating his family's name as head of the ASRA. He was born and lived his life at the big house at farm #1 between Pewaukee and Hartland. Childhood illness made him seem frail all of his 80-plus years, but he grew up deeply imbued with the family tradition and international reputation; in his lifetime he accentuated the heritage, becoming himself a powerful influence in purebred livestock, community and business affairs.

Like his father, Gavin was a good speaker; a perennial specialty being his concise, moralistic deeply-moving benedictions. He possessed a keen eye for excellent breeding animals, a phenomenal memory for pedigrees, loved the show ring and had a reputation as an intense competitor. In addition to continuing the top-ranked Shropshire and Oxford flocks and serving as president for both breeds he built up a fine Guernsey herd and was president of the American Guernsey Cattle Club. Gavin was a skillful breed improver and among the first to sense and capitalize on changing demands (see chapter 11). He judged cattle





Gavin McKerrow  
1938 - 1940

and sheep all over America, but probably his greatest impact on the purebred industry was his organizational skill and systematic approach to the business of breeding, promoting and selling his products. The biennial McKerrow production sales, often with leading guest consignors, set the industry pattern.

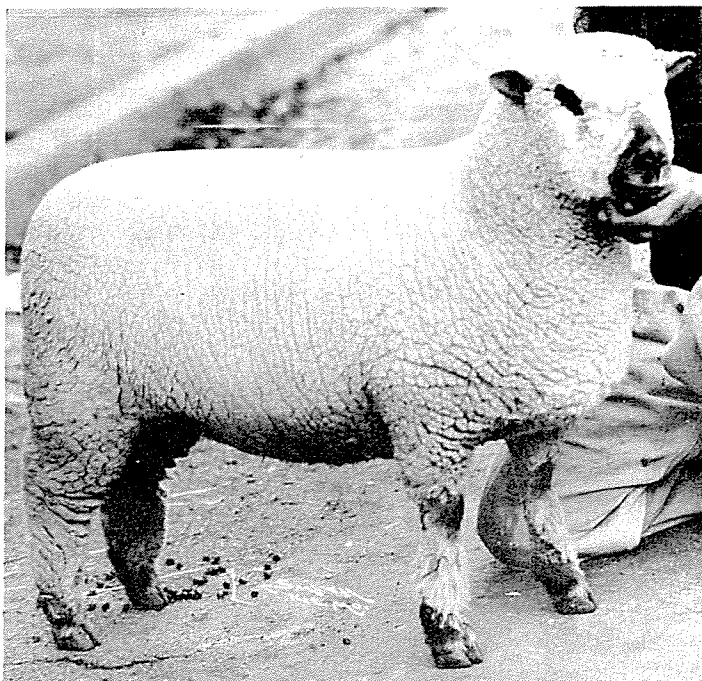
Like Dr. Davison, Gavin had a knack of finding affluent buyers, but he gladly helped finance or provide temporary accommodations for beginners with little but ambition for collateral. He helped organize and spent his active lifetime as president-manager of what was at that time the largest milk processing plant in the country, the Golden Guernsey Dairy Cooperative, with over 500 members.

The 1938 board voted to submit the name of director Glen Chappell to the International as judge for the next year, but on December 5, 1939, just before the 9:00 a.m. call for the opening class, with everyone expecting to see him in the ring, superintendent Jess Andrew made a terse announcement, without explanation, that A.H. Kroecke would place the Shrops. At the close of the showing a large gathering of breeders met in the bleachers and then carried their displeasure to a packed Annual Meeting that evening. This apparent flaunting by the International of a careful selection process, especially when the Association paid the judge's fee, caused much indignation and resulted in the appointment of a committee to try to work out a solution with the Stock Show.

Following many enthusiastic opinions from various speakers, Wilbur Renk moved to add \$500 to the regular Shrop special and inaugurate the first National Shropshire Show, in conjunction with the American Royal at Kansas City, and that "this National Show shall be put on every year and the location be changed annually." The motion was approved.

The question of weights of market wethers brought out varied ideas. Professor Hilton Briggs, Oklahoma, and Walter Renk argued that limits be kept at 90 to 102 pounds: "The markets," they said, "are demanding the lighter weights." Jack Hampton, shepherd at Illinois, felt that "Weight cannot be restricted in a good, thrifty, growing Shrop." George McKerrow said, "If lambs are good and the right kind they might, in December, weigh 110 or 125 pounds or even 130; let them grow big if they will." He moved that weight not be limited and the motion was adopted.

The board not only voted to pay Mr. Chappell's fee, even though he had been denied the opportunity to judge, but they submitted his name to judge at both the 1940 National at Kansas City and the Chicago International. They also voted to withhold Shropshire special money if the list of judges they submitted was not used.



"Corky" - Grand Champion Wether - 1940  
American Royal and International Livestock Expositions.  
Bred & shown by Iroquois Farm, Cooperstown, N.Y.

There was a mood of euphoria in the Shrop fraternity at the 1940 International week. The weather was ideal, the beloved Dr. Coffey was the new superintendent, immediate past-president Phil Anderson the judge, and the 'faithful' had a genuine hero in the pure Shrop wether, "Corky," bred and shown by Iroquois Farm of New York. This lamb was chosen Grand Champion Market Lamb at both the American Royal and the International.

Apparently the National Show had been a success because there was such enthusiasm and so many ideas proposed for its continuation that it took over an hour to get a motion approved on how to select the next site. Finally the membership rated their preference for five nominated state fairs and Ohio won out to host the 1941 National.

As usual the subject of Shropshire type, woolly heads and early development came up for heated debate. Dr. Kammlade, University of Illinois, fired the opening salvo, defending woolly heads as the Shropshire trademark; "the little dingus on the radiator of a Cadillac spells Cadillac to us." Seven years later he had other ideas: in his book, "Sheep Science" the professor wrote, "This feature (wool blindness) has been sought so strongly...that the more useful features of the breed have been neglected. If the individual did not show this extreme covering, it made little difference how excellent it might be in other respects. The task of clipping the wool from about the eyes is not relished by farmers and ranchers and many Shropshires were passed by for breeds not thus handicapped..." So much for the "little dingus!"

Walter Renk commented that "Shropshires are, after all, selling, so why worry? If we but breed better Shropshires we will have this lamb business by the tail." He referred to the grand champion lamb.

Fred Gurney, respected Canadian, took over the floor to appeal in the name of older Shrop breeders opposing changes in type.

Professor Claude Harper of Purdue, said it was his

belief that often the amount of wool over the eyes retards the utility value of a breed. He encouraged judging from a utility standpoint rather than head appearance.

Ernest Mumford, the shepherd at Iroquois who had produced "Corky", strongly sided with Professor Harper.

Finally chairman McKerrow was able to get on with the meeting after a nebulous motion was approved that more or less opposed radical change and suggested that "the points discussed be given consideration." There was no indication when, or by whom, these 'proposals' were to be considered.



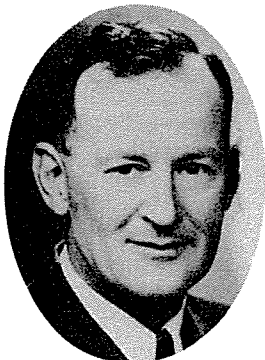
Edgar A. Holycross  
1940 - 1942

Edgar A. Holycross of Marysville, Ohio, was unanimously elected president. Not much information has been found about Ed Holycross. He began his Shropshire enterprise in 1921 and carefully built up a flock with a reputation for strong uniformity. Under the farm name 'Westwood' he advertised, "Our Shropshires are hardy, thick and close to the ground. They are covered from nose to toes with quality fleeces." By 1934 he claimed first prize yearling ram and pen of three rams at the Ohio State Fair. Ill-health forced the dispersal of his flock in 1953.

At the 1941 Annual Meeting, held on December 2nd, all officers were reelected and the Minnesota State Fair won the vote-off as site of the 1942 National Show.

Five days later, on Sunday, December 7, 1941, "The Day That Will Live In Infamy," the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor signalled the start of a conflict that would change the world. Most fairs and expositions, including the International, were curtailed or cancelled for the duration of World War II.

Glenn Chappell of Greencastle, Missouri, succeeded Edgar Holycross as president at the lightly attended meeting held during a wether show at the Chicago Stock Yards



Glenn Chappell  
1942 - 1944

in 1942. Glenn was born in 1903 and spent his life farming and stockraising on the 300-acre 'Chappell Farms.' He attended the University of Missouri and worked with his father until assuming full management in 1948. He continued the improvement of the fine Angus herd which had been established in 1909, and had one of the winningest Shropshire flocks in the mid-west. He was a long-time Shropshire director and judged over 200 sheep and cattle shows, including the American Royal and the International. Coyotes put the Chappells out of the sheep business before Glenn's death in 1978.

A streamer across the cover of the October 'Sheep Breeder' proclaimed "A MILLION SHROPSHIRE!" The lower half had an excellent picture of the 999,999th registry, F.W. Gurney 2W, the top-selling ewe at the 2nd Annual International Shropshire Sale at \$250, "the highest selling ewe of the breed at public auction in the past 20 years." The upper half featured the millionth Shrop, Green 1506, a yearling ram that topped the sale at \$935. Five hundred dollars was donated by the Association to the American Red Cross.

The closure of the International removed any incentive to hold meetings in Chicago so it was decided to return, in the 60th year, to Lafayette: "home," as Julia put it. The Annual Meeting was planned to coincide with "Livestock Week" at Purdue, there being 800 Indiana Shropshire breeders among the potential visitors to the campus. Since the Army occupied the Memorial Union Building the Agricultural Department commandeered all available dining facilities and designated the location for the Shrop meeting on January 12, 1944.

"And so it was that our 1943 dinner meeting occurred in January of 1944," wrote Miss Wade, "in a private dining room at 'Blitz' on the edge of town where it was demonstrated that the icy-edge presented our visitors by the weatherman could not penetrate the spirit of Shropshire enthusiasts. The enjoyment of the diners was made doubly pleasurable by the star musical performance presented by Al Stewart and his artists."

The promotional booklet, "Pride and Profit," which had been prepared by the advertising committee, was passed around and drew many compliments. Several state Shrop organizations gave reports on the increasing popularity of local shows and sales filling the void created by the closing of state fairs.



Champion Class - Iowa Ram Sale - Ames - 1943  
1. E.H. Rotter, Champion, 2. A.H. Secrest, Reserve,  
3. Rotter, 1st Lamb, 4. Angus Moore, 5. Paul Frederick  
(Notice blocking style and smooth fitting.)

The secretary noted, "All this naturally aroused enthusiasm in the hearts of Shropshire admirers and that dormant subject, 'type,' which invariably is dug out at our meetings, was soon swinging around the track at full speed, and the meeting had to once more be called to order." All officers were reelected and a proclamation wishing health and happiness to the ailing George McKerrow was sent off.

It was January, 1945, before the next board and Annual Meetings, again held in Lafayette. There was general discussion about Shrop activities and most who spoke felt that every effort should go to the war efforts and "shows and sales were not in order this year."

Oscar Winchester of Waukomis, Oklahoma, was named president by acclamation. When nominations were opened for secretary, "Mr. Renk immediately arose and stated that the secretary-treasurer is legally to be elected by the Board of Directors...it should be done right unless the Constitution is amended."

Throughout his life, Oscar Winchester ably represented the Shropshire breed in the Southwest. His fine show flock made the circuit of the major shows in that region and he strongly supported the junior wether shows. Failing health forced the dispersal of his flock in December, 1966, and he died the next month.



Oscar Winchester  
1944 - 1946

In the 'Sheep Breeder' obituary, his old friend, Alex McKenzie, wrote: "Although he bred both Southdowns and Shropshires he was always partial to his Shrops...I don't think there was any sheepman more honest and dedicated. His ready smile and willingness to help others will always be remembered."

It was a "late night show" for the directors; they met after the Annual Meeting, from 10:45 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Julia Wade was given another term. Major points at issue were the advertising budget and the need for more efficiency in the office. An accountant was hired to spend one

day a month revising the antiquated bookkeeping system and Mr. Renk proposed studies toward streamlining pedigree work.

Despite the surrender of Germany and Japan during the summer of 1945 it was too late to revive the show circuit that year. The Association met again in Lafayette in November. Dan Goodman from "Sheepman" publications, attended and said that his information indicated a resumption of most fairs and expositions the next year. Before adjournment a motion was adopted that the board appoint a committee to take any action deemed necessary to improve the scale of points in the Standard.

At the board meeting following, called to order at 11:30 p.m., Miss Wade announced her wish to retire; (maybe the midnight meetings were wearing her down.) She was rehired "for a period not less than six months nor more than one year" while a committee from the board searched for a successor. It was agreed that when the list of candidates was available a special meeting would be called to interview them and make the selection. Also, in response to the action at the Annual Meeting, the directors selected a type-study committee.

A special board meeting was held in the office in November to consider a replacement for Miss Wade. Two applicants were interviewed in person and two by telephone. One job-seeker was Oscar Clogg. A final decision was postponed until the meeting at the International.

That meeting was held in the Lipton Room of the Stock Yard Inn on the evening of December 2, 1946. The first business was the need to raise income to cover current expenses. On motion, the cost of registration was increased to 75¢ and transferring to 25¢. One of those under consideration for secretary was interviewed again and the chairman of the type committee report they met at Purdue and would report their findings, as per instructions, at the Annual Meeting.

The next afternoon the board met again, this time in Walter Renk's room at the Inn. The directors voted to hire Mr. Charles F. Osborne of Jonesboro, Indiana. He was to move to Lafayette, give full time to the job and be paid \$250 per month (\$3,000). Miss Wade had been receiving \$2,000.

The board voted to give Miss Wade a check for \$1,000, which they awarded her, along with a commendation signed by all directors, at a farewell ceremony during the banquet that evening.

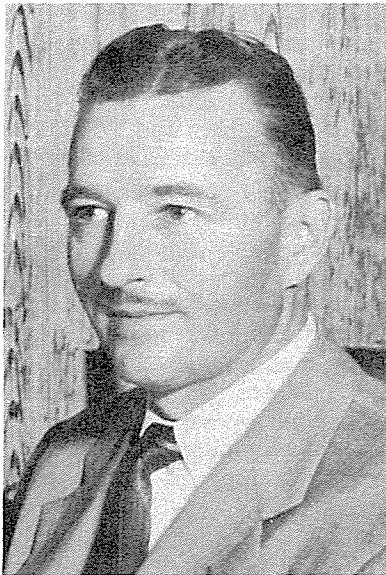
Julia M. Wade had become a tradition and she devoted her life to the advancement of the Shropshire Association. There is no record of how long she had served as Mr. Levering's assistant, but she was the Shropshire secretary from December, 1910, through December, 1946 - 36 faithful years!

## Chapter 10

### SECRETARY CHARLES F. OSBORN

#### 1946 - 1954

The 1946 meeting was highlighted by dinner, strolling musicians and the introduction of the new secretary, Charles F. Osborn. Mr. Osborn had recently been discharged from the Navy with an excellent record. His family farmed at Jonesboro, Indiana, and had been active Shropshire breeders for some years. His teen-age son, James, soon emerged as a national factor at Shrop shows, having champion ram at the 1953 National Show in Ohio.



