J A M E S C O U R T N E Y

of

South Carolina and Mississippi

and

H I S D E S C E N D A N T S

1743---1979

GENERAL BACKGROUND FOR THE COURTNEY NAME

The name Courtney comes from either the Irish name Cuirin (meaning 'little horn' or 'drinking cup') or from Courtenay, the name of two places in France. There is a town a few miles from Paris existing today by the name Courtenay.

It is possible the English Courtneys came from France with William the Conqueror in 1066 A. D. or in the years following during the Norman influence. The Norman name was de Courtenai.

Following is information secured through research from DEVON, Cradle of Our Seamen, printed in 1938. Attention is called to the ancestral castle where the English Courtnays lived and to activities of this branch of the family.

P. 361-363: HOME OF THE PROUD COURTENAYS

POWDERHAM. Its church stands at a lovely corner with the River Exe on one side and the park on the other, and we come to its doorway under a yew canopy sixty feet wide, with trimmed yews about it which make this one of Devon's neatest churchyards. The walk to the village is by river, railway, road, and park-all side by side- and it gives us a peep of the castle.

For 600 years it has been the home of the famous Courtenays, the earls of Devon whose very name is history. They were allied to the kings of France and to our own Plantagenets. Thomas was killed fighting for the Red Rose. Richard, trusted counsellor of Henry the Fifth, died in the young king's presence at the siege of Harflour; Henry was a great power but fell foul of King Henry the Eighth and was executed in the Tower. His handsome son Edward might have married Mary Tudor had not diplomacy sent her to the altar with Philip of Spain, and it is said that he afterwards came near to marrying Elizabeth. At the end of the 14th Century, a Courtenay was Archbishop of Canterbury, and sleeps in his cathedral at the feet of the Black Prince. Other Courtenays have been bishops, and all have played their part in the nation's affairs in no uncertain way.

A fine avenue of cedars runs to the castle through a glorious deer park studded with grand old oaks. Much of the castle, with its finely panelled rooms and its treasured Old Masters, is modern, but some of the walls and battlements and four of the six towers have been here 600 years.

For five centuries the church has stood in its yew-decked churchyard looking across the Exe, and it keeps its original font and screens. The font, with its richly carved flowers, had a 17th century cover crowned with a dove. The chancel screen has a frieze of vine and 12

secured his condemnation by convocation. He opposed the right of the Pope to levy contributions in England, and supported the Act which made English law nominally independent of Rome. He sleeps at the feet of the Black Prince in Canterbury Cathedral. His nephew Richard became Bishop of Norwich two years before Agincourt, was a friend of Henry the Fifth, and died in France with the king at his bedside.

Edward, the fourth earl, married a sister of John Talbot, Shakespeare's doughty Earl of Shrewsbury.

The seventh earl rose with Buckingham against Richard the Third and helped him to establish the Tudor dynasty at Bosworth. His grandson Henry accompanied Henry the Eighth to the Field of the Cloth of Gold and there broke a lance in the lists with the King of France. Enriched by the king at the Dissolution of the monasteries, he became the most powerful man in the west of England and was at last beheaded. His son Edward entered the Tower as a boy of 12 and left it at 27, a dissipated scholar who conceived the idea of marrying the Princess Elizabeth and dethroning Mary Tudor. Wyatt's Kent Rebellion was the result. Courtenay undoubtedly betrayed his confederates and nearly caused the death of Elizabeth. He died suddenly at Padua and left no heir. For generations the title lay dormant, being revived in the 18th century.

Some of the Crusading Courtenays ended their days in slavery after the Turkish Irruption; the royal title was extinguished in France during the French Revolution; the English Courtenays have outlasted them all.

THE COURTNEYS

The earliest records we have found on the Courtneys appear in North Carolina in the year 1743, some 30 years before the American Revolution. Robert Courtney bought 300 acres on Half Moon Swamp in Onslow County for 200 pounds (English money) from William Morgan. There were many other transactions concerning land in Onslow County by Robert Courtney and his sons John, Robert, and Jonathan from 1743 to 1762. Most of these grants were on the New River and its tributaries. New River flows into New River Inlet, which is bordered today by Camp LeJuene Marine Base.

In 1751 Robert Courtney died leaving a will which names his wife Hannah, sons-John, Robert, Jonathan, and Rowland-and his daughter, Phebe Courtney Jones Curtis, wife of Richard Curtis.

