

*Inventor John M. Courtenay of Exeter, England  
Emigrated to the United States  
By St. John Courtenay III and Sarah More*

**ENDNOTES (SOURCES for article)**

---

<sup>1</sup> Some sources list the middle name “Merwin” instead of “Marvin.” See e.g.,

[https://peoplelegacy.com/florence\\_victoria\\_courtenay\\_handbury-3=3C4=](https://peoplelegacy.com/florence_victoria_courtenay_handbury-3=3C4=)

However, as an inventor, J.M. Courtenay had to declare his true name under penalty of perjury when he filed his U.S. patent application on 19 April 1876, for U.S. Patent No. 178,911, granted 20 June 1876, and he used the middle name “Marvin.”

<sup>2</sup> 19 April 1905, *Evening Star* newspaper, p. 3, courtesy of Newspapers.com. The *Evening Star* newspaper was published in Washington, D.C. from 1854–1972. “Mrs. Courtenay-Ellis was the eldest daughter of John Graham of Seven Oaks, near London, England. In 1845 she married John Merwin [sic] Courtenay of Exeter, Devonshire. After several years spent in the orient and in Europe, Mr. and Mrs. Courtenay came to the United States.”

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045462/1905-04-19/ed-1/seq-3/#date1=1770&index=0&rows=20&words=Courtenay+Courtenay-Ellis+Ellis&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=&date2=1963&proxtext=courtenay+ellis&y=0&x=0&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1>

<sup>3</sup> J.M. Courtenay’s name appears in some British sources with the suffix “Esquire” (Esq.). However, in nineteenth-century England, this typically meant that he was a member of the English gentry “whose rank was superior to that of a gentleman but inferior to that of a knight,” and did not mean that he was a solicitor, barrister, or attorney, as that suffix is used in the U.S. today. See Cornell Law School Legal Information Institute;

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/esquire>

*Cf.* “In the United States, esquire (often shortened to Esq.) is a title of courtesy, given to a lawyer and commonly appended to his/her surname.”

<sup>4</sup> Death Certificate, Registrar of Vital Statistics, Town of Cornwall, Orange County, New York, District No. 3552, Registered No. 47, Date of Death, June 19, 1881, Place of Death, Idlewild, Cornwall-on-Hudson.

<sup>5</sup> See *supra* n.2.

<sup>6</sup> See *supra* n.2.

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.green-wood.com/burial\\_results/index.php](https://www.green-wood.com/burial_results/index.php)

---

<sup>8</sup> 2nd marriage certificate listing her parents' names:

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:24MT-7HC>

<sup>9</sup> [https://peoplelegacy.com/john\\_merwin\\_courtenay-3J7U5P](https://peoplelegacy.com/john_merwin_courtenay-3J7U5P)

<sup>10</sup> 1910 passport: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-99DD-X9YZ-T?view=index&action=view>

Virginia Leach burial: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/47115920/virginia-leach>

<sup>11</sup> 1875 marriage index: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:249P-MPZ>

[https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/47115920/virginia\\_leach](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/47115920/virginia_leach)

Col. Leach death certificate: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QV37-L6PZ>

12

[https://www.google.ca/books/edition/Ship\\_Registers\\_and\\_Enrollments\\_of\\_New\\_Or/xzrEXAir4s0C?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=j.m.+courtenay+of+new+york&pg=PA205&printsec=frontcover](https://www.google.ca/books/edition/Ship_Registers_and_Enrollments_of_New_Or/xzrEXAir4s0C?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=j.m.+courtenay+of+new+york&pg=PA205&printsec=frontcover)

13

[https://www.google.ca/books/edition/Senate\\_Documents\\_Otherwise\\_Publ\\_as\\_Publi/wI0FAAAAQAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=%22j.+m.+courtenay%22&pg=RA9-PA3&printsec=frontcover&bsh=m=rime/1](https://www.google.ca/books/edition/Senate_Documents_Otherwise_Publ_as_Publi/wI0FAAAAQAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=%22j.+m.+courtenay%22&pg=RA9-PA3&printsec=frontcover&bsh=m=rime/1)

14

[https://www.google.ca/books/edition/Hand\\_book\\_of\\_Marine\\_Insurance\\_and\\_Average/e6AcAAAAMAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=%22john+m.+courtenay%22&pg=PA445&printsec=frontcover](https://www.google.ca/books/edition/Hand_book_of_Marine_Insurance_and_Average/e6AcAAAAMAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=%22john+m.+courtenay%22&pg=PA445&printsec=frontcover)

<sup>15</sup> Page 13:

[https://www.google.ca/books/edition/House\\_Documents\\_Otherwise\\_Publ\\_as\\_Execut/GpwFAAAQAQAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=%22john+m.+courtenay%22&pg=RA6-PA14&printsec=frontcover](https://www.google.ca/books/edition/House_Documents_Otherwise_Publ_as_Execut/GpwFAAAQAQAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=%22john+m.+courtenay%22&pg=RA6-PA14&printsec=frontcover)