*Charles F. Osborn  
Secretary 1946 - 1954*

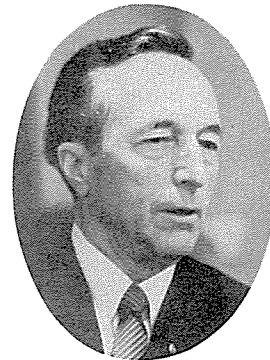
There is no record of what recommendations were submitted by the Type Committee, but they were defeated by a vote of 27 to 14. The directors selected the Indiana State Fair for the 1947 National Show and authorized \$1,000 for special premiums if Indiana would match them. By unanimous accord Walter F. Renk of Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, became the new president, thus completing the third father-son succession in Shrop history.

Walter, eldest son of William (1927 - 1929), is still very active, enjoying a well-earned semi-retirement. In 1917 he was Champion Boy Farmer of Wisconsin and from there on his life has been a steady cavalcade of achievement. He had a distinguished career at the University of Wisconsin. After graduation he joined his father and later became president of the Renk Seed Company, a pioneer and nationally-prominent multi-million dollar hybrid seed business. The company was later expanded to include a housing development corporation and is now managed by his two sons and a nephew.

Walter served as director of the Hampshire Association, president of the Wisconsin Livestock Breeders and judged at major shows from coast to coast and the Toronto Royal and Calgary Exposition in Canada.

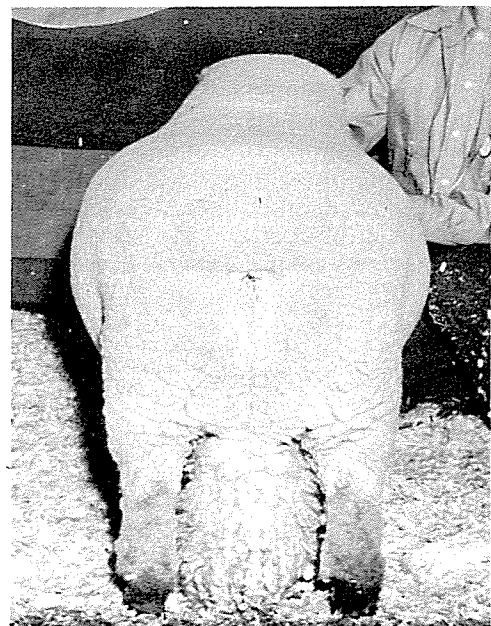
In 1952 the Shropshires and Hampshires were replaced by feeder cattle to better utilize waste from the corn-

seed operation. Walter's interests widened to include many local, state and national activities. He was the first president of the Wisconsin 4H Foundation, met with President Eisenhower in his capacity as committeeman on the Republican Program for Progress, was on the boards of communication, bank, utility and insurance companies, became a Regent of the University of Wisconsin and in 1972 was appointed by the governor to the State Higher Education Board.



*Walter F. Renk  
1946 - 1948*

These services were followed with many honors, including the Alumni Distinguished Service Award from his alma mater. The Renk dynasty believes in the importance of education; one grandson with a masters degree in plant breeding and another with an advanced degree in animal science have joined the firm. His grandchildren are the fifth generation on the family farm.



*Renk's 'The Rocket' 235 pounds  
1st Aged Ram, 1946 Chicago International*

At the 1947 Chicago meetings all officers were returned for another year and the Illinois State Fair was chosen for the site of the next National Show.

Edward T.S. Brown of Plainfield, Indiana, who was elected president in 1948, is still going strong on the American sheep scene as this is written. Because in Army service those two letters had specific connotation, the author has been curious about Ed's middle initials, so for his hundreds of friends, here is the answer; 'T' is for grandfather Thomas (Brown), a Society of Friends minister who gave half his farm to the Quaker church and became a missionary to the Cherokee Indians in the Smokey Mountains. 'S' is for grandfather Saneland, captain of the largest ore-boat on Lake Michigan. Now we all know!



Edward T.S. Brown  
1948 - 1950

Ed attended Indiana University where he was an outstanding athlete, being 2nd in the Big Ten in the high jump as a freshman, a member of the I.U. record-setting mile relay team and an excellent hurdler. He majored in chemistry and made this his career, in addition to managing the 450-acre farm where he has lived since he was nine. While doing summer work for Herman Ramsey, who had a large flock of Shropshires near Plainfield, Ed developed his interest in purebred sheep, first getting his father to start a flock, then, at age 13, acquiring part ownership. When he was 15 he began exhibiting at the Indiana State Fair, showing continuously (with the exception of one war year) through 1983...that's 59 years!

The show flock won many times at other state fairs, the American Royal and International. The Brown farm, 'Walnut Wood', also produced registered Holsteins, Polled Shorthorns, Duroc hogs and Percheron horses. Ed Brown has judged at many big shows and been a lifetime supporter of 4H, the Extension Service and state sheep organizations. In 1984 his portrait was hung in the Indiana Livestock Breeders Hall of Fame at Purdue University. His daughter, Mildred, is secretary of the National Montadale Sheep Breeders and Ed has his own small, select flock, which is still producing winners.

The new board discussed buying a camera to take 'typical' Shrop pictures for promotional material, selected the Iowa State Fair for the 1949 National and voted to increase secretary Osborn's salary by 20%. (After reading the new secretary's minutes it is obvious to me that Osborn's frugal style erred in the opposite direction from the many unnecessary but colorful quotes, 'asides,' and often amusing anecdotes which characterized the flowing prose of Julia Wade; the two-hour November directors' meeting was covered in 12 lines.)

In 1949 all officers were reelected; and after some dis-

cussion, the members decided "to wait two or three years between national shows." Again, as in 1939, the members expressed their anger that the 1949 International had disregarded the Association's nomination of Mr. Rotter to judge and "another man was picked at random."

Director Glasgow moved that a committee be named to study the publication of an Association magazine and director Wykes chaired a committee to seek new quarters; (the landlord for 65 years, Lafayette Loan and Trust Company, was proposing "a large increase in rent.") During 1950 the office was moved to a more spacious, less expensive location.



E.H. Rotter  
1950 - 1952

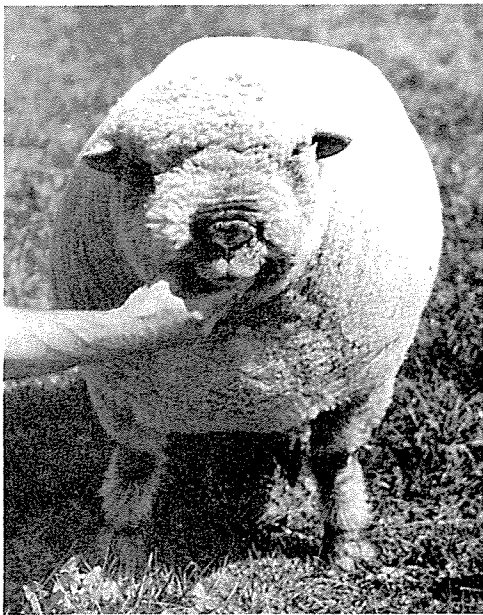
E.H. Rotter of West Point, Iowa, succeeded Ed Brown as president in 1950. 'Ernie' Rotter's autobiography reflects his single-minded pursuit of breeding and exhibiting the finest Shropshires. He began as a self-taught boy, (his father was a hog producer), saving nickles and dimes for his first Shrops, but by 1921 "tried a couple of county fairs," hauling his sheep in a wagon behind a team of mules. By 1925 he was going by train to the Iowa and Missouri State Fairs. When he won his first championship at Des Moines he made a decision he followed until his retirement; he sold his ewe for \$40, reasoning, "That was a lot of money at the time. Champions are what most always sell the best, and if you have the right kind of seed stock, you can always raise another one. Times were tough; wool sold for 14¢ and lambs 5¢ per pound."

By 1936 Ernie tried the Illinois State Fair, where he won first yearling ram with 'Rotter 786'. He calls this "the best muscled sheep I have ever handled of any breed. His get were almost unbeatable and at one time ten colleges and universities were using sons or grandsons." Because of the long fleeces popular at the time on the show circuit (before fans), he remembers it was not unusual to see five or six sheep die every day in the barns. Mr. Rotter avoided such trouble by slick-shearing in April and feeding tons of cabbage and very little grain.

His all-time achievement came in 1950 when he exhibited at Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and the American Royal. Under four different judges, his 'High Lawn' flock won every first, several seconds, all groups and every champion and reserve. In 35 competitions over the years Rotter won the best seven head trophy 34 times; facetiously, Ernie said, "We dropped it one time; perhaps the judge made a mistake!"

The last year he showed Mr. Rotter "tried something I'd always talked about. The week before the Indiana State Fair we sheared the sheep to the hide, and believe it or not, did very well. I lost a few friends over that, but if I never





Rotter's 'Tex'  
1950 Champion Iowa, Illinois, Indiana,  
American Royal and International.  
195 pounds @ 18 mo. - 283 mature.

did another thing for the breeders I am very proud of this, as I really think this short-fleece deal is one of the greatest things that ever happened to our sheep shows."

A 1960 'run-in' with a corn elevator put an end to his showing, but Ernie Rotter writes cheerfully from his immaculately manicured 'High Lawn Farm' and is still talked about with admiration and respect by those who knew and competed against him.

At the following board meeting Charles Osborn was rehired "for a period of three months," but at a special January meeting in Lafayette he was hired for the balance of 1951. New director B.L. Robbins was named chairman of the advertising committee.

About 150 Shropshire breeders attended the 1951 Annual Meeting in the Stock Yard Inn. They reelected E.H. Rotter, president, then, in a wholesome, wide-ranging discussion of Association activities particularly praised the first issue (August 1951) of 'The Shrop' magazine. The ASRA had given \$200 outright and taken a \$150 advertising contract to help get the project started, but the committee emphasized that it was intended to be self-supporting. Gavin McKerrow's younger daughter, Helen Pugh, was the unpaid, energetic editor.

In the secretary's column, Mr. Osborn, in describing events of the coming International, pointed out that Shropshires had won the grand champion wether class 16 times in the last 50 years.

Farrell Shultz wrote an excellent article describing his own experience in using production records. He cited the potential for selection in his already carefully culled flock, stressing the fact that testing was an 'in-flock' tool: "nobody expects a Jersey cow to outproduce a holstein, yet Jerseys are still popular in given circumstances," and, "lambs in a 15-ewe flock will do better than those in a 100-ewe flock."

B.L. 'Burr' Robbins, who chaired the promotion committee, was a prominent Chicago advertising executive. There may be more than coincidence that such national accounts as Armour, Chevrolet, International Harvester, Standard Oil and Sunbeam took full-page ads in

'The Shrop.' His 'Robbinswood Farms' at Walworth, Wisconsin, just over the Illinois line, was commercially oriented, not a showplace. In addition to the Shrops and a top herd of Yorkshire hogs, 400 or more western ewes were lambed out, using one of the first fully automated silage-feeding layouts. Mr. Robbins was filled with infectious enthusiasm and encouraged an emerging generation of new Shropshire breeders into positive action. During the 1950's 'Burr' was responsible for better promotion and a driving force in the integration and acceptance of the post-World War II British imports.

In the August, 1952, 'Shrop' magazine, Fred Savage of Hanover, Michigan, submitted an article that posed some excellent thoughts on limitations of overemphasizing performance records in a purebred flock:

"He (the purebred owner) has already at hand a large investment in his flock that is the ideal for the time. He puts his flock on a production basis and finds that the kind of ewe that is turning out the most pounds of lamb in a given time is one similar to some other breed developed years ago for this purpose. The amount and cost of feed consumed by the ewe and her offspring to produce this quick production is not considered. In a short time he finds himself with a flock of ewes similar to a crossbred flock that he could have produced in one cross.

"We now have a Shropshire that the average feeder can handle. Don't discourage a breeder with one that takes highly skilled feeding ability. You will find that production ability varies directly with shepherd ability. There is no question but what some good would come from a program of this type. However, I think that if you look back over the years of progressive breeding that has taken place in America and England you will find that it is the eye of the shepherd that has mastered the flock."

Among those consigning the 46 rams and 22 ewes to the 16th Ohio Breeders Sale at the Kenton fairgrounds were; Howard Banbury, Max Bryant, C.N. Cretcher and Son, K.C. Doebling, R.E. Douce and Son, C. Emil Hartzell, E.A. Holycross, W.R. Krout and Son, E.C. Newcomer, F.M. North, Ohio State University and Mrs. H.S. Robinson.

The 1952 Meeting was held in the Saddle and Sirloin Club of the Stock Yard Inn. The treasury showed a year end gain of \$1,200, and S.F. McClure succeeded E.H. Rotter as president.



S.F. McClure, Jr.  
1952 - 1954

'Gentleman Sam' F. McClure, Jr. of 'Spottswood Farms,' Virginia, was an executive with International Harvester Company and one of the last major Shrop breeders to have a full-time shepherd, Paul Harlow. The Spottswood flock was built up through years of selective breed-

ing, using both home-grown and a few top outside studs. McClure Shrops dominated the mid-east show circuit in the early 1950's, winning five championships at West Virginia, Maryland and Virginia in 1951. Mr. McClure also dealt in western ewes, providing replacements for 'hot-house' lamb producers in his area, and maintained his own commercial flock, crossing them on Shrop rams to produce market-topping lambs.

The new board raised the secretary's salary 5% but asked that he keep travel expenses below \$1,000. The Ohio State Fair was the chosen site for the next National Show.

The 1952-53 board overlooked the financial report showing \$4,200 more expense than income, but heard glowing accounts of the success of the Ohio National and officially commended the committee, "particularly Mrs. Banbury for the outstanding decorations."

The Annual Meeting was again held in the Saddle and Sirloin Club. Sam McClure was given a second term but the election of directors gave the first public evidence in many years of personality conflicts or division within the membership. 'Ernie' Rotter and 'Burr' Robbins were nominated for the expired term previously held by Mr. Robbins, and the balloting revealed Rotter had 84 votes to Robbins 80. Will McKerrow filed a protest on the ground that it was not a secret ballot and his sister, Mrs. Helen Pugh, threatened to resign as editor of 'The Shrop' because she "could not carry on without the assistance of Mr. Robbins on the board."

Mr. Rotter thereupon tried to withdraw his name but was informed that he had been elected and must, therefore, resign. The chairman now ruled that the first election was null and void and called for a new election. This time, when he was nominated, Ernie Rotter declined, and Burr Robbins went back on the board. "A unanimous vote of appreciation was then extended to Mr. Rotter for his fine gesture in the interest of breed harmony."

Everett Glasgow now rose "to pay tribute to Mrs. H.S. Robison for her many years of doing a splendid job of breeding and promoting Shropshire sheep - a rather uncommon feat for a woman..." Mrs. Robison was truly a pioneer in 'sheep barn womens liberation' several decades before the practice became common-place. She was a very capable flock manager and did her own fitting and exhibiting. She had the champion ewe at the 1953 Ohio National Show, sold to Robbinswood farm to top the sale.

Meeting at the Chicago Athletic Club, the new board "seriously considered" the deficit, voting to rehire Mr. Osborn at his then current salary but reducing his allowance for clerical help by \$2,000, and to limit the budget for advertising.

At a special board meeting in the office in October, the financial statement showed over-expenditures of \$900 on these two items; and at the November meeting in Chicago the president read a letter of resignation from Charles Osborn.