WILL

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN, the Seventeenth day of January, in the year of our Lord, One Thousand, Seven Hundred and Fifty. I, Robert Courtney, of the County of Onslow, and province of North Carolina, planter, being sick in body but of Good and perfect Memory, thanks be to Almighty God and Calling to Mind the Uncertain Estate of this Life, and that all flesh must yeild Unto Death when it shall please God to Call, Do make, constitute, ordain and Declare this, my Last will and Testament in Manner and form following: that is to Say, first, being penitent from the Bottom of my heart for my Sins past, Most Humbly Desiring forgiveness for the same, I Give and Commit my Soul Unto Almighty God my Saviour and Redeemer, in whom and by the Merits of Jesus Christ, I trust and believe assuredly to be saved, and to have full Remission and forgiveness of all my sins, and that my Soul with my Body Shall Rise again with Joy at the General Resurection, and through the merits of Christ's Death and passion, possess and Inherit the Kingdom of heaven prepared for his Elect and Chosen: and my Body to be Decently buried as it shall please my Executors hereafter Named: and now for my Temporal Estate, and such Goods, Chattels & Debts as it hath pleased God, for above my Deserts to bestow Upon me, I Do order, Give and Dispose in Manner and form following, that is to say, I will that my funeral Expenses and Just Debts be paid and Satisfyed.

Item. I Give and bequeath Unto my well beloved wife, Hannah Courtney, the bed and furniture whereon we now Lye, one Chest, one pot which formerly belonging to her, one pair of worsted Combs, Eight Cows and Calves, as Likewise and Equal Share of what young Cattle shall be when they Come to be Divided, betwixt her, my Sons, Robert, Jonathan, and Rowland, as Likewise and Equal part of what household Goods, beds and beding, Excepted one Silver head for a Cane, one Iron Kettle and one third part of the Increase of the plantation (of the plantation) I now live on Dureing her Natural Life, and one Mare and Colt.

Item. I Give and bequeath Unto my well beloved son, John Courtney, one Shilling, Sterling money of Great Britain.

Item. I Give and bequeath Unto my well beloved Daughter, Phebe Curtis, one Shilling, Sterling money of Great Britain.

Item. I Give and bequeath Unto my well beloved Son, Robert Courtney, a Tract of Land Lying on the East Side of the Northwest beach of New River, on the half moon Creek, Containing on Hundred and fifty acres, Known by the Name of Wallins, one Rifle Gun, one Mare Sadle and bridle,

one bed and furniture, one half of a Cast of bottles, and Equal Share of the Implements of Husbandry and Houshold Goods, (and what Cows and Calves Shall be Left after my wife had had hers as above Mentioned), to be Equaly Divided between him and my son, Jonathan, as Likewise and Equal Share of the young Cattle, as Likewise and Equal Share of my wearing Apperal, one half of my petiauqua, to him and his heirs for Ever.

Item. I Give and bequeath Unto my well beloved Son, Jonathan Courtney, t he plantation I now Live on, (one Hundred Acres at the Lower End Excepted) a Quantity of feathers, one horse for the use of the plantation, one Mare Sadle and bridle, one Gun, and Equal Share of what household Goods, Implements of Husbandry, young Cattle, and what Cows and Calves, shall be to be Devided between him and my Son Robert, after my wifes and my son Rowlands Shall be taken out as Likewise one half of my petyauqua, to him and his heirs for Ever.

Item. I Give and bequeath Unto my well beloved son, Rowland Courtney, one Hundred Acres of Land, at the Lower End of the plantation I now Live on, three Cows and Calves, an Equal Share of the young Cattle acording to what Cows shall be to be Devided), one two year old Mare, To him and his heirs for Ever.

I Likewise Desire that my Son in Law, Richard Curtis, and my Good friend, Benjamin Eason, in Case any Difference Should arise in Shareing of my Estate, t hat they Should be the persons to Decide it and No other person to Interfere, Unless Desired by the parties Concerned, as Likewise to be Overseers in the Distribution.

I Likewise Constitute and apoint my well beloved Sons, Robert Courtney, and Jonathan Courtney, to be my Sole Execut. of this my Last will and Testament, Utterly Revokeing all former wills and Testaments by me Made.

In witness whereof, I have Set my hand and affixed my Seal, the Day and Date as above.

Robert Courtney (Seal)

In 1760 Rowland, son of Robert and Hannah Courtney, appears in Craven County, South Carolina, which evolved to what is presently Florence County. Rowland received a land grant on Sparrow Swamp, a branch of Lynch's Creek which flows into the Pee Dee River on April 9, 1760. Rowland and Sarah Courtney's son James was born October 17, 1764, in Craven County. All of Rowland's brothers and his sister Phebe's family were in this area from 1762 through 1774 and appear on documents such as poll lists and land grants on Sparrow Swamp.

