

“CHENIES MANOR” NEAR LONDON

Because so many in this family have direct lines of descent from Richard Chaney (Cheyney), of South River, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, we noted earlier this year in the December, 2001 - January, 2002, issue of the magazine, *English Garden*, the “cover” story that is titled: **“Garden of the Season Snow Covered Topiary Glistens at Chenies Manor”** (which is located at **Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, England WD3 6ER (where the telephone no. is: 01494 762888)**). (The gardens at “Chenies Manor” are described as being open 2-5 P.M. on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Bank Holidays from April to October.)

The article contains full color photographs, plus an article about the Manor (which is described as being located 22 miles from Marble Arch). Here is how the “Manor” is described, in part:

“The Manor is an ancient settlement. It is mentioned in the Domesday book and by 1180 was the property of the Cheyne family. In the sixteenth century, it passed by marriage to the family of the present Duke of Bedford (owner of Woburn Abbey) until Elizabeth MacLeod Matthews and her late husband bought Chenies in 1957.

“The house we see today dates largely from the fifteenth and early sixteenth century, with chimneypots typical of the Tudor period and steeped gables reminiscent of Holland or Flanders. The house has links with Tudor royalty; the workmen who rebuilt Chenies also worked at Hampton Court, Henry VIII’s great palace by the Thames. Henry visited Chenies with two of his wives. Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard, and it was one of several places where Catherine carried on her adulterous affair with Thomas Culpeper, one of the king’s attendants.”

(Thus, it is *possible* that portion(s) of the existing manor house might have existed before ownership of the Manor passed out of the Cheyne family “in the sixteenth century”.)

Not Too Far from London

The location, we are advised, is not too far from London. Professor Don Ball (an Anderson descendant who resides at Williamsburg, Virginia) reports that his wife, who is English born, immediately recognized the area as being close to where she grew up. The color photographs in the article and on the cover are gorgeous.

In addition to the many descendants of Isaac Chaney and Elizabeth (Anderson) Chaney - the “Waugh Chapel” line of descendants - many of us also descend from the same Richard Cheyney of South River; for example, all of the descendants of Absalom (III) Anderson and Louisa Priscilla (Woodward) Anderson descend from Richard Cheyney through Louisa Priscilla Woodward’s ancestors. And there are many other separate lines of descent, as well, including, by way of example, the many descendants of Richard Gardiner Chaney, of Annapolis (whose wife was Sarah Frances (Anderson) Chaney, of the William (III) Anderson line).

To the Manour Born!

Unlike families with last names such as Jones, Johnson, and Anderson, etc., there is a strong possibility that all of the “Cheynes” trace back to a common ancestor/family, which, in turn, increases the possibility that a “Chenies Manor” at Hertfordshire was a “family place” of such a family. Chaney’s: Welcome “to the Manour Born”.