1599 Monaco Circle,
Salt Lake City, Utah,
84121,
Aug. 30, 1980

Dear new found cousin;

I may be bold in addressing you thusly but I believe it is true and since I am interested in our living relatives I was glad to hear from you.

I am accumulating data towards a history of our Courtney branch. My grandmother was Rebecca Courtney Tucker, of Morgantown W.Va. Her father John Hall Courtney married Nancy McDonough. His father John Courtney married Rebecca Hall. His father was Thomas Courtney.

Thomas was born about 1728, possibly in England. Descendants of his son Robert believe that he married the daughter of a Lord Dawson of London, against her father's will. Nevertheless, when Dawson died his estate was supposed to go to her children inasmuch as apparently she had already died. Our branch of the family began with Thomas living in Ireland(Monaghan County), and marrying in Ireland Jane Anderson, who died in Ireland. They lived near the village of Rockcorry and were members of the Church of St. John the Evangelist of the Parish of Ematris. The oldest part of this church was built in 1729 and is still standing. Thomas' children were Robert, Michael, Mary, Eliza, Ann, and John. According to a notation in John's Bible he came to America when he was 19--1786. His father and brother Michael may have come then also. Robert came in 1804. The daughters remained in Ireland.

Robert was born about 1757 in Monaghan County (or London), and died in Monongalia County, (W.)Va., in 1824. He married Mary Bodley in Ireland. Robert was a weaver and probably also a farmer. Mary died in 1832. Robert swore allegiance to the U.S. Aug. 13, 1811. They were probably buried in the little farm graveyard close to what is now the Bethel Methodist Church and cemetery, and to which church the Courtneys belonged. The present building was constructed in 1828, so undoubtedly Mary attended services there during her later years. Unfortunately the little farm graveyard where they and Robert's father Thomas was buried can no longer be located. 75 years ago some coal miners' children removed the stones to use as rabbit traps. A lady who lived on the farm at the time later told me she had located some of the stones once and brought them back, but they were apparently taken again later. Incidentally, I failed to mention that in (W.)Va. Thomas married again---Isabel Thompson, and had another son Thomas, Jr., who settled in Highland County, Ohio. I think his mother went with him.

Robert and Mary's children were William, Robert B. Jane, Margaret, Elizabeth, Nancy, Isabella, and Rebecca.

Robert B.(Bodley?) Courtney was born March, 1792, in Ireland, prob. Monaghan Co. In Monongalia County he volunteered in the 2nd Artillery Regiment of Va. Militia, under Capt. Samuel Kennedy, and served from May 2 until Aug. 29, 1814.(War of 1812). They reported to Norfolk May 30th and were in combat afterwards. He was a farmer in (W.)Va. prior to 1829 when he moved to Trumbull County, Ohio, near Youngstown, and later to Vermilion Co., Ill., living just east of Armstrong. He was a Methodist and an abolitionist. Robert died Nov. 5, 1856, and Mary died Aug. 27, 1860, and both were buried in the old Partlow Cemetery. Their children were: Caroline; Sarah, married Isaac Briggs, and moved to Kansas; Alphonso; James B., married Samantha Gruey and lived at Potomac, Ill; Michael, married Grace Piersol(she took their children to Mercer Co., Pa. to live after he died in 1846); Wm. Y.,