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Title: A.S.C[ourtney] to Mrs. H.A. Lowry, 1810 ...
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Description: A.S.C[ourtney] to Mrs. H.A. Lowry, 1810 Wyandotte Street, Riverside, Ontario, Canada. Copy typed letter giving information on the history of the Courtney family.

History of the Courtney (McCourtney) family of Cloughanduff
by Arthur Skelton Courtney 1959

The Courtney's first came to Ireland in the year 1598. The date of the lease given Francis Courtney of the two townlands of Cloughinduff and Kelmakee in 1605, given as a marriage portion. Also Allisons farm, A. Greer formerly occupied this farm, married another sister and went as a marriage portion. All these farms were originally in possession of the Courtneys.

17th Century

The first of the buildings at Castle Upton erected by the Courtney's was the west wing, which is 90 ft. long by 47 ft. high. At the time of the building the 1st story was meant for Kitchen, Scullery and Larder, Butler's Pantry etc., and the 2nd story for Dining Room and Drawing Room, 3rd story for Bedrooms, 4th story attics.

When Mr. Upton got up the Company of Yeoman the above Dining Room was set apart for the Barrack. This Company was chosen out of the tenantry on the Upton Estate all stalwart men such as the Shannons, Clays, Courtneys. Their flag and drum still hangs in the front Hall of Upton Castle. Their guns (Queen Anne's) and uniform still in the possession of their successors on the Estate.

BRIEF NOTE ON THE ANCESTORS OF THE COURTENAYS AND SHANNONS

In the 17th century, one Francis Courtenay, was given as a reward for valour, the lease of the townland of Claughinduff, from Captain Upton, who held the two townlands of Claughinduff and kilmakee.The lease fell out about the end of the 18th century, and was not renewed. During the lease, each Courtenay in/possession of the property, gave at the marriage of a daughter, a portion of the Claughinduff as a dowry. The last Courtenay that got a portion as her dowry became Mrs. Nesbitt. Thus the original Holding was whittled down to some 50 acres, held by Francis, the last Courtenay of Claughinduff. I suppose thereafter, the 50 acre farms were sold to the occupants as the Uptons were in need of money.

The Courtenay and Shannon family trees are given below following on from 1800. There are numerous missing names, especially of the womenfolk and their husbands. We know their were Agnews, Nesbitts, Greers, Skeltons, but I have no details. We know that John and Joseph Courtenay 1842-1851 went to America. A Frank Shannon of Rickmore went to Canada about 1918. Sarah Shannon and husband (daughter of James Shannon, of Wm. Shannon and Hannah Courtenay of Claughinduff) went to Winnipeg. She was followed by her brother James and his wife.

I enclose copy, I thought you would like the record in Daddy's handwriting, which is herewith. I have typed a copy for us, & send you the original, which I didn't know Jimmy had.

MAUSELEUM

The Mauseleum is faced inside and outside with Portland stone. The walls packed with the old stones that the Church was built with. This mauseleum was built by the Courtenay's. The plans etc., were designed by Sarah Upton, wife of Arthur Upton, to whose memory it was erected.

The Boundary wall of the graveyard was built with the old stones of the Church. The Mason Work and Tomb Stones were put down by our ancestors over the graves of Josiah Welsh and Kennedy. The wall enclosing the kitchen garden was also built by our Ancestors. 304 years ago.

Great Great Grandfather.....	Francis Courtney	1700
Great Grandfather.....	John Courtney	1745
Grandfather.....	John Courtney abt.	1770
Father.....	Wm. Courtney	1814
Son.....	Wm. Courtney	

List of farms in lease granted to Francis Courtney.

Farm in Cloughinduff last occupier Francis Courtney (big Frank) last occupier Alex. Courtney, this farm was occupied by Joe Courtney, brother of your grandfather, his wife was a Roman Catholic. Also a farm lately occupied by Glass and formerly by a Nesbitt who married a sister of your grandfather, Ann Courtney by name. This farm came to Nesbitt as a marriage portion. Also I. Prices farm formerly occupied by a man named Bell, who married another sister of your grandfather, this farm was also given as a marriage portion. Also, Allisons farm, A. Greer formerly occupied this farm, married another sister and went as a marriage portion. All these farms were originally in possession of the Courtneys.

