Courtenau



Reunion

Dear Courtenays:



This letter is addressed to you because your name is Courtenay. Its purpose is to find out if you and your family would like to be invited to a Courtenay reunion at Powderham Castle in Devon, England. This castle has been the ancestoral home of the Courtenays since the fourteenth century. It is presently the home of the seventeenth Earl of Devon and The Countess of Devon. The Earl of Devon's name is Charles Christopher Courtenay.

The <u>Courtenay reunion</u> is scheduled for June 1977. It will be organized in the form of a charter flight to Europe and the itinerary will provide for 10 days of touring sites and castles associated with the Courtenay family history and a further minimum of 12 days to a maximum of a further 35 days in Europe. During the period between the end of the <u>Courtenay reunion</u> tour and the elected date of the return Trans-Atlantic flight participants will be free to arrange their own itineraries or to participate in a supplemental package tour of the British Isles.

The <u>Courtenay reunion</u> tour will include the village of Courtenay in France, where the Courtenay Family originated, sites in Southern England and a visit to the Tower of London where some distinguished Courtenays were imprisoned and executed.

Throughout the tour the history and significance of each site visited will be explained and discussed. Short seminars about the Courtenays will be presented to make the tour a most meaningful experience. Local people who are authorities at each selected site will be used as reference persons. In addition, adequate opportunity will be provided for socializing, discussions and rapp seasions smomg tne participating Courtenays.

The reunion will he highlighted by two days of festivities at Powderham Castle. The host and hostess at the Castle will be the Earl and Countess of Devon. Many Courtenays who live in the U.K. including friends and relatives of the Earl and Countess will be invited.

A major objective of the reunion is to provide members of the Courtenay line with an opportunity to learn more about their family history and genealogy and an opportunity for North American Courtenays to meet one another and meet their European cousins.

The quotations available at this time for the 10-day Reunion tour including round-trip tran-Atlantic air travel, all European land and sea travel and lodging during the 10-day Reunion period is \$950.00 per person assuming double room occupancy. The length of the European stay between trans-Atlantic flights is flexible -- a total of a minimum of 22 days to a max mum of 45 days. All quotations are subject to changes in prices that occur up to time of payment.

If you would like to receive further information about the 1977 Courtenay Reunion please reply soon indicating your interest. Should you wish to have included on the mailing list other Courtenays known to you -- families where the wives were Courtenays and other persons with ties to the Courtenay name, please send their names and addresses. (OVER)



PLEASE REPLY TO THE COORDINATOR: Professor Henry V. Courtenay 502 Weldron Street. West Lafayette, Ind. 47906 Phone AC 317-749-4255 Business Address: Purdue Univ. Lafayette, Ind. 47907 U.S.A.



A travel agent here in Lafayette who handles many Purdue University overseas tours has agreed to make the travel arrangements for the 1977 Courtenay Reunion and is already working on tieses arrangements.

We have been advised by them to limit this initial 1977 Courtenay Reunion to 44 people because of its experimental nature.

Reservations for the reunion tour will be accepted now, and continuing only until January 30, 1977 because considerable lead time is required to assure successful planning and arrangements. The first 44 reservations each accompanied by a \$50.00 deposit will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

This is the first time a North American/United Kingdom <u>Courtenay Family Reunion</u> has been attempted. It is a unique opportunity to combine a vacation with a personalized educational experience.

Highlights of Courtenay History

Henry Courtenay

Courtenay Family Reunion Coordinator

Early Gourtenay history records that Athon, a French knight, founded and fortified the Gastle of Gourtenay south of Paris in about 1000 A.D. The French Courtenays intermarried with the Royal House of Valoris, and between 1217 and 1261 supplied three Emperors of Constantinople during the time of the Latin Empire of the East founded by the Fourth Crusade.

The French line of the Courtenays can be traced down to the 18th Century when it appears to have died out.

The English line of the Courtenays began with Reginald de Courtenay, the great-grandson of Athon. Reginald was the first member of the Courtenay Family to emigrate to England. He left the country town of Courtenay with Eleanor of Aquitaine, bride of Henry II in 1152 to serve in the Court of King Henry. Reginald served King Henry faithfully and was rewarded with a rich wife, Matilda, a descendant of one of King William the Conqueror's commanders at the Battle of Hastings. Matilda brought with her to the marriage the Batroy of Ikehampton and the Governership of Exeter.

The age of chivalry rings with the name Courtenay and it was the privilege of the first Earl of Devon, hugh de Courtenay to be one of the "hundred good bachelors" who responded to a writ from King Loward I to fight with him at Carlisle in 1300.

The Order of the Garter was founded by King Edward III in 1348 and Sir Hugh Courtenay, grandson of the first Earl of Dewon was twelfth on the list of 26 gallant knights initiated into the order at Windsor Castle. The only passport to that exclusive order was Valor.

Three Courtenays rose to prominence in the Church of England. William Courtenay was Archbishop of Canterbury, Richard Courtenay was Bishop of Norwich and Peter Courtenay was Archbishop of Exeter and also Dean of Windsor.