At the 1954 banquet in Founders Hall, Osborn's daughter, Pam, "entertained with enjoyable vocal renditions" and the International judge Ernie Rotter was asked to talk about the show. He stated "his belief that the less a judge says the better off he is...he picked them based on what he would like to take home and put in his flock." Everett Glasgow was unanimously elected president.

Later, when Mr. Robbins requested an expression of opinion on continuing 'The Shrop', "the consensus seemed to be that the time and energy expended could be better used elsewhere." The next day the directors voted

to postpone a final decision for six months - but never took further action - and soon thereafter 'Burr' Robbins resigned his directorship "because of the press of his business."



Cover of 'The Shrop' Magazine  
(Inset, Editor Helen Pugh)

Thus ended, after three years and eight issues, a worthy volunteer effort at breed promotion - death at the hands of the unappreciative, languid society it was designed to stimulate.

This might be a good point, in discussing the life and times of the Shropshire Association, to reflect on how it is supposed to function and why, from the beginning, it - and others like it - have always suffered malaise, "a condition of indefinite bodily weakness."

The geographic proximity in the native counties where Shropshires originated not only produced uniformity of type, but the 'neighborly' situation allowed close year-around contact among breeders, thus forging unanimity of ideas and strength of action. As the sheep, and their flockmasters, spread over the huge North American continent each advance brought loss of contact and more concern for personal and local issues than for national ones. This is why Dean Coffey (chapter 6) pleaded the case for *strong community oriented associations within breeds!*

As titled estate lords gave way, in the new world, to gentlemen landholders and then finally to full-time farmers and business people with purebred sheep as a side-line or hobby, the cost of attending frequent central meetings - in both time and money - became almost sacrificial; the rewards were dubious honor - or blame!

In 'The President's Column' of the final issue of 'The Shrop', Sam McClure tried to address the problem; one that has become more acute with the passing years:

"These times in which we live will some day be known as the 'Organization Age.' It would be a good pro-

ject for some researcher to determine just how much of our time, if any, is now allowed to the more or less drab function of making a living. The organizations or committees that do accomplish something, however, seem to be those whose membership is composed of individuals who are interested in the project. **Therein** arises one of the difficulties; those members who do exhibit a little interest or happen to make some suggestion immediately find themselves chairmen of a number of other committees. Consequently they soon become so confused and their interests so divided that they wind up going to the wrong committee meeting on the wrong night, or giving up entirely and watching TV.

"We would like to report that the American Shropshire Association is one of those ball-of-fire groups, the kind that sets the woods on fire. I, as chairman of the com-

mittee, am forced to admit that this is not the case. There are a number of good reasons why an organization of this kind is just starting a few grass fires now and then, rather than igniting the whole woods. Possibly first would be the fact that the members of the board of directors are scattered from the east coast to the west coast; they get together for two hectic days at Chicago once a year, formulate some plans that would seem to promote the affairs of the Association, and go home full of vim and vigor.

"It is a sad fact though, that when they get home they find that they are members of other committees also, and out of dire necessity they must concern themselves to some extent with the aforementioned function of earning the daily bread, consequently they cannot devote their entire time and attention to Shropshire business."

## Chapter 11

### MR. SHROP, the FOURTH V.P. and the SECOND COMING

In one hundred years of American Shropshire history three people have been so closely identified with national administration and breed promotion that their names became synonymous with Shropshire. It was the 'founding father' Mortimer Levering during the first quarter-century, and then, for over the next third of its existence, the mention of Julia Wade connoted 'Shropshire.' The third steller supporter has served continuously for 36 years since becoming a board member two years after Miss Wade retired.

He was a director and chairman of many important committees from 1948 through 1952, when he became vice-president, followed in 1955 and 1956 as president. He then served twice more as a director; 1956-57 and 1968 - 71.... twelve active years on the board!

This man hired one secretary and was responsible for reacquainting her with the office procedures (which he had been handling on a temporary basis) and he was married to her successor. Using his own equipment and his hired man's help, he moved the office three times and loaned it many furnishings. He has served as unpaid 'Field Man' for 15 years and attended (as a representative of Shropshires at his own expense) more shows, sales and meetings from coast to coast than anyone in Association history.

What sets Everett Glasgow apart from Mr. Levering and Miss Wade, however, is that throughout his lifetime he has been a full-time farmer and a leading breeder of fine Shropshire sheep. Major awards won by the "Big G" red and blue-blanketed show strings are beyond counting and Glasgow Shrops have ranked near the top of every sale where they have been consigned. Many prominent flocks, from Connecticut to California, owe a share of their success to rams and ewes from the farm on Allerton Lane.



Everett Glasgow  
1954 - 1956

Everett was born on a grain and Poland China hog farm east of Monticello, Illinois, and his first 4H project at age ten, was a Poland gilt. She won him a trip to the State Fair, where he happened into the sheep barn during the Shrop show; his immediate fascination with these beautifully fitted animals fired his ambition to some day own Shropshires. With proceeds from his gilt and two grade

ewes, he bought his first pair of Shrop ewes in 1926. Since the only building on the farm was for hogs and chickens, Everett talked his mother into letting him use one end of the hen-house for lambing. He purchased his first ram from Roy Dubes, Loami, Illinois. (The Dubes family is still raising Shropshires, and rivals Noble Apple, of Indiana, for seniority among current breeders). The ram was hauled home in a hog crate set on the turtle-back of a Model T Ford roadster, and the Glasgow Shrops were in business. Everett took the train up to his first International in 1928, during Wm. Renk's presidency.

In 1931 Everett started a purebred Angus herd which was prominent in Illinois sales for forty years. 1936 saw the purchase of the prize Rambouillet flock from Hanson's, of Utah. He raised and exhibited the fine-wools for eight years. When Everett and 'Libby' moved to Allerton farm in 1946 he began raising certified seed and added Hampshire hogs to the Shrops and Angus. Since 1970, his first love, Shropshires, have been the only stock on the farm.

Next to Shrops, Everett's most consuming interest has been the Monticello Grain Company, which he served many terms as president, 22 years as secretary, and a total of 42 years on the board. In the 1930's he managed the Piatt County Fair. He helped organize the Illinois Purebred Sheep Breeders (president 17 years), the Central Illinois Angus Breeders and Illinois Shropshire Associations, serving both as president, served under three governors on the Illinois Purebred Livestock Board, 12 years on the PCA board, was president and secretary of the Illinois Grain Corporation, has been on the County Zoning and Planning Board for 20 years and is currently its chairman.

Can anyone protest Everett Glasgow's fitness for the title of 'MR. SHROP'?

Because the fifty-year-old Indiana charter under which the Association had been operating since 1901 was soon to expire, the directors in November, 1955, retained a law firm to prepare plans for a reorganization under the not-for-profit act. Continuing financial pressure forced the board to stop giving cash premiums in open shows, but the best-flock trophies were still awarded.

At the Stockholders' meeting the new secretary, Mrs. Ritenour, was introduced to the membership for the first time and Everett Glasgow and Roger Wykes won second terms in office.

The 1956 Annual Meeting was a busy one. The proposed new Articles of Incorporation, Constitution and By-laws were read in their entirety, thoroughly discussed and adopted by unanimous vote. Some of the pertinent changes that went into effect included;

Changed from a profit-eligible stock company to a non-profit membership corporation.

Allowed the annual meeting to be held anyplace in the United States.

Increased the size of the Board of Directors from six (plus the president and vice-president, ex-officio) to twelve, including the president and vice-president, with a limit of two per state.

Specified that the president and vice-president be elected from those comprising the board of directors for the coming year.

Discontinued the use of proxies.

Chairman Glasgow brought the question of annual dues before the members for discussion, and while it was generally felt it was the best way to increase revenue, no motion was made or any action taken.

Thirteen names were placed in nomination for the new slate of directors and since three were from Illinois a written ballot was taken to select two and the remainder were elected by unanimous vote. Roger Wykes was chosen to replace Everett Glasgow as president and Farrell Schultz was elected vice-president.



Roger I. Wykes, Jr.  
1956 - 1958

At the board meeting the next day directors drew lots for length of term and standing committees for budget, advertising and premiums were named, plus an ad hoc committee to study a possible way to apportion directors by region and consider the question of annual dues.

Roger I. Wykes, Jr. of Grand Rapids, Michigan, was a successful real estate broker who started his flock of 'Riverlands Shropshires' in 1941. He was very active in Shrop promotion and instrumental in starting the Michigan Shropshire Association in 1951, with more than 50 paid members the first year. He was the original vice-president, then served two terms as president. As a national director and officer Mr. Wykes was the effective chairman of committees to negotiate for new office space and to revise the constitution.

At the beginning of chapter 8, three of the four prominent Shropshire vice-presidents who never sought, or were not nominated for the presidency, were recognized. We now salute 'the fourth V.P.' (vice-president).

Farrell Shultz, of 'Bunker Hill Farm', DeGraff, Ohio, ultimately established a reputation as one of the premier all-around purebred men in America. From the late 'forties' until his dispersal sale in 1962 nobody seriously challenged his superiority as a breeder, showman or Shropshire promoter, but Farrell 'paid his dues'; starting at the bottom as a rank 4H boy, he tried for ten years before getting his first county fair blue ribbon. He came into the national circuit against skilled, long-established flockmasters like McKerrow, Iroquois, Rotter, Brown and Moore at a time when Shrops were still the biggest, most competitive classes. Gradually he gained a 'toe hold' then his 'foot in the door' and ultimately domination. At many shows in the late 1950's if it weren't Shultz, it wasn't winning. He began biennial production sales in 1952 that soon were setting record prices.

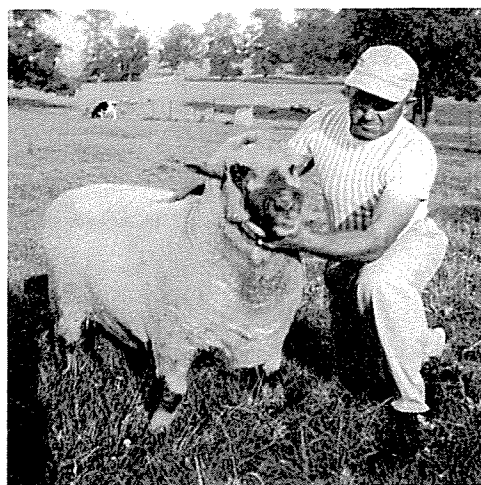
Farrell was a pioneer, a believer, and a promoter for the judicious use of production records as one tool in the selection process toward functional breed improvement. His record system was a model for the times and he worked closely with Professor Ralph Grimshaw and the Ohio Sheep Improvement program. Performance scores were listed in his sale catalogues.

From 1950 through 1956 one of his ewes, 'Tracy 792' (by an imported sire) established a Shrop production record that has never been equalled: *in seven years sheraised two sets of quadruplets, three sets of triplets, a pair of twins and a single; 20 lambs for a lifetime 286%.*

He routinely exposed his ewe lamb replacements to rams and thus, he felt, identified his most prolific strains. These genetically superior, but 'milked down' yearlings were unattractive to prospective buyers who visited the farm, allowing him to replenish the ewe flock from his most productive blood lines.

If a ram lamb had satisfactory performance scores, was well grown-out, correct in his makeup and considered a purebred stud prospect, Farrell christened him with a 'Flockmaster' trademark. He maintained 100 brood ewes and bred them to five stud rams so he could offer variations of type and lineage to his customers.

He was topping many shows with the 'American Type' by the time the first McKerrow imports became available but he immediately began experimenting with some of these bloodlines. Not wholly satisfied, he went to England in December, 1951, and hand-picked two rams that had a lasting influence on the breed. Imported 'Sir Winston' sired the first modern International champion ram with English breeding and his picture was used as the proto-type Shropshire for 20 years. 'Tern Cambridge' had been champion at the British Royal and weighed 314 pounds on arrival out of quarantine. When mated to Farrell's battery of ewes he proved to be prepotent for performance, uniformity and breed type, and his progeny brought then-record prices and influenced nearly every progressive Shropshire flock in the United States.



Farrell Shultz holding  
Imported 'Tern Cambridge', age 5 years.

At the 1957 Ohio State Fair the top three Shrops in every class, with two exceptions, were sired by 'Flockmasters' and his 1958 sale catalogue listed as reference sires nine International champions that had been used at Bunker Hill in the last ten years. In 1962, at the pinnacle of his success, Farrell was forced by physical problems to dis-



perse his flock and quit farming. He moved to town and became an insurance executive.

For thirty years his often-humorous, always provocative articles in sheep publications have delighted readers. Respected and popular nationwide, his portrait was hung in the Ohio State University Agricultural Hall of Fame in the early 1950's. He has always stressed, and lived by, his code of integrity.

His reputation and his skill as a breeder and showman contributed more than anything else to the ultimate integration and acceptance of the (old) 'new-type English strain' modern American Shropshire.

Before continuing with the chronology of Association activities, it seems the fitting place to discuss this small group of imports - 'the second coming'. The case has been well documented that show-fads reduced the once universally popular, medium-large, open-faced, commercially viable Shropshire to a totally wool-blind, wide-as-it-was-tall 'toy breed' that in many areas was smaller than its Southdown counterpart. In 1951 or '52 a popular champion yearling ewe at Chicago weighed just 134 pounds, and lambs hovering around 100 pounds could win the fall shows. The vogue for complete wool covering from hooves to nostrils became a necessity for consideration under

many judges, but the wily shepherds were equal to the challenge (if all the sheep were not).

In one of his "SheepBreeder" articles Farrell Shultz recalled the common ploy of inserting cockle burrs around the eyes and in the channel between the eye and mouth to bind the face wool; needed wool was glued to the lower legs. The commercial market for this kind of sheep disappeared!

The English breeders, always willing to oblige, were promoting two distinct kinds of Shrops (see Sherlowe advertisement), the low-set, wool-covered kind favored the first half of the century by the Americans, and the larger, open-faced look-alikes of the 19th century model. After World War II ended Gavin McKerrow made a pilgrimage to England, selecting sheep from the five leading flocks:

In the summer of 1948 twenty-six head arrived at Pewaukee, Wisconsin, and the challenge of blending these two radically different strains of the same breed - and the nearly impossible task of getting their progeny accepted by entrenched, zealous breeders of the 'popular' style - began.

As would be expected, the outcrosses - particularly the rams - were inconsistent, sometimes manifesting rough shoulders; long, 'easy' pasterns; open, 'britchy'

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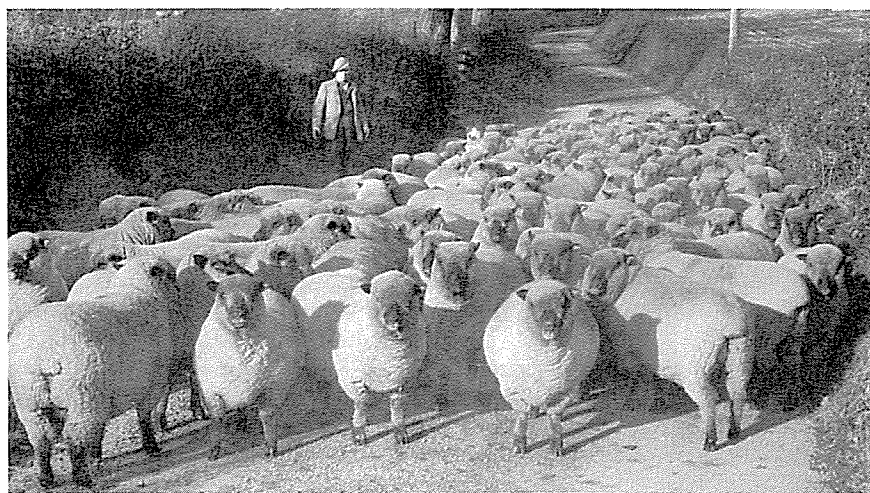
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Advertisement from an English Livestock  
Magazine - late 1940's



*The Montford Shropshire Ewes  
Near Shrewsbury, England - Late 1940's*

fleeces and coarse heads. Despite a dramatic increase in size and performance among the many excellent ewes, it was hard to find acceptable stud prospects in their offspring. Forgetting that these were 'reincarnations of their own roots', diehards among American breeders immediately labelled all these sheep crossbreds, and delighted in noisy ridicule of the few brave advocates who dared lead such animals into the show ring.