The urge to move saw the Curtis family and Rowland's family head north to Virginia. The Curtis family and a Courtney who had married one of Phebe's daughters were heading for Mississippi Territory. They left in early spring of 1780 for the Holston River, which originates in Southwestern Virginia and flows through northwestern Tennessee. They floated their rafts down the Holston, the Tennessee, the Ohio, and the Mississippi rivers; they landed at the mouth of Cole's Creek about twenty miles above Natchez, Mississippi. The history of their trip and early days in Mississippi was printed in Popular History of Baptist in Mississippi.

BAPTIST PIONEERS

ANSWERING THE CALL OF THE WILD:--The glowing reports of adventure in this "Great Southwest" appealed to the adventurous minded of the more populated sections of the east. Besides, liberal grants of large tracts of fertile lands at the fabulous prices of "from ten to twenty cents per acre" prompted multitudes to take up their belongings once again and set their faces toward the land of the setting sun. Then, too, to be among the first to get on the "ground floor or checkered pavement" of a new civilization was a laudable ambition, worthy of every effort and the dangers incident thereto. The unsettled conditions of the war between the original thirteen colonies and the mother country during the American Revolution, also, furnished an incentive for certain ones not under arms; and royalists at heart, to move on to more peaceful climes.--

THE CURTIS BAND OF BAPTISTS:--There were dwelling in those days in South Carolina, along the course of the Great Pee Dee River, near the mouth of the Black River, about sixty miles from Charleston, a family by the name of Curtis, along with others of their kinsfolk and acquaintance. "Westward, Ho!" had sounded in their ears and the appeal of the new, unoccupied, and open spaces was too strong for resistance and a number broke camp and set out for the far off "Natchez Country". Richard Curtis, Sr. seems to have been the nestor of this community and the prime mover in their embarking upon this perilous journey. The caravan consisted of the following: Richard Curtis, Sr. and wife; two brothers, William and Benjamin Curtis and their wives; Richard Curtis, Jr. and wife; John Courtney and John Stampley and their wives (nee Hannah and Phoebe Curtis, respectively, daughters of Richard Curtis, Sr.); John Jones and wife; Daniel and William Ogden and their wives; a Mr. Perkins and wife; and others whose names are unknown. These departed from their homes in the early spring of 1780 with the women and small children together with their scant supply of food,

clothing, tools, and furniture mounted on pack-horses. After reaching the Holston river in the northeast corner of Tennessee, they paused for the summer to build their boats and to raise a crop of corn in preparation for descent by water.

PERILOUS DESCENT OF THE RIVERS:---In the early fall of 1780, after the river had attained sufficient depth for their rafts, these adventurers committed themselves and all their earthly possessions to three large, but well-built flat boats and started on their perilous journey. The route lay through the territory occupied by the belligerent Cherokee Indians who lurked in ambush along the narrows, shoals and sudden turns of the Holston, Tennessee, Ohio, and Mississippi rivers, determined to allow none of the "pale faces" to pass without obstinate resistance. The voyagers kept constant watch for the approach of the stealthy foe, ready to defend themselves with the limited implements of warfare that their circumstances would allow. For mutual protection they had agreed to float as near each other as they conveniently could. In the foremost boat were Richard Curtis Sr. and wife and immediate family including John Jones and family, and their sons and daughters and their families. On the second boat were two brothers, Daniel and William Ogden and their families, and Mr. Perkins and his family. The records do not reveal the names of the occupants of the third boat. Smallpox broke out on the last named boat, and it was required to float a few hundred yards in the rear and to occupy a different landing at night to prevent the contagion from spreading to the other boats.

ATTACKED BY INDIANS:---For several days they traveled unmolested, but while passing a short bend in the Tennessee River near the mouth of the Clinch River, the foremost boat was suddenly attacked by the warlike Cherokees. "All hands on board commenced a vigorous and well-directed defense. That the husband might be released to use his rifle on the assailants, Mrs. Jones put her eldest son, William, then in his twelfth year, at the oar, while she held up a thick, poplar stool between him and the bullets; and it was well she did for it was pierced by one of the leaden missles. After it was all over, Mrs. Jones laughingly remarked that 'their guns were very weak, as they did not make a very deep impression on the stool.' Another lady heroically took the steering oar from her husband that he might ply his rifle to the foe, and, with unfaltering courage, guided the boat until disabled by a wound in the back. Hannah Courtney was grazed on the head by a ball, and Jonathan Curtis was slightly wounded on the wrist, but, so far as the writer knows, no life was lost. While the attention of the assailants was mainly directed to the first boat, the second floated by the point of attack unharmed.

