

Courtenay



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 ancestral 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 Courtenay reunion 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 Courtenay reunion 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 Courtenay reunion 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 sessions among the participating Courtenays.

The reunion will be 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 trans-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 maximum 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:
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A travel agent here in Lafayette handles many Purdue University overseas tours has agreed to make the travel arrangements for the 1977 Courtenay Reunion and is already working on these 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 Courtenay Family Reunion has been attempted. It is a unique opportunity to combine a vacation with a personalized educational experience.

Yours sincerely,



Henry V. Courtenay
Courtenay Family Reunion Coordinator

Highlights of Courtenay History

Early Courtenay history records that Athou, a French knight, founded and fortified the Castle of Courtenay south of Paris in about 1000 A.D. The French Courtenays intermarried with the Royal House of Valois, 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 Athou. 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 barony of Ikehampton and the Governmanship 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 Edward 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 Devon 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, ancestral home of the Courtenay Family Line.

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 least 1,000 years and it is still operating. It is one of the oldest churches in England. It is recorded in the Domesday 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-COURTENAY. 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 suppress 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 Great 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 escort 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.

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 Courtenays were imprisoned and executed..

One of 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



CHRISTIANA COURTENAY