In 1550 A.D. Duke Ercole commissioned Pastorino Siena, Court Artist to the King of France, to cast a medal bearing the bust of Edward Courtenay, Earl of Devon.

William Courtenay, son of the seventh Earl of Devon married Katherine, sixth daughter of King Edward IV.

Several Courtenays were imprisoned in the tower of London and some were executed there.

These are some of the colorful facts about the early Courtenays. There is much more to this intriguing history dating from 1000 A.D. up to 1977 -- your family and mine and Charles Christopher Courtenay, 17th Earl of Devon, the 23rd inheritor of Powderham Castle, ancestoral home of the Courtenay Family Line.

During the summer of 1976 we previewed the proposed Courtenay Reunion Tour in Europe

scheduled for June 1977 and all systems are "GO". Here is our report to you. The wife of a French Government Ambassador to the United Nations, who spends time in both France and the U.S.A., has graciously consented to be our interpreter and hostess during our visit to both COURTENAY and PARIS. This lady is also a student of French history and French culture and is most knowledgeable about the selected attractions we will visit in PARIS. She will also be our seminar leader at our banquet in the exquisite chatteau 'Domaine de Clairis" which dates back to the fifteenth century, and is located on the outskirts of COURTENAY. This accommodation has just sufficient rooms to house the Courtenay Reunion participants, therefore we will have it almost exclusively for ourselves. The facility includes a nine-hole golf course; fifteen

tennis courts; horse-back riding; and other features. Dinner will include meats roasted on a spit in the courtyard patio. The town of COURTENAY, chartered in 1185 A.D., has a population of about 2,500 people. It is a delightful old French village, complete with village square and ancient monuments including one of Pierre II, Comte de Courtenay, Emperor of Constantinople. The Mayor and other officers of the town of COURTENAY and various other prominent townspeople are most enthusiastic about our Courtenay Reunion visit. They will meet with us and welcome us. They have indicated that our visit will be featured by

various media, including Paris television. Among the attractions we will view in COURTENAY is the Church of Saint Peter which dates back to the twelth century; the City Hall where Mayor Pignol will permit us to examine an ancient and elegant copy of the Courtenay Family Tree which is hand-painted on parchment. Also available to us for perusal is an enormous illustrated book outlining the history of the COURTENAYS and the town of Courtenay. There are numerous stores and antique shops in the village. A wide selection of COURTENAY picture post-cards may be purchased and can be mailed from the village

post-marked COURTENAY - FRANCE. A 300-copylimited edition 1975 reprint of an 1877 History of the Courtenay Family dating back till 1000 A.D. may be purchased at one of the village book-shops. Before embarking on a ferry to cross the English Channel we will endeavour to tour the part of the French coastal area famous for the Allied Invasion W.W.II. Our first stop in Southern England will be the city of Canterbury. We will visit the Canterbury Cathedral and view the tomb of William Courtenay who was Archbishop of Canterbury in the fifteenth century. We will also see the Courtenay Coat-of-Arms

which adorn the magnificent fan-vaulted lantern of one of the cathedral towers. There are numerous famous features of this great cathedral to view. The City of Canterbury itself is a wealth of history and tourist attractions. ------

We will visit the village of BATTLE near HASTINGS, where Courtenay Knights in the army of William the Conqueror participated in that famous Battle of Hastings 1066 A.D. which was the last successful invasion of England. Adjacent to the battlefield is the Benedictine Abbey of Saint Martin which was established by William as a thankoffering for his victory. We will enjoy a lecture tour of both the battlefield and the Abbey.

The Curator of the local museum will give us a tour of the museum and show us its ancient records and artifacts. The Courtenays are well documented in the museum collections.

En route Devon and Cornwall we will briefly visit the STONEHENGE near SALISBURY. .

The core of history of the English Courtenays is concentrated in Devon. First we will visit TIVERTON where one of the city councillors will be our guide. This lady has authored several articles about the history of TIVERTON and the associations of the Courtenays with the town's development. Here we will view a castle which was one of the homes of the Courtenays in the middle ages. We will also visit the Church of Saint Peter which was built in the eleventh century and originally contained a Courtenay Chapel. It is interesting to note that the Courtenays usually had a combination of castles and churches in combinations.

TIVERTON, an old Elglish woolen town in the middle ages, is now a flourishing community with diversified enterprises, but it retains many reminders of a rich history including

horse-drawn barges on the city canal; toll house; almshouses; and one of the first Baptist churches in the world. This church was founded by the brother of John Wesley.

SAMPFORD-COURTENAY is another interesting and unique community on our itinerary. The Courtenays were the Lords of the manorial estates in this area in the fifteenth century. The Courtenay influence is still evident in this tiny hillside village. The large granite Parish Church of Saint Andrew was built by the Courtenay family around 1450 A.D. The Rector of the church has very graciously promised to conduct a short service for the Courtenay Reunion just as it would have been conducted in the fifteenth century. Those who prefer other forms of spirit revival may do so as they tarry for the pilgrims at the SAMPFORD-COURTENAY INN at the bottom of the hill. Not far from Saint Andrews is Huna's Church where Christian worship has been carried on for at leas: 1,000 years and it is still operating. It is one of the oldest churches in England. It is recorded in the Doomsday Book of 1086 A.D. It is said to be one of the simplest and least sophisticated country churches in all of England.