"The excited and blookthirsty savages now directed their whole force to the capture of the third boat, and as it was passing through the narrows, they boarded it in full force and massacred all on board except one lady, whom they retained as a captive about three years, until

by treaty, she was restored to her friends. But this was a dearly bought victory to the Cherokees, for, either from the captured lady or the clothing and other articles taken from the boat, they contracted the smallpox, which passed through their villages like the destroying angel, until multitudes of them died. When suffering from the raging fever and thirst occasioned by the terrible epidemic, they sought relief by lying in the waters of the Tennessee, which only made it the more fatal. Their descendants have to this day a traditional horror of that terrible pestilence."

SETTLED ON COLE'S CREEK:---Those who escaped on the first and second boats continued their journey, landing in safety at the mouth of Cole's Creek about twenty miles above Natchez. They settled eastward and northward of the place of embarkation, within twenty miles of the Mississippi river. The major part of these immigrants were Baptist, holding letters of dismissal from the home church in the valley of the Pee Dee, South Carolina. Being pious people, and devoted to the cause of their Master, they kept up their family worship regularly from their first settlement in the new country. They soon began to hold "public meetings," also, from house to house in the settlement, "for the purpose of reading and expounding the scriptures, exhortation and prayer." This latter form of worship was prohibited by the law of the District from 1781 when the Spanish authorities took possession, only the Catholic religion being recognized and her services publicly tolerated. The law was not strictly adhered to, however, nor rigidly enforced. Hence, these "public meetings" were continued for some years, though with certain precautions, without any serious interference on the part of the civil authorities.

The Curtis family was preceded at least a year to the mouth of the Holston River by the Rowland Courtney family. Rowland and his son James appear on tax rolls of Washington County, Virginia, from 1782 through 1787. According to James' pension application, they were in the area in 1779 when he, at age fifteen, joined the Virginia Militia. Evidently, soldiers were signed up for short periods of time and after each expedition they would return home until a new company was formed, or they were recalled. James first enlisted for three months for the purpose of guarding the frontier. In 1780, he signed up for a nine-month tour during which he marched to the New River in South Carolina on an "expedition against the Tories," (1) and later his unit

(1) "Abstracts from Pension Applications & Half Pay Claims," James Courtney, Va., Pension No. 59265, National Archives, Washington, D. C.

marched from Washington County to King's Mountain, South Carolina, where a major Revolutionary War battle occured. The last time he signed up for a year's duty; the company then marched to Charleston, South Carolina. When James was at home, "he continued in said service in a state of discipline and readiness to march at a minute's warning." (2)

In 1788 James Courtney married Elishabah Laws, daughter of Robert and Prudence Laws. The 1790 South Carolina census shows Robert Courtney, James Courtney, and Phebe Curtis in the Cheraw District.

In 1791 James Courtney received a land grant in Orangeburg County, South Carolina. James' father Rowland received land grants in the area in 1793 and 1804; the grants were on branches of Dean Swamp, a stream flowing into the South Fork of Edisto River. A map from Mill's Atlas shows Courtney's Hill on the second fork of Dean's Swamp on the Columbia Road. The present town of Wagener is probably the nearest town and church. Rowland's brothers, Jonathan and John Courtney, were in the area in the years 1794-1807. A William Courtney, maybe a brother to James, also received land grants in Orangeburg County. During those years in Orangeburg County, James and Elishabah's first two children were born, Robert Courtney born in 1791 and William Courtney born in 1794.

Census and church records show that James' family had moved to the Pendleton district of South Carolina near the present town of Pendleton by 1800. James and Elishabah's daughter Luca was born in that year. James was a delegate of the Shoal Creek Church (Baptist) while in the area.

Early church records show James as an active Baptist missionary in Mississippi and Alabama. In 1806, James Courtney of South Carolina helped organize Ebenezer Church in Amite County, Mississippi. In 1810, James organized the Bassett's Creek Baptist Church in Clarke County, Alabama near the present site of Choctaw Corner. It was the largest church in the state at that time with twenty members. James Courtney also served as the third minister in the Clarke County area.

James and Elishabah's son James was born in 1803. Their last child, Jesse, was born in 1808. Sometime after the birth of Jesse but before 1810, Elishabah died.

(2) Ibid.