The Shropshire Standard of Excellence clearly stated: "in ALL cases, head and face nicely COVERED with wool." The great preponderance of competitors were nearly identical, square, low-set types whose eyes and ears were hidden by head wool. Faced with these factors, regardless of his private opinion, the harried judge could do nothing but put the 'outcasts' at the end of the line. Witnesses tell that when Farrell Shultz included such sheep in his show string, he always handed his 'acceptable' entry to his helpers and took the new-type himself, seemingly enjoying the incongruity of the smiling master standing at the bottom of the class.

By this time two of Gavin's children were more involved than he in the management and breeding programs. 'Will' ran the four family farms and was busy nationally on the show circuit, judging, and serving in various association, community and state activities. His sister, Isabel, with a reputation among experts for a rare talent in selecting and mating good sheep, was married to Warren Brown, a nurseryman and Polled Hereford breeder at nearby Hartland. Most of the imports were moved to Hartland and soon 'Browns of Wisconsin Shropshires' indelibly etched their name across the country as the source of root stock for the new sheep.

Their two most influential 'grande dames' were 'Imported Tibberton Lady 19' and her granddaughter, 'Brown's Dottie 262'. Sons and grandsons of these ewes turned breeding programs around for Hoffman and Chambers in the west, Connecticut Agricultural College and Lavieri in the east and Shultz, Michigan State University, Newcomer, Trocke, Thurman, Hartzell, Richards, Kipp and others in the central states.

As mentioned previously, Mr. Shultz added to this gene pool in 1952, and finally - at the 1957 Chicago International - judge Art Pope, University of Wisconsin, selected a son of Sir Winston as champion ram and a daughter of Tern Cambridge as champion ewe. The following day the directors voted to slightly modify the Standard of Excellence description of the ideal head to read: "Wool may

extend to the muzzle but not in such excessive amount as to cause wool-blindness," and removed the objection: "failure of the wool to meet closely at the junction of face-wool and on the cheeks."

These two developments seemed to break down the last formidable resistance and during the next decade Shrop breeders either sold out (in too many cases) or converted to the new type.

The impact on the breed was dramatic! From the early 1950's, Dr. Jack Judy recorded weights of the five top-placing animals in each class of ten breeds at the Ohio State Fair. Of the trend toward bigger sheep he wrote, "Nowhere is the change more striking than in Shropshires...." From 1954 to 1964 Shrop yearling ram weights increased 38.1% to 236 pounds - over twice the gain of any other breed. Ram lambs jumped from 106 to 153 pounds; a gain of 44.3%. These weights were about the equivalent of those at the turn of the century before 'The Fad' began.

Step by step through the 20th century the apparently important correlation between show-ring success at fairs and sales with top prices put a growing premium on high placings - strikingly illustrated by what happened next at Shropshire shows.

As other progressive, top-reputation judges such as Merle Light, North Dakota, Hilton Briggs, South Dakota, Bryon Good and Harold Henneman, Michigan State, and a few others started 'flipping' the classes (with the more open-faced sheep at the top and the 'woolies' at the bottom) it quickly became apparent that good 'openings' around the eyes and partial bareness over the bridge of the nose, with darker-colored lower-leg and face-hair, were going to be required - in a hurry!

The shortage of good, preponent rams that could 'open' a flock of 'woolies', and the time-lapse over many generations to breed such sheep posed a dilemma that was cosmetically overcome in a few furtive minutes in the pens or back alleys by simply plucking out the offending wool and applying a dab or two of dark shoe polish. Within a year or two (depending on who had judged), the 'Sheep-Breeder' was full of pictures of winning Shropshire groups that were absolutely identical in the newly chic 'dark-pointed look'.

The next hurdle in the 'rat race' could not be jumped with such elementary aids as cockle burrs and shoe-black - - - but I am getting ahead of the story. Perhaps we shall see the specter of 'The Black Knight' in a future chapter.

## Chapter 12

### JESSIE F. RITENOUR, SECRETARY 1955 - 1970

This chapter is dedicated to the unsung heroine in the chronicles of the American Shropshire Association. The visual legacy of her contributions remain in three neatly bound volumes of minutes and financial reports covering her service between January 1955 and January 1970. Casually thumbing through the pages one can conjure an accurate image of her: tidy, professional, business-like, thorough. Mrs. Ritenour was not inexperienced; she had worked two years as a clerk for Julia Wade in the late 1930's, then was employed by the Indiana State Police until three girls walked off the job and Miss Wade called Jessie back to the office to train new help for another two years. She was with the Police Department when she applied for the Shropshire secretary job left vacant by Osborn's resignation.



*Jessie F. Ritenour  
Secretary 1955 - 1970*

A careful study, however, reveals circumstances that require words like fortitude and over-dedication for the description of Mrs. Jessie F. Ritenour. Her entire tenure in office was a period of steady attrition in Shropshire numbers and declining revenue, with the consequential pressure to reduce office overhead (including salaries). In worthy efforts to offset the down-trend, each board of directors she served asked for more promotional activity from a woman who was inclined, trained and employed to manage a registry office, not create advertising and serve as field representative.

Compounding these stresses were others, beyond her control, that called into play rare qualities of patient diplomacy. Her years in office create a perfect overlay of the years of 'type discord' among Shropshire breeders, judges, universities and the press; broken friendships, suspicion, cliques, frustration. Neutrality and the ability to

steer the battered ship toward a peaceful harbor through stormy seas - these were the inner strengths that only a fortunate few who worked closely with Mrs. Ritenour could ever really appreciate. Midway through her service she lost her husband but worked on more feverishly than before.

If it was my pleasure to have been active in Association affairs during most of Jessie Ritenour's years. At her own expense she came to Oregon to promote the national image of Shrops at a western production sale. Her outwardly stern visage hid a warm, cheerful personality. Her great joy (and I suspect, release) was her participation in the nation-wide womens singing organization, the 'Sweet Adelines.'

Mrs. Ritenour's reports of meetings were not so colorful as Miss Wade's, but they were so detailed and complete that the challenge to this author is to select the most interesting highlights. From personal experience, and from studying the records, I know those were very busy years. Full credit is due this dedicated secretary who, through trying times, helped implement such progressive (and still intact) developments as the Performance Registry and Certification Programs, the forerunner of the highly successful Illinois 'Spectacular' sale; revision of the By-laws and Standard of Excellence, and, most important, the reuniting of breeders to carry forward the tradition of an old and honored breed association on a sound financial basis and the optimistic start of its second century.

Mrs. Ritenour was first introduced to members at the 1955 banquet and the annals continued through the by-laws revisions adopted at the 1956 winter meetings.

We resume our story with Joe Lavieri and Warren Brown lustily leading group singing at the 1957 banquet in Founders Hall. Two ten-year veterans of board duty, Everett Glasgow and Farrell Shultz, asked to be allowed to step aside for new people, Roger Wykes was returned to office and Howard Banbury was elected to succeed Farrell as vice-president.

Most of the time and excitement at the lengthy director's meeting the next day revolved around modifications of the judging guide (see chapter 11). A new committee was also appointed to study and make recommendations for by-laws changes regarding regions, and annual dues.

The next November this committee reported to the board that they did NOT approve proposals to charge annual dues or change the method of electing directors. At the banquet following the show the judge, Dr. Hilton Briggs, commented on the sheep he placed and said he looked first for utility, then for character.

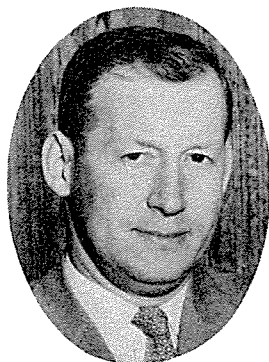
Chairman John Albin reported for the advertising committee that two new brochures had been printed and he asked for a show of hands in support of using advertising to help defray costs of a new directory; the 'yes-vote' was unanimous. (A directory was printed and distributed and a portable Shropshire display was prepared and used at seven state fairs during 1959.)

Howard Banbury became the new president. A native of Danville, Ohio, he started a 4H flock in 1925 and

over the years added purchases from Guthery (Ohio), Gibson (Canada) and two imported rams from Buttar.

After college he joined his father and three brothers in the Banbury and Sons Lumber, Wool and Livestock Co. Howard took over the livestock end of the business, running the Shropshire flock, a lamb feed lot and stock-buying station for 35 years.

In addition to the national Shrop presidency, he was president of the Ohio Shropshire and Ohio Sheep Improvement Associations, was on the Danville school board and served 20 years on the Knox County Fair Board.



Howard Banbury  
1958 - 1960

The meeting in 1959 opened with the chairman giving a tribute in memory of the recently deceased Julia Wade. During the election of officers history was almost made when Isabel McKerrow Brown was unanimously chosen as a director to replace Mr. Wykes; the only woman (through 1984) so honored! She was not present at the meeting. The next summer she and her husband dispersed their flock and Isabel resigned from the board before she ever had the opportunity to serve.

The Four Seasons Room at the Stock Yard Inn was the site of the 1960 meeting. John Eberspacher replaced Howard Banbury as president and Oscar Winchester became the only man to be elected for two 'separated' terms as vice-president, as he had served in 1942-44 before becoming president.



John Eberspacher  
1961

J.G. 'John' Eberspacher of Seward, Nebraska, was the second in a three-generation family that has raised Shrops for three-quarters of a century. His father started a flock in the early 1900's and kept 75 to 100 ewes. They do-

nated Shropshires to the University of Nebraska to help establish the college flock. John began his 4H project in 1925 and ultimately purchased a 400-acre diversified farm. In addition to crops he had a large flock of Shrops, winning many championships and trophies at major central states fairs and the American Royal. He bred and exhibited Percheron horses and judged at Indiana, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and the Royal.

John served faithfully as a Shropshire board member for 15 years from 1953 through 1968. His nephew Glen, Utica, Nebraska, carries on the tradition with extensive farm operations and 135 Shrop ewes.

At the subsequent board meeting, registration fees were raised to \$1.25 and a committee chosen to study and report on 'certification' programs. During the year two committees worked diligently on new projects, and the board expressed special appreciation when the reports were given at the December, 1961, meetings. Promotion chairman John Albin announced the purchase of four 12-foot canvas street banners which had been distributed to various regions for the show season, and the modernization of promotional literature. Chairman Douce gave a comprehensive report on the production programs offered by the Corriedale and Hampshire Association and read letters from specialists at three universities. From this material his committee had drawn up a proposal which was reviewed at the Annual Meeting the next evening.

The 81 breeders in attendance stood for a moment of silence to recognize the recent death of the secretary's husband, Harry Ritenour. Judge Alex McKenzie, in his review of the show, told of the difficulty of placing the classes "in view of the different types." He then went on to praise Shropshires: "It has always been a good breed and during my time at Oklahoma State they have had less trouble with Shrops than any of the six breeds there. They have less difficulty in lambing, are better mothers, always raised a good percentage of lamb and did a good job of reaching market at an early age."

In one of the few contested presidential elections since the Duncan-Wardwell 'battle' in 1910, A.J. Moore narrowly defeated John Eberspacher, and in the infectious spirit of competition John Albin won election over incumbent Oscar Winchester for the second spot.



A.J. Moore  
1961 - 1963

A.J. Moore of Butler, Indiana, had a lifetime of experience and seniority when he took office. He was born on the homestead settled by his grandfather and had the original deed, written on buckskin and signed by the U.S. president in 1846. His father bought 'A.J.' three Shrop ewes in 1909 when he was twelve years old, and the flock was increased and improved by purchases from Jess An-

drew and Iroquois. His first state fair was 1919 and he rapidly established a reputation for top consistency at big shows. He was most proud of 'Jack Pot', his champion ram at the 50th International in 1949. The Moore Shrops were generally bigger than those of most of his competitors during the 'Fad' era. 'A.J.' enjoyed his duties on the township school board, laughingly saying, "Now they've got a shepherd for president."

After Lowell Douce explained the production program, a motion was adopted that the Association go on record as approving it, and instruct the board to refine and implement the plan. THE NEW BOARD FORMALLY ADOPTED THE PERFORMANCE REGISTRY PROGRAM ON DECEMBER 1, 1961.

Mrs. Ritenour reported that she received dozens of requests from university and vocational judging classes for pictures of 'ideal' Shrops. During the discussion it was pointed out that extreme care was needed in selecting pictures: "...there are times we use pictures of sheep which we call 'open-eyed' that have merely had their eyes trimmed out and in a month or six weeks are again wool-blinded. It is not recommended that we use a picture of a sheep which has no wool below the eyes, one which people will not recognize as a Shropshire!" It was decided to offer up to \$200 in prizes for a photo contest.



*Demonstrating Range of Face Cover on  
Otherwise Identical Shropshire Ewes  
Michigan State University Field Day - July, 1961  
(Jim Cretcher, Univ. Shepherd holds No. S-20)*

1962 was uneventful and A.J. Moore won a second term.

In contrast, the 1963 meetings were full of noteworthy happenings. Three unselfish, long-serving board members retired. M.O. Merle Pearson, a former mail carrier and devoted Shrop breeder from Oregon was first elected in 1952, and he paid his way to Chicago eight of the ten years he served.

Oscar Winchester had served 17 years, been vice-president twice and president in 1945-46. He was replaced by Joe Steichen, who has surpassed Oscar in the long-lasting Oklahoma tradition, serving (with the exception of 1973) continuously for 21 years through 1984. A.J. Moore, on the board twice for a total of nine years, was replaced by Loyal Knollin, of Kentland, Indiana. Loyal was the son of 1914-16 Shrop president A.J. Knollin. Because Loyal and I were both packer lamb buyers and commercially oriented, a close friendship developed over the years we served together.

Toward the end of the 'shake-down' between the so-called American type and the English type, as has been

previously pointed out, judging Shropshires was a precarious assignment. In the late 1960's the Association sponsored a National Sale and used one of the most capable young judges working at the time. Unfortunately, he chose the safe 'middle course' in his placings at a time when the extreme (for those days), taller, open-faced Shrops were in great demand by breeders trying to speed up the change-over in their flocks; his champion ram sold near the bottom and his 14th place ewe topped the sale. There was consternation in the barn and threats to "tar and feather the dumb judge." The directors were asked to suggest what action should be taken to prevent such a travesty in the future.

