

March 28th 1979

Château de Villegongis
36110 Sevronx
France

Dear Canon Perry

My husband and I, are most grateful to you, for the remarkable information you gave to Mr Cartwright, who forwarded them to us immediately, about my husband's great-uncle - Charles-Louis de Secondat de Montesquieu, and we wish to thank you most warmly for these precious information. We knew only that he had died in 1824, in England, at Bridge-Hill House, near Canterbury, but nothing else!

Here is a very short "digest" of his life: Baron de Secondat de Montesquieu, was an officer. He took part in the Independence American war, in which he fought very brilliantly. General Washington decorated him, himself, of the Cincinnati Medal.

After the Independence American war, he came back to France, but as the French Revolution broke out in 1789, he was so disgusted by the horrors of

I'm close in this letter a photo graph of Louis de Montesquieu, which we have in our Paris flat

this Revolution, that he emigrated to England in 1790, where he met Miss Mary Ann Mac Geoghagan O'Neil, which he married - She died only in 1835. He had married her in 1795. She was of Irish descent -

He took no part in the Napoleonic war - when the King Louis XVIII was restored on his throne, Charles Louis de Montesquieu, came back to France. He was made Lieutenant-General, by this King. But the Royalist Restoration having lasted a rather short time, Charles Louis came back once more to England. We presume his wife's parents possessed Bridge-Hill House?

of course, he owned the famous chateau de La Brède, in France, near Bordeaux, where the Philosopher Charles de Montesquieu, was born, Charles de Montesquieu, was his grand father -

He had no children, and left his French possessions to his nephew Cyrille de Secondat de Montesquieu. My husband is a great grandson of Cyrille de Montesquieu, also all the Montesquieu members of the family, living now.

We hope these few indications will be of some interest to you, and maybe to the Halett family, as you happen to know this family -

Please believe me, dear Canon Perry
respectfully yours

Baronne Ph. de Montesquieu