In 1810 James married Ann Giles. We are all descended from the eldest child of this union, Samuel Courtney. James and Ann had eleven children, six sons and five daughters. Their birthdates, recorded in the James Courtney family Bible, mentioned heretofore, are as follows:

Samuel Courtney	son	born	January 20, 1814
Elizabeth Courtney	daughter	born	January 30, 1816
Edy Courtney	daughter	born	November 24, 1817
Sarah Ann Courtney	daughter	born	November 4, 1819
Martha Courtney	daughter	born	October , 1821
Judith Courtney	daughter	born	April 3, 1823
Richard Courtney	son	born	October 7, 1825
Thomas Courtney	son	born	October 27, 1827
John Courtney	son	born	April 20, 1831
Isaac Courtney	son	born	February 6, 1833
Joseph Courtney	son	born	January 29, 1835

The 1816 census of Wayne County, Mississippi, shows James and Robert, his eldest son by his first marriage, in that area. James helped organize Ulcanush Church, the second church in Clarke County, Alabama, on October 25, 1817. In 1819 he constituted the Hurrican Baptist Church in Washington County, Alabama.

In October of 1832, James Courtney applied for a Revolutionary War pension under the 1832 Act of Congress. He was required to re-apply in 1833; he was 69 at the time. The pension ($50.00 per year) was granted March 4, 1834.

In 1840 James Courtney was living in Simpson County, Mississippi. Apparently his wife Ann had died sometime between the birth of their last child in 1835 and the year 1840. Their six youngest children were living with James at the time of the 1840 census: Judith, 17; Martha, 19; Thomas, 13; Richard, 15; Isaac, 7; Joseph, 5. John, born in 1831, evidently did not survive.

James died in 1846 at the age of 82. He fathered sixteen children, traveled extensively as a Baptist missionary, fought in the Revolutionary War and lived in five states.

James' eldest child by Ann was living in Simpson County near his father in 1840. In 1850 Samuel was still living in Simpson County; three of his younger brothers, who were living with other families and working as laborers, were also in Simpson County.

Samuel and his wife Sarah Riley Courtney had ten children by 1851. They moved to Texas between 1851 and 1856. Their last three children were born in Texas. They had nine sons and four daughters.

Nancy A. Courtney	daughter	born	1836
Solomon Courtney	son	born	1838
Robert J. Courtney	son	born	1839
Mary Courtney	daughter	born	1840
Reuben Courtney	son	born	April 18, 1843
Vincent Courtney	son	born	1844
Samuel J.. Courtney	son	born	1845
Penny A. Courtney	daughter	born	1846
George W. Courtney	son	born	1850
Ike Courtney	son	born	1851
Marion Courtney	son	born	1856
Armanda Courtney	daughter	born	1858
Jacob Courtney	son	born	1862

The Samuel Courtney family lived in Angelina and Polk Counties. In 1875 Samuel was sent as a delegate from Union Springs Baptist Church to form a Baptist association in the Angelina and Polk county area. Samuel died in 1879 and is buried in the Union Springs Cemetery in Corrigan, Texas.

In 1880 Samuel Courtney's widow Sarah was living in Angelina County with her two youngest children, Armanda and Jacob. Also living in the county were four of her sons and their families.

Vinsen (Vincent) Courtney, age 36, and Mary Waltman, his wife, age 34.

Children:

Missouri	born	1872
Mary L.	born	1874
Samuel	born	1876
Thomas	born	1879

George Courtney, age 30, and Sarah Waltman, his wife, age 30.

Children:

James	born	1872
Franklin George	born	1876
Sarah	born	1877

Ike Courtney, age 29, and Tabitha, his wife, age 24.

Children:

Margaret	born	1877

Marion Courtney, age 24, and Martha, his wife, age 23.

Children:

Robert	born	1876
Elizabeth	born	1878
John D.	born	1879

Sarah, Samuel Courtney's widow, died on August 14, 1900.

Samuel and Sarah's fifth child, Reuben William Courtney, was born April 18, 1843. He served along with his brothers-Solomon, Samuel J., and Robert J.-in the Civil War. They enlisted in Lufkin and marched to San Antonio, where they joined Company D of the Seventh Texas Calvary, which marched from San Antonio to El Paso. From El Paso, they traveled to Albuquerque and Santa Fe, New Mexico, to guard the western front ier from the Union Army. They fought two battles, one at Apache Canyon and one at Glorietta, N. M. They were defeated and had to retreat across New Mexico with few supplies and horses. Half of the 3,000 men in the unit died during the battles and subsequent withdrawal.