Loyal Knollin took that occasion to comment on several subjects of concern, not only to Shropshire breeders, but to the entire purebred sheep industry. On October 6, 1968, he sent president Will McKerrow a letter, from which I quote several of his provocative observations:

"I am in complete agreement with the program (ram certification). It is time to deemphasize shows and reemphasize the commercial side of red meat production. *Feeding and fitting lambs specifically for shows is unproductive. While it may be true that fitting is done to bring out good points, it is also true that fitting is done to hide the bad points. We all agree, I think, that feeding for a show is actually likely to be harmful.*

*"In connection with our National Sale, I feel that the time is best employed on an open type-conference, rather than on a show. The show does little except show us the kind of sheep that particular judge likes best. A judge is looking at what he has in front of him - a buyer is looking at what he has at home, what he needs to improve his flock!"*

At the conclusion of this 1963 meeting John Albin succeeded A.J. Moore. The new board voted to hold the 1964 Annual Meeting at Harrisburg in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Livestock Exposition, and to designate it the National Show. The directors also discussed the preparation of a pictorial judging folder which would be distributed through an agricultural supply house for use by university and vocational ag teachers as a guide to selecting top Shropshires.



*John Albin  
1963 - 1965*

John Albin, Newman, Illinois, started his Shropshire enterprise in 1942 and was successful in 4H, FFA and during college. After graduation from the University of Illinois he started working his family farm, which dates back to the original settlement in the area in 1840.

John is a busy man, operating a 2,500-acre corn and soybean farm, which also produces over 5,000 market hogs annually, and is major stockholder and manager of a bank in Longview, Illinois. His other activities include serving



on the advisory board of the University of Illinois, trusteeship at a community college and state board membership in Farm Bureau and the Illinois Farm Management Association. John received the 'Prairie Farmer' Master Farmer Award in 1970.

The board meeting prior to the National Show at Harrisburg was concerned with the usual financial problems. Because of declining assets it was apparent that new savings and revenue were necessary to fund promotion. These possibilities were considered:

Join other associations in a central office to reduce overhead.

Encourage more participation in Performance Registry (slightly more income but more work for the office staff).

Increase fees or charge annual dues.

The Annual Meeting held in the Penn Harris Hotel following an excellent National Show was well attended by 60 people from 13 states. During the business portion, following much discussion, a motion "was unanimously passed to recommend that the new board levy a \$2 annual assessment for promotion and the advancement of the breed." John Albin was reelected.

It was obvious from the secretary's report at the 1965 directors' meeting in Chicago that there were problems with the new fee. One member hired a lawyer who claimed that such charges were illegal. Less than half those listed as active members had sent in any 'work' or paid the fee; \$602 had been collected. It was decided to continue the annual fee but to ask the membership if they preferred increasing registration and transfer fees.

In explaining the big increase in promotional expenses Mrs. Ritenour pointed out that after the 'National 4H News' magazine told of the Shropshire teaching aids she had distributed 26,000 items to 4H leaders in 4½ months. The directors next expressed their displeasure with "the declining prestige, facilities and hospitality at the Chicago International; that it was the only show in the country that forced the breed associations to pay the judge and part of the premiums."

There was discussion on the revenue problem at the Annual Meeting. Mrs. Ritenour, in her precise, understated manner, reported that "things were a bit spirited and controversial but there was full agreement that our Association maintain an aggressive promotional program." The final decision was left to the board of directors.

At the end of his second term as director and president, John Albin declined another term and Robert Thurman was elected to succeed him.



Robert C. Thurman  
1965 - 1967

Robert C. Thurman, 'Colonial Acres Farms', Tipp City, Ohio, successfully managed a dual-career. 'Colonial Acres' is a serious 165-acre corn, soybean and sheep operation, but would have to be considered a side-line to his business. After receiving a law degree from Miami University, Bob founded, and for 30 years was chief executive officer of Dayton Frozen Foods, Inc., an institutional food distributing company. He received several professional awards in the community.

Mr. Thurman bought one bred ewe in 1961 from Dr. Trittschuh, then "began with a purpose" after buying some ewes and a ram at the Shultz dispersal in 1962. He never did anything halfway. Consider his ability and unselfishness as shown in this partial list of the sheep-related activities of a full-time businessman: president of Ohio Sheep Breeders and Ohio Finn Breeders Association, secretary-treasurer of the American Sheep Producers Council and chairman of its wool committee. In 1980 he received the Distinguished Service Award of the Ohio Sheep Improvement Association.

He continued his sheep 'side-line' with pure Finn-Sheep and a commercial flock and recently sent a ram to Australia, the first of the breed to be imported there. In a letter Bob Thurman recalls the turbulent times of his presidency; "A majority of the progressive breeders were trying to develop a Shropshire that was not wool-blind, that had utility...we had opposition all the way from a vocal minority. The popularity of Shrops today prove that our efforts for change were the right procedure. Last, but not least, I must pay tribute to Mrs. Ritenour, a most dedicated secretary and a fine, cooperative lady."

The new board convened after the Annual Meeting and decided to continue the \$2 annual fee, as expenses during the prior year exceeded income by \$1,600. There was so much business they had to adjourn and meet again the next morning when discussion centered on the possibilities offered by a National Registry Office (similar to Canada), or joint occupancy with another breed. Three decisions were reached:

The Shrop Association did not wish to become part of a national society.

At that time (1965) they were not interested in electronic processing of registrations.

Any move toward consolidation was considered to be a step toward losing breed identity.

The 1965-66 deficit fell to \$240 but the board faced the failure of the \$2 fee program. The secretary gave a detailed report which showed that of 954 breeders listed as 'active' in the directory, only 422 had sent in any registrations or transfers during the last two years, and of these only 293 had paid the \$2 charge. A motion was passed that the "service charge" of \$2 be discontinued and that resignations be increased to \$1.50 and transfers doubled from 75¢ to \$1.50 (with no discounts to junior members). The traditional Association trophy class was changed from flock of seven to five; one ram (yearling or lamb), two yearling ewes and two ewe lambs.

A special board meeting was held the next day for the express purpose of planning the 1967 type conference, show and sale to be held in conjunction with the Ohio State Fair, which offered \$750 added premiums. Formal approval was given and committees appointed; 'Burr' Robbins came out of retirement to handle advertising and catalogue, Will McKerrow, type conference and Ken Doehring, solicitation of entries and sale management.

Loyal Knollin announced that he and his wife were

instituting a \$100 award in memory of his father, A.J. Knollin, to be given annually to the exhibitor of the trophy flock (won the first year by McKerrows).

Bob Thurman was unanimously reelected. He appointed Lowell Douce as chairman of a committee to explore a ram certification program, and the 1967 National Show and Annual Meeting were again scheduled for the Pennsylvania Livestock Exposition.

Lack of quorum at the 1967 board meeting in Harrisburg resulted in committee reports only, with no official action. The increase in fees and cut in expenses had stabilized the financial situation.

In presenting the Knollin award to Emil Hartzell at the banquet, Loyal commented, "...the winning sheep looked very much like those raised by my father fifty years ago." There was so much enthusiasm over the success of the type conference and sale at Ohio that plans were laid to make it an annual event - avoiding, however, the state fair season. Will McKerrow was elected president and Joe Lavieri vice-president.



William A. McKerrow  
1967 - 1969

Thus came to pass another of the historical chain of events linking the McKerrow 'Clan' with the Shropshire Association. As we have seen, the only state to produce father-son Shrop presidents (not once, but three times), was the Badger State of Wisconsin, so this land of lakes and dairy cows was the only place lightning struck three times. When Will McKerrow took the gavel from Bob Thurman he followed his grandfather George and his father Gavin as Shropshire presidents.

But that rare feat was not the only similarity. Like his forebears, 'Will' also served as president of the Oxford Sheep Association and the American Guernsey Cattle Club; judged sheep and dairy cattle at many big shows and succeeded his father as the head of the Golden Guernsey Cooperative for eight years. He went beyond these 'family traditions' to serve as president of the American Sheep Producers Council and was on the Wisconsin Board of Agriculture.

He started with his sisters in 4H in the 1930's, attended the University of Wisconsin a year and then managed the McKerrow dairy and sheep operations for 32 years. He still found time for activities in his church, on the school board, state livestock organizations, Farm Bureau and the Republican Party and was honored by both the University and the Wisconsin 4H Foundation.

After the election of new directors and with a quorum present, the board set to work. They designated Chicago for the 1968 show, but started plans for "another" location for 1970. A committee was appointed to plan a na-

tional sale in Illinois the following summer and, at this meeting, NOVEMBER 9, 1967, THE SHROPSHIRE RAM CERTIFICATION PROGRAM WAS INSTITUTED.

Recognition should be accorded here to the true founder of the Shropshire performance programs. Lowell Douce, from Washington Court House, Ohio, a graduate geneticist and livestock feed dealer took Farrell Shultz's place on the board in 1957 and attended nearly every meeting until he retired in 1975 after 18 years of duty. His extensive research, workable mechanics and persistent 'campaigning' gave Shrops two of the earliest and most fundamentally sound performance rating tools in the industry.

Arriving in Chicago in 1968 the directors were cheered with the news that a profit of over \$1,000 had been made for the year. Mrs. Ritenour was officially complimented for her part in this improvement.

The by-laws were amended at the Annual Meeting. Major points were:

Eligibility for directorship was clarified, specifying that candidates be Shropshire breeders who **regularly** recorded sheep.

Made each newly elected board (not the membership) responsible for electing the president and vice-president; requiring that those candidates must have served the **previous** three years on the board.

The first president chosen under this new system was Will McKerrow for his second term. The intent of these amendments was to achieve continuity of leadership but the immediate result forced the naming of a new vice-president. Although Joe Lavieri had been a member of the board for five years from 1956 through 1961 and had been returned, and elected vice-president in 1967, the '**previous** three years' requirement resulted in the election of Doug Chambers to replace Mr. Lavieri, who continued as a director until he retired in late 1973.

At the conclusion of his nine years as director and one as vice-president, a resolution was placed in the minutes "commending Joe Lavieri for his years of service as a member of the board and his dedication to the Shropshire breed."

A very busy New England industrialist, he, his brother and their families operate Sterling Engineering, a specialized machine-tooling company in Winsted, Connecticut. Since the late 1940's Joe Lavieri has been responsible for bringing into his region the best available blood lines in America (he was the first to introduce the new English strains into the northeast), and he willingly shared these rich resources with other breeders, in particular the University of Connecticut. For over four decades every local, regional or national program for the betterment of Shropshires has counted on the full support of this warm and friendly man.

By the time of the 1969 meetings it was painfully obvious that the Association faced a major dilemma: income from registrations and transfers had fallen \$2,100 during the year, causing assets to drop nearly \$1,600. The secretary had prepared detailed comparative studies and pointed out that our major, seemingly uncontrollable expense was the extra help required because most work was submitted in June and July; and of those received in 1969 over 750 were marked 'RUSH'. An experimental inducement of lower fees for work submitted 'off season' had no effect during 1968 or 1969.

Apparently the national sales (one was held at Ken-

ton, Ohio, in conjunction with the Ohio Breeders Sale in 1969) were not attracting enough quality consignments or buyer interest so, by a show of hands at the banquet, it was decided not to schedule a sale in 1970. There was much discussion about length of fleece, and a motion resulted in notifying all fairs awarding Shrop trophies, "That it be on record that the Association favors exhibiting Shropshires in short fleece." This was amended later to specify "one inch or less."

The new board met the following morning, December 4, 1969, in the Little Gallery of the Stock Yard Inn and Doug Chambers was elected president. During the preliminary discussions relating to the hiring of a secretary, Mrs. Ritenour expressed concern for her future, both with regard to the financial 'pinch' in the Shrop office and (because of age) her employability elsewhere. She was excused from the room and a traumatic deliberation ensued. Director Everett Glasgow offered to take on the task of trying to reverse the dangerously eroding financial situation. He proposed that his wife, Elizabeth Glasgow (who had secretarial training and experience and 'was anxious to get back to work') be hired as secretary, and that the office be moved to Monticello, Illinois. He estimated that they could save on rent in the smaller town, could use his own farm insurance for "Libby" (Mrs. Glasgow) and cut enough extra help to save at least \$2,000 per year. He offered to represent the Association at Shropshire sales and shows at his own expense "because he would be there anyway."

A motion was finally approved to notify Mrs. Ritenour that she would immediately be free to look for other work, but that not later than March 1, 1970 she would have to be terminated and the office moved to Illinois. The VERY reluctant new president was delegated to 'break the tragic news' and negotiate all details of the change-over.

Throughout her years of service Mrs. Ritenour established an enviable record for promptness in 'paper work' and was respected by all board members, holding down costs toward the end by working weekends and nights at the office although she was on a monthly salary. Why, then was she not rehired?

It was because of the very awareness of her ceaseless toil, efforts 'above and beyond' what could reasonably be expected of any employee, especially one approaching retirement age on a near-minimum salary and with no provision for retirement benefits.

The building pressures, the disappointing downslide in numbers, the obvious inability of the Association to reward her faithfulness or provide for her future simply forced a caring group of her admirers to admit their incapacity to promise more and to 'turn her loose' while she still had a chance to find a job worthy of her talent. There was a tremendous sense of relief when she was hired by the American Yorkshire Club, with offices in the same building.

Mrs. Jessie Ritenour, and her new boss, Wilbur Pflager, were guests of honor at the banquet in 1970. On behalf of the Association, Everett Glasgow presented her with a corsage and gift certificate.

## Chapter 13

### CHICAGO - "HAIL AND FAREWELL"

Late in February, 1970, Libby and Everett Glasgow, assisted by Kent Flora, sorted through 85 years of accumulation in the Lafayette office, disposed of the non-essentials and moved the remainder to the bright, newly-renovated office just off the town square in Monticello, Illinois. Everett donated a small refrigerator and other furnishings to provide a hospitable atmosphere for visitors. No longer was the Shropshire theme song "Back Home Again in Indiana."



*Elizabeth R. Glasgow*  
Secretary 1970 - 1984

Elizabeth 'Libby' Glasgow was a town-girl who grew up across the street from the high school in Monticello. She was a secretary when she married Everett in 1942 and moved to the farm. As Everett says, "Her handwriting has been on the barn charts ever since." Their gracious home has been a haven of rest for this scribe on numerous visits enroute to or from the International, North American or Spectacular. Her quiet, efficient, friendly way, her ability to "get along with everybody" has continued the tradition of her predecessors. Her records of meetings are in the mold of Jessie Ritenour - complete, but all business!

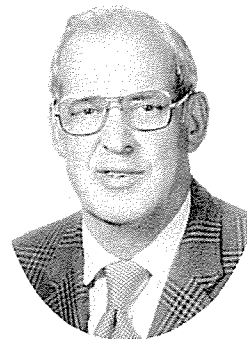
The policy of holding summer board meetings began in July, 1970, at the Hartzell farm near Greenville, Ohio, following their biennial production sale. Ten directors attended. The secretary reported that the transfer of location and administration apparently had caused no serious problems or drop in registration. A motion was adopted recommending to the membership that the Association be reorganized in the state of Illinois and that the Indiana corporation be dissolved, thus avoiding the Indiana gross profit tax.

Vice-president Flora handled the summer meeting but the new president conducted the Chicago sessions in December, 1970. The 73 members attending unanimously approved the resolution dissolving the Indiana charter, transferring all assets and memberships to Illinois and

adopting the existing By-laws to the new corporation.