16

[https://www.google.ca/books/edition/First\\_Mortgage\\_Indorsed\\_Bonds\\_of\\_1869/\\_YNBAQAAMAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=%22john+m.+courtenay%22&pg=PA91&printsec=frontcover](https://www.google.ca/books/edition/First_Mortgage_Indorsed_Bonds_of_1869/_YNBAQAAMAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=%22john+m.+courtenay%22&pg=PA91&printsec=frontcover)

<sup>17</sup> Page 457:

[https://www.google.ca/books/edition/Poor\\_s\\_Manual\\_of\\_Railroads/SZJ-x5rXaFkC?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=%22john+m.+courtenay%22&pg=PA457&printsec=frontcover](https://www.google.ca/books/edition/Poor_s_Manual_of_Railroads/SZJ-x5rXaFkC?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=%22john+m.+courtenay%22&pg=PA457&printsec=frontcover)

<sup>18</sup> 1870 Census: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M86S-9SZ>

<sup>19</sup> See *supra* n.17, Page 457:

---

[https://www.google.ca/books/edition/Poor\\_s\\_Manual\\_of\\_Railroads/SZJ-x5rXaFkC?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=%22john+m.+courtenay%22&pg=PA457&printsec=frontcover](https://www.google.ca/books/edition/Poor_s_Manual_of_Railroads/SZJ-x5rXaFkC?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=%22john+m.+courtenay%22&pg=PA457&printsec=frontcover)

<sup>20</sup> 1872 land record - Margaret J. Courtenay:

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G9WF-YPK2?i=76&cc=2078654&cat=168957>

<sup>21</sup> 1872 land record - J. M. Courtenay:

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-89WF-1L19?i=169&wc=M7CC-Z2C%3A358136701%2C360002401&cc=2078654>

<sup>22</sup>

[https://www.google.ca/books/edition/Railway\\_Locomotives\\_and\\_Cars/IzsjAQAAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=%22john+m.+courtenay%22&pg=PA745&printsec=frontcover](https://www.google.ca/books/edition/Railway_Locomotives_and_Cars/IzsjAQAAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=%22john+m.+courtenay%22&pg=PA745&printsec=frontcover)

<sup>23</sup> 1873 land record - Margaret J. Courtenay:

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-99WY-8WH7?i=371&wc=M7CB-4NT%3A358138101%2C362177301&cc=2078654>

<sup>24</sup> 1875 census: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VTDN-L8Y>

<sup>25</sup>

[https://www.google.ca/books/edition/The\\_Trow\\_City\\_Directory\\_Co\\_s\\_Formerly\\_Wi/be4pAAAAYAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=%22john+m.+courtenay%22&pg=PA31&printsec=frontcover](https://www.google.ca/books/edition/The_Trow_City_Directory_Co_s_Formerly_Wi/be4pAAAAYAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=%22john+m.+courtenay%22&pg=PA31&printsec=frontcover)

<sup>26</sup> 1880 census: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MZXP-YGJ>

<sup>27</sup> <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85026214/1880-04-04/ed-1/seq-5/#date1=1770&index=0&rows=20&words=Courtenay+Idlewild&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=&date2=1963&proxtext=courtenay+idlewild&y=0&x=0&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1>

<sup>28</sup> 1881 will: <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-8992-V4QF?wc=Q75Q-GP8%3A213303201%2C215633201%3Fcc%3D1920234&cc=1920234>

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/108498795/john-merwin-courtenay>

<sup>30</sup> *See supra* n.2.

<sup>31</sup> *The Washington Post*, Washington D.C., 24 October 1912, p. 3, Courtesy of Newspapers.com “Funeral services over the remains of Virginia Courtenay Leach, widow of Col. Smith S. Leach, corps of engineers, U.S.A., will be held at St. Alban’s Church, Cathedral Close, Thursday, October 24, at 3 p.m. Interment at Arlington [National Cemetery].

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/28981569/?terms=%22virginia%20courtenay%20leach%22%20&match=1>

---

<sup>32</sup> *See supra* n.10: Virginia Courtenay Leach, b. 1849 d. 1912 (age 63). Burial place: Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA, 22211.

<sup>33</sup> The Home Journal (New-York [N.Y.]) 1846-1901 Morris & Willis's home journal:  
<https://www.loc.gov/item/sn83030582/>

34

[https://www.google.ca/books/edition/Specifications\\_and\\_Drawings\\_of\\_Patents\\_I/fMk6AQAAMAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=john+marvin+courtenay+of+new+york&pg=PA655&printsec=frontcover&bshw=rime/1](https://www.google.ca/books/edition/Specifications_and_Drawings_of_Patents_I/fMk6AQAAMAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=john+marvin+courtenay+of+new+york&pg=PA655&printsec=frontcover&bshw=rime/1)

<sup>35</sup> *Portrait and biographical record of Orange county, New York*, by Chapman Publishing Company (Chicago), c1895. (James Bigler biography on pages 1007-1008)

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/1400347?availability=Online>

<sup>36</sup> The full text of this three page patent is available for free download as a PDF file from Google Patents at the following link:

<https://patents.google.com/patent/US178911A/en?q=U.S.+Patent+No.+178%2c911>