Soon after Reuben returned from the war, he married Georgie Ann Chandler McKim, widow and mother of a 3 year old daughter, Jennett Josaphene, by her first husband. Georgie Ann was born on February 12, 1843. She was the daughter of Drewey and Nancy Chandler. Georgie Ann taught Reuben to read and write. He then became a student of the Bible and preached the Gospel all of his life.

Reuben and Georgie Ann had eight children:

Nancy Jane Courtney	born	July 17, 1866
Vinson Alford Courtney	born	December 22, 1867
Samuel James Courtney	born	January 5, 1870
Willie Ann Courtney	born	February 22, 1872
Mary Alice Courtney	born	April 5, 1874
William Reuben Courtney	born	February 21, 1876
Amos Burton Courtney	born	November 1, 1878
Albert Jackson Courtney	Died February 6, 1881 at 3 weeks old	

Reuben and Georgie Ann Courtney are buried at Damascus Cemetery in Polk County, Texas. Reuben died January 20, 1920; Georgie Ann died October 2, 1928.

Reuben and Georgie Ann Courtney's children and grandchildren are as follows:

Nancy Jane Courtney born July 17, 1866 died Dec. 30, 1949
Married Dec. 24, 1885
Jeff Morris born May 4, 1861 died April 23, 1931

Children born to them:

Martha Ann Morris born Dec. 7, 1886 died Sept. 20, 1968
Married
Edd Loving born April 13, 1883 died May 27, 1957
(8 children)

Mary Falby Morris born Sept. 12, 1891 died 1900

Ruben Taylor Morris born Feb. 22, 1893 died April 1, 1964
Married 1914
Bessie Young born Oct. 19, 1896 died Jan. 18, 1949
(8 children)

Jennette Ceola Morris born Feb. 7, 1895 died Aug. 6, 1918
Married March 10, 1915
Cal Weeks born June 17, 1893 died Oct. 7, 1973
(3 children)

Sam Wesley Morrie born July 26, 1898 died May 9, 1977
Married Aug. 8, 1917
Mollie Million born Jan. 10, 1900
(9 children)

Octavia Morris born Sept. 27, 1902
Married Sept. 28, 1920
Asa Read born Sept. 29, 1898
(3 children)

Ina Morris born Feb. 25, 1908
Married July 27, 1924
Roy Crecelius born June 24, 1900 died April 15, 1969
(3 children)

Estelle Morris born March 20, 1911
Married May 11, 1931
L. B. Weaver born July 3, 1909
(1 child)

Vinson Alfred Courtney born Dec. 22, 1867 died Sept. 24, 1935
Married
Fannie Stagner born April 7, 1868 died June 19, 1946

Children born to them:

Jasper William Courtney born 1888 died July 1929
Married
Helen Miece born died

Ettie Courtney born March 20, 1891 died Dec. 19, 1975
Married July 28, 1911
Sam Houston Weeks born Oct. 2, 1888 died Nov. 26, 1975

Arthur Jason Courtney born July 28, 1894
Married
Verna Gallaway born Oct. 6, 1902

Devilla Courtney born May 22, 1897
Married Oct. 19, 1917
William Thomas Barclay born Nov. 26, 1888 died June 1, 1933

Luther James Courtney born Feb. 21, 1900
Married Dec. 2, 1933
Thelma McCarty born May 19, 1908

Burton Perry Courtney born May 14, 1903
Married Oct. 6, 1928
Lottie Norman born Nov. 26, 1903 died April 14, 1970

Hugh Edward Courtney born Nov. 20, 1906
Married May 2, 1925
Ollie Weeks born April 17, 1909

Ovie Courtney born May 10, 1911
Married
T. L. Ross born May 2, 1912 died May 1, 1963

Samuel James Courtney born Jan. 5, 1870 died Aug. 5, 1949
Married Jan. 5, 1893
Emeline McMillan born Dec. 26, 1877 died March 4, 1958

Children born to them:

Icie Sarilla Courtney born Sept. 6, 1895
Married March 22, 1914
James Walter Waltman born Dec. 25, 1888 died Sept. 19, 1961
(3 children)

Vera Allena Courtney born April 8, 1897 died Dec. 7, 1899

Myrtle Irene Courtney born May 28, 1899
Married July 28, 1918
Sam Jones Stovall born Dec. 13, 1897
(1 child)

Lonzo Cleveland Courtney born Dec. 10, 1900 died April 25, 1971
Married Sept. 18, 1924
Jeanette Alberta Roberts born Aug. 31, 1901
(2 children)