The incumbent officers were reelected. It was announced that the new policy of summer board meetings would continue in 1971 at the biennial McKerrow sale and that the next International would feature the first National Ladies' Lead competition.

Douglas W. Chambers, Illahe Farm, Salem, Oregon, is a city boy who 'backed into' the purebred sheep business. After college and combat service as an armored artillery officer he became the third-generation livestock buyer and feed lot operator for his family's meat packing plant, eventually becoming president-manager. From 1960, when the plant was sold, until 1980, he and his wife owned and operated a livestock buying station.



*Douglas W. Chambers*  
1969 - 1971

In 1948 Doug rented a farm and started a commercial flock, planning to use Shropshire rams. He developed and began using a performance rating system on every ewe; basically the same scoring has been used for 35 years. Unable to find the large open-faced rams he'd seen in his boyhood, or purebred flocks with performance records, he began buying 'off type' (because they could see) ewes from western Shrop breeders and in 1952 started using McKerrow and Brown rams with production backgrounds, later selecting from the Shultz flock.

The commercial flock is still an integral part of the Chambers operation, heavily used for ram testing and production of market show lambs. In 1970, when the program expanded to an outdoor-year-around, hill-farm system, North Country Cheviots were used in the cross. Again, unable to find the kind of proven breeding he sought, Doug imported a flock from Alberta, Canada and became a breeder (president 1975 - 1980) of North Country Cheviots. He sold these in 1982.

Illahe Shropshires have competed at the major western shows and in the mid-west but Doug derives greatest satisfaction from the five Silver Medal Sire certificates on his wall and (after nine completed cut-out test nominations) the achievement of 'ipse #1', the first Shropshire Certified Meat Sire.

The 1971 Chicago board meeting was devoted to the Performance Registry, in which participation had doubled

in one year, and the Ram Certification programs. Minor modifications were put into effect in an attempt to simplify applications and encourage more participation. The Illinois Shropshire Breeders Association offered to host a National Sale at Springfield on July 24, 1972. The directors accepted and this sale became the very successful and currently popular 'Spectacular.'

The big excitement for Shrop people at the 1971 International was provided by vivacious Ruth Jorstad, daughter of Edith and Wes Jorstad, breeders from Morris, Illinois. She first earned her way to the final five in Ladies' Lead then paraded the tanbark of the historic amphitheater with her obedient Shropshire ewe to win a universally popular championship before the capacity crowd and TV cameras. Ruth and her family were honored guests of the directors at a victory dinner in the Sirloin Room.

Kent Flora replaced Doug Chambers as president and Joe Lavieri and 'Buzz' Henderson co-sponsored a motion to retain Everett Glasgow as official Fieldman and that his salary be kept at \$1.00 per year; a collection was taken to raise the fund. At this November 30, 1971 board meeting the SHROPSHIRE SILVER AND GOLD MEDAL SIRE PROGRAM was adopted.



*Kent A. Flora*  
1971 - 1973

Kent A. Flora, Fairmount, Illinois, started his 4H Shropshire project in 1959; twelve years later, and only five years after graduation from the University of Illinois, he became the youngest president in Association history. He later discovered that his great-grandfather, Henry Puzey, had a registered Shrop flock in the late 1800's, which might have accounted for his vitality and unbounded enthusiasm for the breed. It was Kent who christened the National Sale in Illinois the 'Spectacular.'

After his father's untimely death Kent took over the 1,600-acre operation of one of the finest corn-soybean farms in east-central Illinois. He was president of the Illinois Shropshire Association before assuming the national title. With three school-age sons, Kent's primary activities to date have involved schools, citizens' advisory councils, school board president and University Extension Advisory Council. He was named Jaycee Outstanding Young Farmer and had devoted much volunteer effort to school-park and playground development.

During the summer meeting at Hartzell's, Performance Committee chairman Douce reported another increase in P.R. registrations, that three rams were nominated in the Certification program and the first Shrop ram was qualified for Silver Medal Sire.

The 1972 Annual Meeting was held in the Matador Room of the Stock Yard Inn. After reelecting Kent Flora

the directors voted unanimously, when rehiring Mrs. Glasgow, to make it a matter of record "that they deeply appreciate the secretary's time and efforts."

'Buzz' Henderson replaced Kent Flora at the Chicago meeting in 1973. Bancroft W. Henderson, Jr., Rocky Meadows Farm, Wakefield, Rhode Island, became the fourth animals scientist to serve as president. He graduated from Iowa State College in animal husbandry and received his Ph.D. in physiology from Rutgers University. For 35 years he was professor of Animal Science at the University of Rhode Island.



*Bancroft W. Henderson, Jr.*  
1973 - 1975

His father had a flock of Shrops in the 1950's and purchased one of the English rams imported by Gavin McKerrow. 'Buzz' started a small commercial hot-house lamb operation in 1950, then began his Shropshire flock with the purchase of a Titus ram and two Penn State ewes at the 1967 Ohio National Sale. While 'Buzz' represented the Hendersons on the board of directors, the Rocky Meadows Shropshires were strictly a husband and wife affair; Mrs. Henderson (Lesley) attended all the sales and influenced many of the purchases. For several years they bought most of the top ewes at McKerrow's, Hartzells and other major sales. Their breeding program was so successful that in 1972 they received the Knollin award for the best five head at the International.

The 1974 summer meeting at Hartzell's was concerned with lamb test programs and sales. Attempts were being made by Sam Washburn's Advancement Committee to get several midwest universities to conduct rate-of-gain-per-pound-of-feed and carcass evaluation trials. Purdue University ultimately conducted a three-year test using rams of four breeds. Because of higher weaning percentages and better feed conversion, Shrops rated highest in several economically important categories.

It was reported that 81 head sold at the 1974 'Spectacular' for an average price of \$173. After much discussion about sponsoring a National Show and Sale at the Ohio State Fair, it was the consensus that late August or September was too late for buying stud rams. 'Sheep Breeder' editor Larry Mead, sitting in as a guest, agreed, saying that all breeds were having the greatest success with early sales.

Five former presidents were among the 47 members and guests present at the 1974 meeting in the Matador Room. In its 10th year, the Knollin award was presented to the winner, Charles Slagle, by Sam Washburn, nephew of the donor, Loyal Knollin. The directors named the incumbent officers for another term and accepted the invitation to have their summer meeting in conjunction with the



Illinois 'Spectacular' sale.

On June 20, 1975, following the banquet at the Sheraton Motor Inn, Danville, Illinois, an open meeting was held, and an indication of things to come surfaced when a letter was read from the North American Livestock Exposition, Louisville, Kentucky, asking for recommendations for a Shropshire judge.

That trend continued when the board, meeting later that year in Chicago, voted to recommend that the 1976 Annual Meeting be held at the time of the Shropshire show at the North American. The December 1, 1975, Annual Meeting and Shropshire show were the last held in Chicago. Meeting later that evening, the directors elected C.E. Hartzell, president, and raised registration fees to \$2.50.

C. Emil Hartzell, Greenville, Ohio, was an active Shropshire breeder and promoter for 49 years. He started his 4H flock in 1929 with two ewe lambs from the Plesinger Livestock Company. As the flock grew in numbers and quality he began a life-time career in diversified agriculture. Hartzell Shrops first competed at the Ohio State Fair in 1948 and from then until his death in 1978 at age 63, he was a leading prize winner at Ohio, Keystone, the International and North American.



C. Emil Hartzell  
1975 - 1977

In 1966, a few years after Farrell Shultz dispersed his flock and left a vacancy in the alternate-year, Wisconsin-Ohio production sales, Emil held his first production sale. For twelve years he alternated, exhibiting one year, selling the next. Many of the sheep in the sales were from the flock of Elwin Newcomer, with whom Emil had a mutually beneficial exchange program. These sales, which attracted national attention, produced dozens of sheep that won major prizes for their buyers and were influential in new breeding programs.

In addition to his long service as a board member and officer of the national association, Emil was president of the Ohio Shropshire Breeders and Ohio Sheep Improvement Associations and board member of the American Sheep Producers Council. He was Darke County Commissioner for seven years and on the Farm Bureau and FHA boards. Because of his humble beginnings and struggle to reach the top, he was always eager to encourage beginners and helped start many new Shropshire flocks. Fortunately for the Shropshire breed, the foundation flock remained intact and has been ably improved and carried on in the Hartzell tradition under the guidance of his son, Robert, and his family.

The 1976 summer meeting was held after the Hartzell sale. There was inconclusive discourse on changing

the type of eartag and the need to revise the Standard of Excellence before printing a new judging guide. It was also announced that the McKerrow family was going to offer a perpetual trophy and asked the board to determine the class and the show where it would be given annually. It was decided to award the McKerrow Family Perpetual Trophy at the North American for best five-head flock bred and owned by exhibitor. The 1976 Annual Meeting was scheduled to be a noon luncheon during the North American Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky.

We have tried to soft-pedal the show aspect of this history but THE International was so entwined with the story of the Shropshire Association - with **any** breed society - that it should not be left to fade away without an attempt to describe it, and what it meant to world livestock development during the first three quarters of the 20th century. Animal breeders and scientists came, often as judges, from the British Isles, Europe, South America, 'down under' - literally wherever men sought meat animal improvement - to marvel at the evolution of America's breeding and feeding achievements.

Agricultural Fairs are as old as the records of civilized man; it is known that Phoenicians and Romans established times and places on main trade routes to exhibit and barter handicrafts and agricultural goods. The modern-day fair had its origin in the Tees Valley of northern England in the mid-1700's, where breeders brought livestock to compare types and honor the best.

The forerunner of the International was the American Fat Stock Show, under the supervision of the Illinois State Board of Agriculture. The first show was in 1877 at a site on Chicago's lake front where the Art Institute is now located. A decline in the prosperity of livestock feeders and the ejection of the exhibition from its valuable lake front setting during the early 1890's closed the Fat Stock Show.

As mentioned in chapter three, Shropshire secretary Levering presided at the 1899 organizational meeting for the International, and among the other five founders was Shrop breeder G. Howard Davison. Writing in the 'Breeders Gazette', correspondent Will Goodwin soared to fluent heights in his description of the first International in 1900:

"Since the fabled touch of Alladin's lamp, nothing comparable in astonishing results has been conjured up out of seeming impossibilities. Chicago afforded the theatre for this demonstration. The Union Stock Yard and Transit Company staged it. The breeders and feeders of the continent furnished the actors. A unity of purpose and effort between the producers and market men leaped into life as sincere and effective as it had hitherto been unprecedented."

Looking back at its first half century, an observer in the 1950's wrote: "The International set the pace for the spectacular changes that have come over the past fifty years from the wastey, tallow-laden steer ranging from three to five years of age, which was commonly seen on the markets a half century ago, to the modern day yearling and two-year-old, yielding cuts of handy-weight size and carrying a desirable proportion of lean to fat. In more recent years, the International has established the pattern for the modern day meat-type hog; and the handy-weight lamb has replaced the less profitable, less palatable mutton sheep."

The whole conglomerate was owned and managed by the Union Stockyard and Transit Company of Chicago; the stockyards, the Exchange Building, the Livestock Re-

cords Building, the Livestock National Bank, the Stock Yard Inn, the Amphitheater and the huge, four block long barn complex, part of which had two floors.

My first visit to the Shropshire show at the Chicago Invitational Livestock Exposition was in 1957. The passing years make it increasingly hard to separate genuine impressions from fantasy, especially the glamorous, pulsa-

ting Stock Yard Inn. The sheep show was at the far south end of the complex, requiring one to pass, enroute, the amphitheater, the draft horse barn, and the two-blocks-long row on row of beef cattle stalls bulging with thick, fat Shorthorns, Herefords and Angus, to the alleys and ring-side where the last of the great names of the mid-century Shropshire elite mingled as they critiqued the show.



*The Chicago International Livestock Exposition  
Stock Yard Inn (left), Amphitheater (white), Cattle and Sheep Barns (right).*

Who can forget the ominous, thunder-like rumble as the mighty six-horse hitches burst from under the stands, the jangle of straining harness, cracking whips and crescendo of the drivers' shouts to their lead teams as the wagons wheeled and teetered perilously around the arena; or the spine-tingling suspense as the hushed, standing-room-only crowd of supporters of the three beef breeds awaited the traditional grand champion 'rump slap' by the British steer judge, and the instantaneous bedlam for the decision that meant next years' ascendancy for the winning breed and thousands of dollars in endorsements to the lucky breeder and feed and supplement companies; or the throngs of noisy, colorful cowboys, commission men, stockmen from across the continent, pipe-smoking professors and the formally dressed 'high society horsey set' all living it up in the teeming Inn. There is no doubt about it; I experienced the International in its prime!

I should never have gone back! It was only ten years later, in 1968, but the comparison was shocking. I attended six more years, including 1975 - the finale. It was like watching a loved one waste away from cancer. The International was the foster-child of the stockyards and was like an old sheep dog, the faithful companion who just pines away when the master is gone.

The number of decisions affecting the course of Shropshire history that were made during hundreds of meetings, official and otherwise, in and around the International are beyond estimation. Nor will the impact of judging at THE Exposition ever be appreciated. The mystique of the International, the vortex for all the great show herds, flocks and fat stock from the U.S. and Canada, the youth congresses and judging contests, the magnet for all the college men; and, above all, the correlation with the adjoining marketing and meat packing industry, exerted a profound, and mostly beneficial influence on American

meat animal improvement. Certainly no aspiring showman-breeder, regardless of his impregnability on the big state fair circuits, could legitimately lay claim to greatness without proving it at Chicago!

Those who never saw it in its hey-day may be interested in a brief description of the Stock Yard Inn: built soon after the International started, it was of Tudor-style architecture (modelled after the Harvard House in Stratford-on-Avon, England) half-timbered and stucco with leaded glass windows. The lobby was small.



*The Stock Yard Inn*

Entering from the barns a visitor passed small meeting rooms (Little Gallery, Lipton), turned the corner past enlargements of photos and prints of by-gone eras, then

four larger meeting rooms (Harvest, Matador, Postillion, Four Seasons) and the main dining room, the Sirloin Room, whose haughty maitre d' seemed unable to find a table unless liberally tipped in advance. (The Sirloin Room has been moved intact to nearby Comiskey Park).

The world-famous center of attraction, opposite the registration desk and huge stone fireplace, was the ceiling-high Swiss performing clock in an elaborately carved cabinet - and nearby the tack-room for the kilted Scottish bagpipers that 'trouped the halls' several times a day. The bar, a lounge, the Stock Yard Grill, news stand, gift shop, drug store and Western Union office flanked the hallway to the street entrance. This was directly across Halsted street from the legendary 'George's Tavern,' where tankards of beer and inexpensive but excellent snacks drew the shepherds and herdsman as does an English pub.

As a stockyard man myself I was most impressed with the attractions down the intersecting corridor leading to the bank and Exchange Building. In 1957 there were 20 telephones lining the walls - all being used - and I carefully noted the barber shop; 13 barbers and 8 shoe-shiners frantically trying to keep ahead of the waiting crowds. Beyond was the western outfitting store, packed with newly 'cash-happy' stockmen bent on indulging a big city extravagance or finding a gift for the family.

On the second floor were 'the rooms.' Although most were tiny and dark, with no toilets or bath, they were so convenient that the colleges and old timers reserved them for stock show time in perpetuity; they were like heirlooms, handed down from generation to generation. There was an overhead walkway from the dormitory area to the second floor of the show building. It didn't take long for a visitor without a pass and on a tight budget to learn that there was no doorman on this access.