THE HISTORY OF THE COURTNEY FAMILY

18TH CENTURY

The stable yards of Castle Upton are very extensive and cover about half an acre of ground. The drawings etc. were designed by Sarah Upton wife to Arthur Upton. Samuel Courtney was the Contractor at 7/6 per perch providing materials. The sand was brought from Lough Neagh in sacks, 7 cwt in each sack thrown across a wheel car. The stones were brought from Court Hill near Muckamore, also in cars. The lime was produced in their own quarries and kilns which were inside their own demense. The brick was also made from clay adjacent to the village. The Masons wages were 13 pence per day, labourers 6 1/2d per day. This Samuel Courtney lived in Templepatrick and kept the Inn on the same site as the Templetown Arms Inn. This Samuel Courtney and family emigrated to America.

The Presbyterian Church (now Unitarian) built 1784 by grandfather John Courtney of Cloughinduff at Lord Templetown's expense. Site inside demesne, Lord Templetown worshipped in this Church as a Presbyterian. The communion service is solid silver and was presented by Lord Templetown. Dunmineen House and stable yards was built by the above John Courtney, to the same drawings as Castle Upton Yards, but in a smaller scale, Dunmineen is in North Antrim. This John Courtney was called a practical Architect. He was often called to settle disputes about measurements and arbitrate on cases in dispute. The stable yards at at Fisherwick, Doagh were also built by him to the same plans, and smaller scale.

He continued as Mason at Castle Upton till his death and was succeeded by his son James Courtney, who with the assistance of his brothers John and William built 12 farm houses with farm yards on Castle Upton Estate (by contract) also a number of bridges etc. at Lord Templetown's expense.
At this time Castle Upton and demesne was let to Francis Whitla Esq., for 21 years. James Courtney continued as Mason for Mr. Whitla, as he was to keep the place in repair. Francis Courtney was born at this time and was baptized Francis Whitla. The demesne was all arable at this time. Mr. Whitla lived in the Castle during these 21 years, when his lease expired the present plantation was planted. James Courtney resigned and commenced to contract for work elsewhere. (He was succeeded by his brother John Courtney of Rickamore) Caranee paper mills, Millbank Print Works, Mr. I Barren's Corn Mill, Ballymartin, were all built by the Courtney brothers. The Templepatrick Presbyterian Church (1835) was also built by them, expense borne by Lord Templetown (This Congregation was a split off from the now Unitarian Church (1829)) with the exception of cartage of materials which the Congregation did.

The Castle Upton Demesne wall was built by John Courtney of Rickamore at 2/2 per masons perch for workmanship and attendance. The Front Lodge Castle Upton done by days work. Architect Mr. Fullem, England. The North Wing, New Kitchen, Sculleries and Pantries and Larders, Pigeon Tower, North West Tower know as Flag Tower 73ft high, Contractor John Courtney, this part of the building was erected in 1846, 1847 and 1848. After this, new windows were put in all the Castle Starts and bonds of Tardra stone, Mullions of Scotch Stone. Also a general overall of the Castle took place at this time, under Henry Upton 2nd Viscount. At this time Wm. Courtney left and went to Belfast to act as foreman for James Carlisle, Builder etc.

During the sixteenth Century, when Presbyterian Ministers had to fly from Scotland, one of them came to Ballybentra House, owned by a Mr. Lawther, in search of work as a labourer. This place is still in possession of the Lawthers and is situated opposite Castle Upton, on the other side of the Six Mile Water. The Minister in disguise got work, and preferred to sleep in the barn instead of the dwelling house, there was some suspicion arose as to his being a labourer, as he would give no account of himself. A strict watch was kept on him at night, and they overheard him praying, this strengthened the opinion that he was something more than a labourer, and as the whole thing came to the knowledge of Mr. Upton, he sent Francis Courtney (who in 1598 came to this country with the Upton family) over to Lawthers to see the stranger and invite him to Castle Upton. However he declined the invitation and Mr. Upton and F. Courtney both went over, and he promised to go with them if they would give him protection, which they did and brought him over to Castle Upton, he told them about his banishment and how he came to Ballybentra. The Episcopal Church of that time stood in the old graveyard in Castle Upton demesne on about the same site now stands the mauseleum running East and West. The foundation of the North wall crossed the present burying place of the Shannons of Cloughinduff, and the Courtneys also.