Ora Lee Courtney born June 25, 1902 died Aug. 27, 1963
Married Sept. 23, 1923
Irvin French born Dec. 2, 1903

Sammie Earlene Courtney born March 2, 1913
Married April 11, 1936
Edwin Lee Berry born Feb. 17, 1911
(2 children)

Emma Jewell Courtney born Nov. 8, 1921
Married July 4, 1942
Tom Smythe Treadwell born July 12, 1919
(1 child)

James Jeanette Courtney born Nov. 8, 1921
Married March 29, 1941
Albert Lawrence Smith born Nov. 23, 1916
(2 children)

Willie Ann Courtney born Feb. 22, 1872 died Feb. 22, 1964
Married
James Monroe Bell born Jan. 12, 1866 died March 29, 1937

Children born to them:

Bertha Bell born Sept. 28, 1891
Married
Joe Vowels born March 12, 1870 died July 18, 1947

Oscar Bell born Feb. 28, 1894 died Feb. 1, 1976
Married
Viola Howell
4 children
Married
Ollie Clark Gossitt
5 children

George Washington Bell born April 28, 1895 died Jan. 25, 1979
Married Jan. 9, 1926
Lela (Tots) Maxey
(5 children)

Lewis Burlon Bell born Dec. 3, 1900 died Jan. 17, 1950
Married June 19, 1922
Olga Hinson
(5 children)

Amos Burton Bell born Nov. 2, 1905 died Mar. 17, 1932
Married
Eunice Broaddus
(1 child)

Jimmie Lee Bell born March 8, 1913
Married Aug. 29, 1931
Verdo R. Chandler
(2 children)

William Reuben Courtney born Feb. 21, 1876 died Oct. 27, 1952
Married
Martha Ann Fuller born Nov. 5, 1878 died Aug. 14, 1965

Children born to them: —

Walter Lee Courtney born Sept. 26, 1897 died April 28, 1966
Married Aug. 17, 1919
Jeffy Earlene Hales born Aug. 18, 1901 died July, 1976
(2 children)

Verba Alona Courtney born June 30, 1899
Married Oct. 12, 1919
Eugene Knox born May 3, 1895 died June 25, 1977
(2 children)

Evie Ann Courtney born Jan. 26, 1901
Married April 1, 1924
George Powell born Feb. 7, 1900 died Aug. 30, 1971
(1 child)

Vida Beatrice Courtney born Mar. 12, 1903 died Sept., 1903

Ruby Jeanette Courtney born Aug. 8, 1905
Married 1923
Woody Shivers born June 19, 1902 died Feb. 11, 1973
(2 children)

Lamar William Courtney born March 19, 1913 died Nov. 1976
Married Jan., 1934
Charlie Ross Kindred born July 29, 1918
(1 child)

Mary Jean Courtney born Feb. 26, 1917
Married May 19, 1934
P. D. Selman born June 10, 1912
(3 children)

Mary Alice Courtney born April 5, 1874 died Oct. 31, 1899.
Married
Asa Milton Fuller born May 9, 1868 died June 12, 1951

Children born to them:

Reba Alice Fuller born March 15, 1893 died Dec. 10, 1961
Married Sept. 25, 1912
Samuel Wright Shepherd born Feb. 19, 1891 died July 28, 1963
(4 children)

Lillian Allie Fuller born Aug. 17, 1895 died July 9, 1896

Burrell Harvey Fuller born July 12, 1899 died Nov., 1911

Amos Burton Courtney born Nov. 1, 1878 died March 11, 1950
Married
Sarah Jane Butler born May 2, 1878 died July 1, 1955

Children born to them:

Lillie Viola Courtney born June 4, 1899
Married Nov. 1916
Perry Conner
(1 child)
Married
Cal Weeks
(2 children)

Mary Alice Courtney born July 27, 1901
Married 1918
Bryan Myres born July 15, 1897 died May, 1955
(5 children)

Georgia Ann Courtney born June 26, 1904
Married Aug. 5, 1925
Haskell Shivers born Aug. 12, 1901 died Sept. 28, 1956
(6 children)

Hubert Courtney — born Oct. 18, 1906
Married — May 2, 1925
Pinky Grimes — born March 25, 1906
(6 children)

Tennie Courtney — born Dec. 28, 1908
Married — June 20, 1925
Milford Grimes
Married
Robert Vail
(8 children)

Leon Courtney — born May 5, 1912 — died Feb. 1969
Married — 1930
Annie May Thompson — born 1912
(3 children)

Eunice Courtney — born June 9, 1914
Married — July 3, 1931
Joe Mettlin — born Sept. 30, 1907

Earl Courtney — born April 4, 1917 — died June 10, 1918

P R O L O G U E

Even as a young girl, I was fascinated by our families and their origins. My interest was stimulated by my childhood visits with my Courtney and Berry relatives. In college, a sociology paper on our family tree started my collection of information, which has grown to fill six notebooks and several boxes. The real impetus to my search came during a three-year stay in Europe early in my marriage. I felt I was missing a great opportunity to visit the places that my ancestors came from in Europe.