The fabled heart-beat of 'the busiest square mile on earth,' the rendezvous for all greats and near-greats of the livestock industry, centered in the four halls and rooms on the top floor. The two large halls, 20 feet high, open-beamed, with dark stained woodwork, were replicas of the great halls of English manors; they comprised the Saddle and Sirloin Club and the Grand Ballroom, each able to accommodate over 300 diners (2,000 could be seated and served at the same time throughout the Inn).

Adjacent to these halls were two smaller rooms, the 'Prince Memorial' and the hallowed 'Sanctum Sanctorum.' Until the declining years, admission to these exclusive enclaves was restricted to members of the Saddle and Sirloin Club. The enduring fame of this organization derives from its portrait gallery. In 1903, Robert B. Ogilvie, secretary of the American Clydesdale Association, and International founder, started commissioning portraits of

the influential breeders, meat packing, marketing, record society and academic leaders. The 'sanctum' was reserved for the great men of other times, mostly British. In the place of honor hung the painting of Robert Bakewell astride his sorrel pony.



*Entrance foyer of the Saddle & Sirloin Club  
Stock Yard Inn, Chicago*

When the fire destroyed the Inn more than 300 priceless paintings were lost. Frederick H. Prince, nationally prominent financier and chairman of the Stockyard and Transit company ordered immediate reconstruction and contributed heavily to the task. In the ensuing 18 months artist Robert Grafton was able to reproduce 164 portraits. After his death, four other portraitists followed and by 1976 over 280 famous faces again lined the gallery walls.

It is of singular relevance to this story that twelve men closely associated with Shropshire sheep hang among these honored few:

#### Presidents

Jess C. Andrew  
Walter Costella Coffey  
G. Howard Davison  
John Dryden  
Richard Gibson  
William F. Renk  
George McKerrow

H. Noel Gibson, Vice-pres.  
Mortimer Levering, Sec.  
Breeders  
Will Dryden  
John Miller  
Robert F. Miller

The second crisis for the portrait gallery came after the closing of all major packing plants in Chicago, the moving of the stockyards to Joliet, the permanent closing of the International and the impending demolition of the Stock Yard Inn. The fate of the pictures is revealed in the next chapter.



## Chapter 14

### BREED TYPE AT THE NORTH AMERICAN - THE BLACK KNIGHT

The Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center is an immense modern facility, more capacious and handy than the Chicago International. The ambitious and apparently well-financed legislature and exposition management, which had been flexing their muscles and watching the death throes of the old International, now turned on the 'blue grass' charm and hospitality to entice tradition-bound breed associations diagonally southward across Indiana to Louisville, home of the Kentucky Derby, mint juleps and the North American Livestock Exposition.

Step by step the transition took place in less than four years; two years before the International closed, the National Suffolk Association was the first sheep society to move its national show and meeting, then the 1975 announcement of Chicago's demise severed the final cord of loyalty and the 1976 North American hosted practically every breed association.

Simultaneously, the Kentuckians came to the rescue of the Stockman's Hall of Fame. They offered to provide a central location, safe keeping and careful maintenance of the portraits, exposure to more than two million livestock and agriculturally oriented visitors each year, plus carrying on the tradition of adding pictures of livestock 'greats' from time to time. Therefore, in early 1977, the Saddle and Sirloin Club voted to move the gallery to Kentucky. It is now housed in the West Hall of the fairgrounds (Minton Hall) and the Executive Inn West.

Finally, after a respectful period of 'mourning', the word International was quietly inserted after North American; henceforth, 'International Livestock Exposition' connoted Louisville, Kentucky.

Before resuming the story of American Shropshires and changing type-trends within the breed we may gain a better perspective by reviewing the evolution in all meat animal characteristics during the third quarter of the 20th century. When the move to Louisville took place, twenty years had elapsed since this writer described the predominance of the wide, low-set, deep-twisted, smooth Shorthorns, Herefords and Angus at Chicago. While concentrating on the portrayal of mid-century Shropshires, it should be pointed out that Southdowns, Oxfords and particularly Hampshires, had followed the same "compact" trend. With the exception of longer, thicker ears and heavier bone, most Hamps east of the Missouri River resembled Shrops; they were not much larger, were wooly-faced, squat and thick. The most descriptive term for all these animals was early maturity; they 'peaked', or stopped rapid structural growth at the then-optimum weight and additional pounds were inefficiently produced fat.

It is unimportant which influences, or in what order, in the post-war period caused the radical change in type and erased the sentimental reverence of status quo. From the consumer viewpoint dieticians began admonishing against animal fat; self-serve, point-of-sale chain merchandising demanded a higher percent of red meat, and the economics of processing favored less waste and heavier market weights.

At the production level more efficient feed conversion, greater use of roughage and rigid carcass weight and grade specifications were forced on high-volume, low-margin feed lots so that cheaper pounds of lean replaced costly 'prime' as the goal. Animal scientists claimed that dairy steers, or dairy-beef crosses, were more desirable in certain feeding situations than traditional beef strains because of better roughage utilization, a higher ratio of lean to fat, later maturity and more growth potential.

A 1976 tour of the beef alleys in the west wing of the North American revealed a world apart from my first (1957) Chicago International; cattle of many new colors; silver, blue and mottled, built to resemble the conformation, musculature and condition of a working quarter horse - angular, long-legged, high tail-set, with visible, rippling muscles under sleek thin hides. Where were the endless rows of mellow, curly-haired Whitefaces or the boxlike Blackies?

Some Beef Shorthorns might have integrated with their cousins, the Milking Shorthorn; the black dominance of the Angus possibly camouflaged some illicit dallying with Holsteins and the Hereford could have borrowed some needed modern traits from look-alike Simmentals. Considering the three to four-year generational time-lapse for cattle, I cynically doubt that the dramatic changes seen in such a few years resulted from pure intra-breed selection. During the change-over a whole menagerie of new names appeared; Charolais, Chianina, Limousin - the 'exotics'.

Propelled by commercial pressures, which should be the major stimulant to the purebred industry, change had just begun when a new fad materialized; a 'Fad' is defined as "a temporary, usually irrational pursuit or fashion by numbers of people that excites attention and has prestige." In typical human reaction certain breeders, showmen and judges decided that if 'cleaner, taller and longer' was a step in the right direction then the more extreme an individual could be made to appear in these features the better it was. In sheep, not only type but show-fitting underwent a complete revolution. Breed character was largely overlooked.

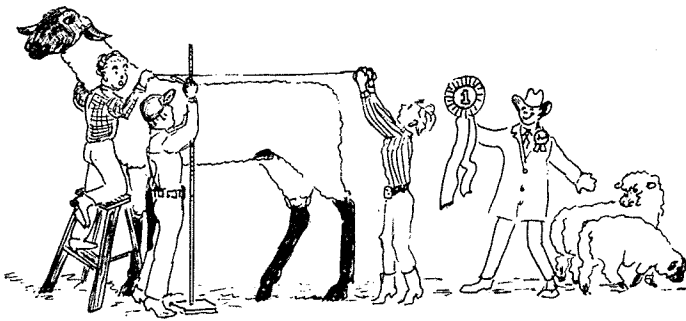
Over-reaction occurred nation-wide; the ripple effect caused by "modern" judging opinions and the huge premiums paid for breeding animals with extreme phenotype washed over the shows and sales of America - tape measures replaced scales, feed efficiency and carcass quality as the criterion for excellence. The pendulum swung from early maturing to never maturing.

*Is there economic merit in long necks, high shoulders, hollow bellies, tight skins and exaggerated length and elevation (long legs)?*

*Are these kinds of animals productive, profitable, hardy, long-lived; are they always 'best' for the commercial industry, hobby flocks and club members?*

*Do they produce the most desirable carcass for the consumer?*





These are the kinds of questions the purebred industry, **particularly Shropshire people**, should have answered, or tested in the performance programs sponsored by the Association, before abandoning or diluting the genetic traits that have been built into their seed stock by two centuries of practical farmers, breeders and shepherds.

In contrast to cattle, imported exotic sheep had no direct impact in show or sale rings, although a reference to their indirect influence will follow shortly. Several gene pools (and probably combinations of them in recent years) were available for modernization of the meat breeds. Shropshire breeders returned to England for 'throw-backs' to their 19th century ancestors. Southdowns were 'modernized' by an influx of New Zealand strains that had remained, under field conditions, much larger and longer-bodied than their U.S. counterparts. Hampshires turned west, where the big stud flocks that were not exhibiting at shows had been forced by their commercial customers to maintain upstanding, open-faced, rugged, muscular types.

But the phenomenon that really revolutionized the U.S. sheep industry was the 'Black Knight' - the Suffolk! While they were a relatively well established breed, first officially recognized in England in 1886, for some reason Suffolks were not popular during the warping show-fad that set back the other meat breeds during the first half of the 20th century. They were only briefly mentioned in text books and rarely seen in the United States until a few appeared during the 1920's and '30s. Why this prolific, fast-growing, muscular breed did not 'catch hold' is a mystery, but they were never influenced by the trend toward typiness and early maturity that afflicted Shropshires, Hampshires, Southdowns and Oxfords.

The Suffolk was as near the answer to the post-war ideal as could be found, and commercial breeders dropped most of their traditional supply sources and changed to Suffolks or Suffolk crosses, many of dubious quality. The effect of this new demand was sensational for Suffolk

breeders, nearly disastrous for most others. Large numbers of second- and third-generation family Shropshire flocks were replaced by Suffolks.

Once again we see the validity of Dean Coffey's theory on breed prosperity: "...demand for the products yielded by the class of animals to which the breed belongs, and...the degree of energy and enthusiasm possessed by the main group of breeders supporting the breed." By 1970 nearly every agricultural college in America had a Suffolk flock.

This popularity and the resulting high prices and glamour associated with this clean-cut, stylish newcomer immediately attracted the promoters and faddists. Stud rams, selected solely for their physical appearance, were brought into some leading purebred flocks from the unregistered, field-mated commercial ram operations in the inter-mountain west to effect more rapid transition.

And now we can go back to the circuitous influence of new sheep breeds. In search of something new and exciting after the Suffolks were 'settled in', many universities and experiment stations in the late 1960's replaced their 'minor breed' research flocks with 'litter bearers', predominantly Finnish Landrace. In 1959 Shropshires were removed from the college judging classes at the International, and as the old professors and shepherds who had raised Shropshires and knew their sterling qualities as middle-of-the-road, farm-flock profit-makers, retired or passed away the young teachers and judging coaches in most parts of the country had little or no opportunity to understand the respective attributes and singular characteristics of Shropshires, Southdowns and Cheviots. Many, with no personal experience with these breeds, were inclined to use the universally popular Suffolk as a role-model for all breeds in their assignments at major shows and sales and in training their young students, who soon were active at county and district fairs.

As related in chapter five, when referring to type changes in 1911, Dr. J.L. Towar asked: "Can it be that the frequent winning by Southdowns in the fat classes is influencing the Shropshire breeders to imitate the smaller breeds?"

**Seventy-five years later** that question can be updated: "Has the success and popularity of the 'Black Knight' caused Shropshire judges and breeders to mimic it?" The answer, I think, is self-evident.

The North American International Livestock Exposition did not cause the alterations in type but, like its predecessor in Chicago, it is the show case, the opinion-maker - trend-setter, the focal point for all major breeders, judges and teachers who are drawn there to witness the latest 'fashions' on parade.



## Chapter 15

### ON THE GO! - 1976 to 1984

The first board meeting held in Louisville, Kentucky was at the Holiday Inn South on November 16, 1976, with all twelve directors present. On invitation from west coast breeders, the board voted to hold the next national show and annual meeting at the Grand National Livestock Exposition in the Cow Palace, San Francisco, California. After the initial North American Shropshire show 92 members and guests attended the luncheon meeting in East Hall at the Exposition Center. Mrs. Gavin McKerrow made the first presentation of the family perpetual trophy to the winner, Roger Snyder.

The 1977 National Show at the Cow Palace featured 'The Classic,' a novel event for Performance Registered ram lambs; one third of the score derived from his official P.R. rating, one third from his average daily gain from P.R. weigh-date to show time, and one third the results of consensus judging by all Association members attending the show. After the final tabulations the thirteen entries were realigned in the arena for a type-conference discussion. A ram owned by Karen Groverman, of California, won all three categories and was later named grand champion of the show by judge Ron Guenther.

The banquet was held downtown in San Francisco's landmark 'Omar Khayyam' Armenian restaurant, and featured many gourmet native lamb dishes; each serving described by owner Haig Mardekian. Fruit baskets prepared by the Californians were given to all midwestern and eastern visitors. At the board meeting the next morning in the Red Room of the headquarters Manx Motel, Sam Washburn succeeded Emil Hartzell as president. 'Libby' Glasgow was rehired as secretary and a special commendation was given to Everett Glasgow for his untiring efforts as unpaid field man.



Samuel H. Washburn  
1977 - 1979

Samuel H. Washburn, Fowler, Indiana, is the grandnephew of A.J. Knollin, the 1914-16 Shropshire president (chapter six). Sam purchased the purebred flock from his uncle, Loyal Knollin (chapter 12), in 1969 and produced several national award winners.

After graduating from Hanover College and obtaining a Master of Science degree from Purdue, he began his busy livestock career. At one period he was finishing 15,000 market lambs annually and served as president of the National Lamb Feeders Association. The Fowler opera-

tion also included a purebred Charolais herd and several cattle feed lots. Sam was recognized as Indiana Master Farmer, Cattle Feeder of the Year, National Ford Farm Efficiency winner and later served as president of the American Charolais Breeders and the 245,000 member National Cattlemen's Associations.

In addition to this demanding schedule, Sam judged at state, regional and national sheep and cattle shows. His diverse knowledge of meat production, his energy and willingness to serve others led to his appointment as chairman of the National Cattlemen's Foreign Trade Committee, and he is currently on President Reagan's Advisory Committee on Trade Negotiations, having made many trips to Canada, Mexico, Europe, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. His constant travel and persistent losses to coyotes forced the sale of his Shropshires in 1982.

At the summer 1978 meeting the directors voted to designate the upcoming show at the North American as a National, a committee was appointed to organize a sale following the show, and \$500 was allocated for promoting these events.

The November board meeting in Louisville opened with a silent tribute to immediate past-president C. Emil Hartzell, who had died in September. Director B.W. Henderson announced that he and his wife were going to sponsor a traveling award to be known as the Emil Hartzell trophy. It would be given each year at the North American to the winner of the Best Pen of Three Lambs. An invitation was received from the Pacific International Livestock Exposition to hold a national show in Portland, Oregon in October, 1980.

The 1978 members' luncheon and meeting were held in the Hall of Fame Restaurant at the Kentucky Exposition Center. Robert Hartzell was elected to complete the unexpired term of his late father. At the evening board meeting after the sale all officers were reelected.

During the summer meeting in Bloomington, Illinois, the secretary announced that the Association was being forced to vacate the office; a motion authorized the Glasgows to negotiate for new quarters in Monticello. A proposal was also accepted to present an amendment to the by-laws at the next Annual Meeting.