Mr. Upton was anxious to hear this man preach in the Episcopal Church but the minister refused, thinking he would be arrested, but as Mr. Upton guaranteed him protection, a day was set apart to hear him. This came to the then Bishop's ears, he gave notice to Mr. Upton not to dare bring a Non-Conformist Minister into his Church. However the day appointed came round, and the Bishop was earlier in his pulpit than usual, but Mr. Upton was prepared, giving a sword to F. Courtney and taking one himself formed in procession (The Minister between the two) the two men having their swords drawn and the Minister with the Bible in his hand walked into the Church, the people in Church were so alarmed that part of them fled. The three men marched up to the pulpit and Mr. Upton asked the Bishop to give place but he refused. Mr. Upton caught him by the arm and pulled him out of the pulpit and put the other man in, he preached a powerful sermon, and most all the people came back to hear him preach, and thus ended the tyranny of the Episcopal Church, and the Establishment of Presbyterianism at Templepatrick. The Upton family remained Presbyterian up to the last Century and then went over to the Episcopal Church. The Courtneys are the only original representative family of the Presbyterian Church of Templepatrick.

HISTORY OF THE COURTNEY FAMILY

The origin of the name of your Ancestor - Courtenay

In the year 420 A.D. Athon founder of the French Monarchy, fortified the town of Courtenay in France and assumed the name of this town as his surname. This Athon De Courtenay was the ancestor of all the Kings of France, and from him descended the Courtenays Emperors of Constantinople and Jerusalem. 1065 A.D. The first Courtenay settled in England, (descended from the Emperors above named) came over from Normandy with William The Conqueror, King of England, and from him Baldwin De Brionie Courtenay descended the English Earls of Devon, of Oakhampton of Devonshire, and coming on down this line to the reign of Elizabeth. Sir William Courtenay of Powderham Castle, Devonshire, in that reign married the daughter of John Fowlett, Marquis of Winchester, had an only son Sir Wm. Courtenay Knight and High Sheriff of Devonshire in 1581 & was appointed one of the undertakers in the first planting of Ireland by English settlers in Elizabeth's reign. This Sir William married the daughter of the Earl of Rutland and gained large Estates in Ireland. In 1598 one of this family, Francis Courtenay, who born in Devonshire, but settled in Ireland under his kinsmans plantation, (The above Sir William). On the appointment of the Earl of Essex as Lord Deputy joined the English army under the Earl of Essex and went North under Captain Upton son of Arthur Upton Esq., of Upton Co. Devon and on the succession of the O'Neil Rebellion, Mr. Upton received from the successor of Essex in the office of Lord Deputy Lord Mountjoy the two townlands in Co. Antrim of Cloughinduff and Kilmakee as the reward for his valour (and gave with the consent of Chitchester the successor of Mountjoy in the Deputyship) a lease of the townland of Cloughinduff to his subordinate brother in arms Francis Courtenay, your direct ancestor.

This release or a renewal of it, fell out in the time of your grandfather John Courtenay and was not renewed - From 1605 the original date of the lease (on the authority of the Upton Estate Rental in the early part of this Century in the office of the Ulster King at Arms lent by Mr. Henry Adair) till your grandfathers time from generation to generation each of your Ancestors in possession of the property at the marriage of a daughter gave as her dowry a portion of Cloughinduff. Your grandfather's sister Mrs. Nesbitt being the last who got a portion as her dowry, till the original holding was whittled down to the same 50 acres possessed by you cousin Francis, as the last Courtenay of Cloughinduff.

The ancient Crest, a plume of Ostrich feathers out of a ducal coronet - Motto "Ube lapsis quid fecit" (Where have I fallen, what have I done)

The above history is on the Authority of Sir Bernard Burke, Ulster King of Arms. Lodges Ancient peerage. The Hamilton and Montgomery Manuscripts and information got from the Upton Estate Rentals in the early part of 1st century in the hands and possession of John Burke Esq., the then Ulster King of Arms, who got it from the Upton office for the purpose of searches for some family descents, also from Burke's extinct peerages and Landed Gentry.

Your Grandfather John Courtenay of Cloughinduff was an officer in a Company of Yeoman raised by John Henry Baron Upton, and was present at the Battle of Antrim in 1798, but this is not a certainty. A. Courtenay of Doagh was in possession of the sword worn at the Battle of Antrim by your grandfather.