As soon as we returned home in 1964, I began my search. I read many books on genealogy, which was not nearly as popular as it is today; wrote and talked to relatives; and researched in libraries. The first big discovery in those early years was the James Courtney family Bible, published in 1815, and in the possession of my grandfather, Samuel James Courtney. This Bible contained the names, marriage dates, and birthdates of our Revolutionary War ancestor's family.

At the Los Angeles Municipal Library, I found a book, North Carolina Wills, which contained the 1750 will of Robert Courtney, James Courtney's grandfather, and a book on Revolutionary War soldiers, which contained the name of a James Courtney of Mississippi with the same birthdate as our ancestor in the Courtney Bible. The problem posed was that his wife's name was different from the two wives listed in the Bible. I felt, however, that the exact birthdate proved the relationship.

In 1968 while we were living in Washington, D. C., I was able to research some at the National Archives, where I obtained a photocopy of James Courtney's Revolutionary War Pension Application. The signature matched the writing in the Courtney Bible.

By 1975, I had enough proof to join the Daughters of the American Revolution. Contact with that organization gave me the name of a distant Courtney cousin who had joined after proving James Courtney an ancestor. We combined the information we had, and in 1976 my mother, Earlene Courtney Berry, and I were accepted as members of the D. A. R.

Since then, our distant cousin, Dorothy Saunders, and her sister, Thelma Estabrook, have journeyed to North and South Carolina, where they found new information and established more proof on our existing information.

My thanks goes to Earlene Berry for helping to write this and to Icie Courtney Waltman, Myrtle Courtney Stovall, Jewell Courtney Treadwell, Jeanette Courtney Smith, and all other relatives for their help in my research.

Martha Berry Thorpe

new panels with saints. The tower arch screen has carved and coloured figures of Moses and Aaron. There are a few old benches, fragments of ancient glass with flowers and stars, and a worn and faded picture of the Supper at Emmaus painted by Richard Conway, the famous 18th century miniaturist, during a visit to the castle.

Under an arch lies the 14th century figure of a slender mantled lady with angels at her head and a dog at her feet, probably Elizabeth Bohun, whose daughter Margaret brought Powderham into the possession of the powerful Courtenays. All about her are memorials of the earls of Devon and their families. Their arms are on some of the pillars, and their names are recalled in many of the windows. The tomb of the tenth earl has a grand display of heraldry and angels holding a canopy crowned by a forest of pinnacles. On a 19th century altar tomb is the figure of Elizabeth, wife of the 11th Earl, calmfaced, clad in a lacy gown and cap, and holding a crucifix of camelias. Her husband, who has been sleeping here since 1888, was known as the Good Earl. He made great improvements to the castle and planted the cedar avenue, and for 50 years was the most influential man in Devon.

THE ROMANTIC STORY OF THE COURTENAYS

The story of the Courtenays is so extraordinary that it compelled Gibbon to arrest the majestic march of his Decline and Fall to write on the subject, authorized or excused, as he said, by the purple of three Courtenay emperors who reigned at Constantinople.

He traces the rise of the house from a root established near Paris, which was allied to the royal house of France. Branches of this family were crusading governors in Mesopotamia, rulers of Constantinople, and one member was a king of Jerusalem. Gibbon says that one branch came to England, humbler but happier than the emperors, who at last wandered over Europe to solicit alms for the support of their dignity and the defense of their capital.

The English branch had gained a foothold in the reign of Henry the Second, when Robert Courtenay married the heiress of one of the murderers of Becket. Successive generations made prosperous marriages, one of which brought the earldom of Devon six centuries ago.

The second earl William, Archbishop of Cantebury and Lord Chancellor married a grand-daughter of the Black Prince Peter, who was standard-bearer to Edward the Third. When Wycliffe proposed the reform of the Church, it was Archbishop Courtenay who brought Wycliffe to trial in St. Paul's and ultimately