President Washburn read and explained the proposed amendment to the 102 persons attending the luncheon and meeting in the Hall of Fame Restaurant on November 14, 1979; it increased the number of directors from twelve to fifteen and established regional representation. The amendment was unanimously approved as was a related motion that district boundaries (based on registrations) be reevaluated every three years by a committee of the board of directors. A proposal to institute a \$10.00 annual 'service fee' was defeated 31 to 4, but another motion to increase registration and transfer fees by 50¢ was approved.

Fred Groverman was elected president at the new board meeting, and the Penn-Mar Shropshire Club issued an invitation to hold a show and annual meeting at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania during the Keystone International in the near future.



*Dr. Frederick A. Groverman*  
1979 - 1981

After graduating with a veterinary degree from the University of California at Davis, Dr. Frederick A. Groverman, Petaluma, California, succeeded to a large Shropshire flock developed by his parents. The Grovermans operated a large turkey ranch in the heart of America's leading poultry center, and Fred's father started the first Shropshire in the mid-1930's to clean up the barn lots and provide a 4H project for his son. This was during the height of the wool-blind craze but Bernard Groverman, observing the acute aggravation to the sheep's eyes by grass seeds, immediately sought and selected for open-faced Shrops.

In remote Humboldt County on the north-California coast he located an old-type (clean-faced) inbred flock, from which he selected several rams, one of which proved to be prepotent in opening up the faces of his progeny. Then, in 1950, he imported the champion of the British Royal, an extremely long-bodied, bare-faced ram bred by the Belchers, of Tibberton. This ram, christened 'California New Type,' was bred for two years to 100 daughters of the 'Humboldt County throw-back.' Descendants of this foundation comprise the oldest open-faced Shropshire flock in America; one developed independently of the McKerrow and Shultz importations.

Bernard Groverman died suddenly of a heart attack during Fred's first year at college, but his brave and strong-willed mother, Ida, struggled to keep Fred in school, hold onto the farm and save the flock for her son. This writer was close to the situation and witnessed this remarkable example of hard work and dedication. Ida Groverman is a true pioneer woman - and a good Shropshire breeder!

Fred opened a veterinary clinic in nearby Cotati, took over operation of the farm and set about a busy career. He has been on 24-hour call with the local volunteer fire department for 25 years, active in 4H work, the Sonoma County Fair Board, president of the Petaluma Community Hospital and author of numerous sheep-health articles in national magazines. F. and P. Groverman Shrops are one of the leading proponents of production records.

The fall board meeting was held in Vancouver, Washington, just across the Columbia River from the Pacific International Livestock Exposition. Many potential visitors had serious qualms about coming west because Mt. St. Helens volcano - less than 50 miles away - had erupted the previous month and covered the region with ash. A letter was received from the Ohio Shropshire Breeders

inviting the Association to have a national show and sale - in observance of their 50th anniversary - at the State Fair in Columbus in 1982. The board accepted the offer.

The 1980 banquet was in the River Room of the Thunderbird Inn at the Quay, Vancouver, Washington, overlooking the Columbia River. Fifty members and guests were present. Meeting later, the board returned the same slate of officers and set plans for the 1981 nationals at the North American.

In the spring of 1981 a busy shepherd-showman, housewife, mother and music teacher (one person) embarked on an additional career as editor-publisher of 'The Shropshire Voice,' a breed newsletter that has continued publication three times a year through 1984. It contains articles of general interest, highlights a different Shrop flock in each issue, gives news of regional activities (the initial publication had stories from ten state organizations), official reports from the secretary and schedules of coming events. The first issue contained no advertising and consumed the entire promotional budget for the year, forcing the directors to decide if - and how - to continue this very popular, pride-building brochure; the single-handed effort of Margaret Hartzell (wife of Shrop director Bob), of Greenville, Ohio.

The board commended the promotion committee for starting the 'news letter' and authorized the solicitation of advertising and formation of a Shrop Booster Club whose annual donations would help underwrite its continuation. The first issue had 16 pages; the 2nd - 24 and, since the spring of 1982, 32 pages. The 'Voice' has remained self-supporting.

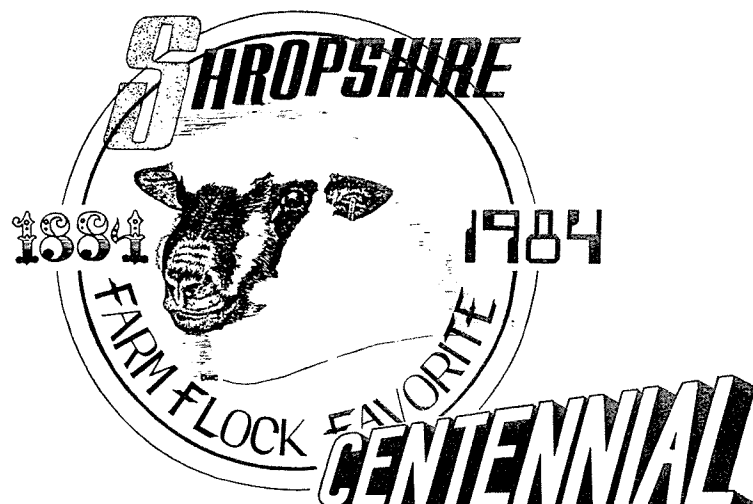
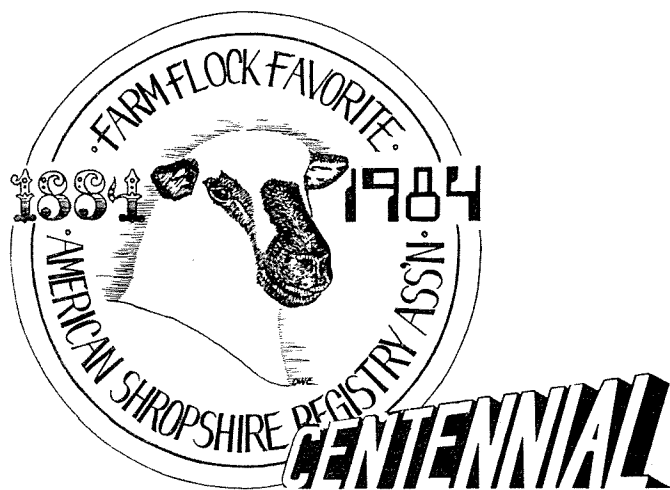
After hearing the report and recommendations of the centennial committee the directors voted to hold the Celebration at Louisville, Kentucky, in November, 1984; to encourage sponsorship of three regional shows as centennial 'kickoffs' and authorized the beginning of negotiations with the North American.

Sixty members and guests attended the November, 1981, banquet in the Pasado Room of the Holiday Inn, Louisville. During the Annual Meeting the first full report on the plans for the Centennial Celebration was presented and Ken Doehring, secretary of the Ohio Association, reported on the coming Nationals at the Ohio State Fair in August 1982. Ken Jorstad was elected as new president and transfer fees were increased from \$2.00 to \$3.00. The invitation tendered by the Penn-Mar Club to host the 1983 National show, sale and meeting was accepted.



*Kenneth W. Jorstad*  
1981 - 1983

Kenneth W. Jorstad, Newark, Illinois, comes from an active Shrop family. His father, Wes, has part of the flock and helped while Ken was in school and working off the



farm and (as mentioned in chapter 13), his sister, Ruth, won the first International Ladies Lead Class at Chicago in 1971. Ken started an F.F.A. Shrop project in 1965 with McKerrow and Ed Brown breeding. After graduation from Illinois State University, where he won the Hobart medal as the outstanding student in Agriculture, he taught Vocational Ag for two years before entering into partnership with his father on their 1,400-acre corn and soybean farm. The Shropshire flock has been built up to its present number of 50 ewes.

Ken has been active in the Illinois Shrop Association and was one of the early organizers of the Shrop Spectacular Sale, was on the national board for twelve years, has been an officer in Farm Bureau and judged many important shows, including the North American.

The 1982 Fall issue of 'The Voice' contained a complete resume of the 'National Weekend' at Columbus. It was generally agreed that the Ohio people outdid themselves on their 50th Anniversary with entertainment, hospitality and a great show, featuring over \$5,000 in premiums and 200 entries from coast to coast. During the banquet at the Quality Inn recognition was given to several long-time 'Buckeye' breeders, including a tribute and plaque to Ken Doehring, who had faithfully served as secretary for 25 years.

The board met at 10:30 p.m., the officers were re-elected and approval was granted for a nation-wide ballot system to select the Centennial judge.

The June board meeting in Bloomington produced a series of actions concerning the Centennial:

In 1984 the trophies normally presented by the National Association would be the responsibility of each region. This \$600 saving, plus a 1% surcharge on commissions at every Shrop sale for two years, were designed to create promotional funds.

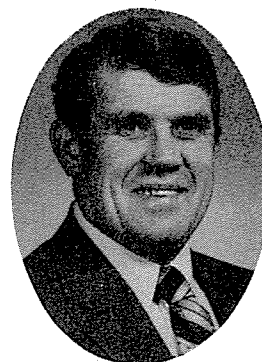
Official ram and ewe Centennial logos were approved.

Six Centennial Committees were named to take over the responsibilities from a four-member planning committee that had been working since its formation in 1980.

Authorization was given for regional Centennial 'Kickoff' shows at the Cow Palace in San Francisco in November, 1983 and the 1984 Illinois State Fair and Eastern States Exposition in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Sixteen years after the Ram Certification program was inaugurated, the directors received the first qualifying nomination and awarded the designation 'Shropshire Certified Meat Sire #1.'

The 1983 Annual Meeting followed a breakfast in the Farm Show Complex at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on November 5. A resolution was adopted expressing gratitude from the Association to the Penn-Mar Club for their splendid job of organizing the National events there. Three new directors were named to the board but after this election a quorum was lacking, so another meeting was scheduled during the North American two weeks later. With a quorum present at the Kentucky Exposition Center, Glenn High was elected president. More Centennial details were presented and discussed and \$350 was budgeted for the Shropshire booth. The promotion committee announced plans for just two issues of 'The Voice' in 1984; the first, to be mailed in May, would be supported by advertising and contain the new breeders' directory. In October the Centennial Souvenir History was scheduled for printing. It would have no advertising, being partially underwritten by patron donations.



Glenn A. High  
1984 -

Glenn A. High, Lexington, Ohio became the 44th American Shropshire Registry Association president. A helpful wife and his four children have allowed him to maintain his hectic dual-career. He started with an F.F.A. project in 1953 and has carefully developed his current flock of 60 Shrop ewes. He also carries 50 Targee and 20 Hampshire females and feeds steers on his 150-acre farm.



Glenn and his wife have been strong supporters of every major Shropshire national event from coast to coast and one of the strongest bulwarks in the Ohio Association.

In addition, for over 25 years Glenn has worked full shifts at the Fisher Body plant in nearby Mansfield, been a Township trustee for 15 years and, with his wife, serves as advisor to a large 4H club.

\*\*\*\*\*

Over 1,370,000 Shropshires have been registered by the American Association in the first hundred years. Less than a fourth as many were recorded last year as in 1894; and from its lofty 1934 ranking as the leading registry society in the world - all species included - annual transactions have dropped to sixth among sheep associations today.

Undeniably Shropshires have seen better times, but nothing is gained by wistfulness for past glories or defeatism for the present; we should utilize the past - not worship it. As Henry Kissinger points out: "The great danger of any policy is to project the present into the future. You have to base your bet on a judgement which cannot be proved true. This takes inward strength. It takes someone who is not worried by being alone a while."

Rather than pessimistic gloom, there is a real basis for a positive outlook. Statistics can be misleading and sheer numbers are not always the best gauge of quality or potential. A hundred years ago just eight men from within a 100-mile radius of a small midwestern town set this saga in motion; *"We met in an upper room of the old two-story building with six rooms....and a back wing for storage of grain....I fancy not one of the founders had any idea of what was to come from that small beginning..."*

Two years later there were less than 1,000 Shrops on the books, practically all of them from England. Of the eight founders only three had any real impact on the progress of the Association, and more specifically, the vision and dynamism of Secretary Levering alone probably accounted for more good than those 12,900 Shropshire registered in 1894.

Using such tenuous beginnings for comparison where does the American Shropshire Association stand today?

There are 350 flocks in 29 states with ten state or regional associations. With few exceptions Shropshire size and type has standardized (after the 'roller-coaster'

from the little woolies to the rough and bare-faced imports), into a recognizable, utilitarian, upper-medium-sized breed retaining the inherent easy-keeping qualities needed for the farm flock sheep industry of the coming years.

"On The Go" refers to the practice of moving national shows and meetings from California and the northwest to Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Ohio and the northeast, and the now traditional summer rendezvous at the Illinois 'Spectacular'. These exchanges, and articles in the 'Voice' about various flocks and regional activities, offer Shropshire people a much better opportunity to know about their fellow breeders and officers.

As you have followed the story of American Shropshires do you share a realization that every generation produced a few leaders who strongly influenced the destiny of both the sheep and the organization? This generation has seen the advent of a new, previously non-existent source of potential leadership as conscientious, capable women - in growing numbers - have filtered into the traditionally exclusionary all-male domain as expert flockmasters and exhibitors. As they participate, so should they be given voice, and the coming years will surely witness the distaff side as directors, major show judges and perhaps one day gracing the walls of the Portrait Gallery.

It is hard to "swim against the current" and resist the lure of fads, but in animal breeding there exists the individual potential, during a single lifetime, to "read the future" and fashion the vital, living image of one's dreams. If that creation also serves a useful purpose, if it ultimately proves to be a solid upward step in the evolution of livestock domestication, what greater inner satisfaction is mankind offered? Who among us can imagine the miracles which scientific breakthroughs and computerization will bring in the years ahead? Teamwork, personal integrity and bold leadership can write a thrilling sequel to this "First Hundred Years."

In closing, I pose this personal question; when some as-yet-unborn scribe begins where we are ending and compiles the history of Shropshire's second hundred years what judgement can be made of **your** contribution? Will you be proud of that assessment?

On the 50th Shropshire Anniversary, one of the founders, Professor W.C. Latta, put into words a challenge that is just as provocative today:

*"....the livestock breeder has almost divine creative power to stamp his ideal on the animals which Divine Providence has given him to control. May the word FORWARD be our slogan for the coming years, and may every breeder of purebred livestock have the persistent aim to maintain, not only purity of blood but also prepotency in transmitting vigor, quality, utility, symmetry and beauty to the animals under his molding hand!"*

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An artist, modeling in plastic clay or conjuring with marble, brings forth a conception that the world acclaims a triumph. He deals, however, with his materials direct, and they respond instantly to his slightest touch as he toils toward a preconceived ideal. There is no resistance to his manipulations.

What, then, should be our estimate of the work of one who has first to conceive the figure in his brain; whose only tools are the laws of heredity, selection, inbreeding, outcrossing, and alimantation; whose only materials are flesh and blood, unapproachable except by indirection; who battles ever against the stubborn forces of atavism or reversion to ancestral forms; who seeks, and succeeds in producing, a creature pulsating with life, exquisitely fashioned, down to the minutest detail, not only a thing of beauty in itself - which artists try, sometimes with ill success, to reproduce on canvas or in bronze - but a creation that serves as well the highest utilitarian purpose?

The breeder of animals (or plants) directs the spark of life itself. The possibilities of his art are almost infinite.

A.H. Sanders

*The National Geographic Magazine, December 1925*