Our next stop is OKEHAMPTON about ten miles southwest of SAMPFORD-COURTEMAY. It is another important landmark associated with the Courtenay Family history.

Soon after the Battle of Hastings a wooden stronghold was erected at OKEHAMPTON to supress the English risings in the southwest. A short time later a stone castle was built. Robert de Courtenay acquired in 1172 A.D. through marriage. He was a local Knight. The castle ruins are now preserved by the British Government as an ancient historic building. The current custodian claims that he has seen the ghost of Lady Howard, in what was once her quarters, combing her hair. He reports that this episode resulted in a T.V. special on British Television.

We will also visit another Courtenay Family historic shrine called Bickleigh Castle located on the banks of the River Exe. This castle was acquired by the Courtenays in 1410 A.D. and was later given to an orphan daughter of one of the Courtenay children. Her name was Elizabeth and she married a local gallant Knight named Thomas Carew. This castle remained in the Carew Family until 1681 A.D. The names of Carew and Courtenay are closely associated.

A further stop in this area will be at the town of BODMIN on the edge of Bodmin Moor. This site has both tragic and romantic associations with the flight of the Courtenays from their persecutors.

A Courtenay Family Reunion tour would be remiss without a visit to historic EXETER, in Devon. It was founded in 50 A.D. It is an early Roman walled city. The most notable historic legacy of EXETER is Exeter Cathedral. It is here that Peter Courtenay was Bishop from 1478 - 1487 A.D. Peter donated the cathedral medieval clock and the Creat Peter Bell on which it strikes. This bell is tolled only upon the passing of an Earl of Devon.

Powderham Castle, the present home of Christopher Courtenay, his wife and family, the Earl and Countess of Devon, is within a few miles of Exeter. The castle dates from 1390 A.D. It is a large stone edifice set in a 3000-acre estate over which roams a magnificent herd of Powderham deer.

The castle rooms are replete with exquisite antique English and French furniture, as well as many portraits representing many generations of Courtenay Family members. The Earl himself has graciously consented to be our after-dinner speaker during the Courtenay Family Reunion festivities at the castle. Lord Hugh, the Earl's son will escourt a guided tour of the estate and a viewing of his championship herd of South Devon Cattle.

Festivities at Powderham Castle will include dinner; a garden party; a tour of the castle; and a tour of the estate. The Earl and Countess and Lord Hugh and his wife and family will be available for photographs and autographs. Various Powderham memorabilia and souvenirs may be purchased at the castle gift shop.

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En route LONDON we will visit Windsor Castle and Saint Georges Chapel, which is the Royal Cathedral for Windsor.

It was in this cathedral that Dr. Peter Courtenay served as Dean of Windsor in the mid-1400's. The Honorable Charles Leslie Courtenay served at Saint Georges as Canon and Domestic Chaplain to the Queen during 1843-49 A.D.

It is at Windsor Castle that the Monarchs of England induct outstanding leaders into the Order of Knights of The Garter.

Among the founder Knights of The Garter was Sir Hugh Courtenay in 1348.A.D.

In 1388 A. D. Sir P. Courtenay was also made a Knight of The Garter.

The Courtenay Coat-of-Arms is among the twenty-four shields in the "Roof of the Crossing" of Saint Georges Chapel. This is the stone vault that forms the roof of the central section of the chapel. These are the Arms of Henry Courtenay, Marquess of Exeter. Lady Mary Courtenay was made a Lady of the Garter in 1378 A.D.

The last stop on the Courtenay Family Reunion tour will be LONDON. Here we will visit the Tower of London where several of the Courtenavs were imprisoned

and executed.. One off the senior Tower of London Beefeters has agreed to give the Courtenay Family Reunion participants a special "COURTENAY" tour of the locales associated with the Courtenay Family history.

WE ALREADY HAVE SEVERAL RESERVATIONS FOR THE COURTENAY FAMILY REUNION TOUR. THE TOTAL NUMBER WE WISH TO INCLUDE IN THIS INITIAL TOUR IS FORTY-FOUR / PERSONS. IF YOU WISH TO PARTICIPATE PLEASE REPLY SOON. MY WIFE AND I ARE CONFIDENT THAT YOU'LL BE DELIGHTED THAT YOU DECIDED TO JOIN US. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE COMPLETED THE ITINERARY THIS SUMMER WE ARE PERSONALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO DOING THIS TOUR AGAIN.

WE ARE PARTICULARLY LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING MANY NEWLY DISCOVERED "COURTENAY COUSINS" INCLUDING YOU.

WISHING YOU AND YOURS BEST PERSONAL REGARDS....

HENRY V. COURTENAY Ling Courtenay
CHRISTIANA COURTENAY Christians Courtenay