



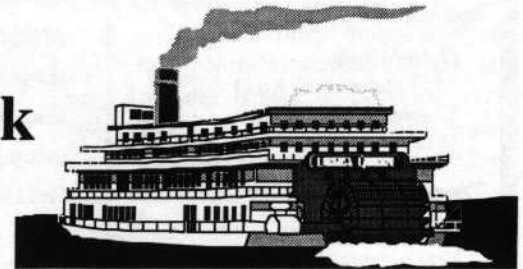
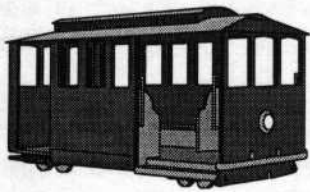
Cory Family Society Newsletter

Volume 11, Number 1

May 1996

7th Annual Cory Family Reunion

'Tour de Cory' Riverhead, New York September 12-15, 1996



Call the hotel... start the car... call the neighbors to watch your house! The Cory Family Society has planned an outstanding weekend reunion in Southold, New York. It will be a great time to renew friendships, while enjoying the research and festivities.

Thursday, September 13

It all begins with check-in at the Ramada Inn, Riverhead (516-369-2200). Hurry and make your reservations. Time is limited, and rooms will fill up fast.

We will meet in the lobby Thursday evening to receive our packets of information, and to catch up on the latest family happenings.

Friday, September 14

We will board a trolley at 8:30 a.m. to ride through the farms and vineyards of the North Fork to Southold. Our first stop will be the Horton's Point Lighthouse and Museum at 9:30 a.m. There we will view the Nautical Museum with ships' logs, and the culture of the farmers and mariners of Southold.

From the museum, we will travel to Hashamomack cemetery and the First Presbyterian Church in Southold. This is the church that John Cory I helped found with Reverend Youngs in 1640, according to many historians. The church houses the historical records of interest, and we have made arrangements, for anyone interested, to do "RUBBINGS" of the tomb-

stones.

Once we have finished our tour of the church yard, it is on to lunch. We have found a delightful place to enjoy lunch.

After lunch, we will take the trolley to Southold to visit the Southold Historical and Museums Society complex. The complex is comprised of a restored village with colonial relics dating to 1640, with an original school house, blacksmith, cobbler, and carpenter shops.

From the Museum, we will once again board the trolley and head back to the Ramada Inn, arriving sometime around 5:00 PM., and you will be free for the evening.

Saturday, September 15

The Riverhead Trolley will pick us up at 10:00 AM for the ride to the Peconic River Cruise Lines dock in downtown Riverhead. We will board the Peconic "River Lady" at 10:30 AM and our Brunch Cruise will start at 11:00. Our cruise will be comprised of the Cory Family Society members only, and we have booked special entertainment. Banjo Bob and Crazy Henry will entertain us while we eat and tour the Peconic River.

2:00 PM we will once again board the trolleys for a short visit and discussion with Mr. Wally Broge, the curator of the Suffolk County Historical Society. Mr. Broge is very knowledgeable in regard to the history of the entire east end of Long

Island.

From the Historical Society, we once again take the trolleys to Paumonak and Palmer Vineyards for wine tasting.

We will return to the Ramada Inn about 5:00 PM, and once again you are free for the evening.

Sunday, September 15

9:15 AM, the trolleys will pick us up and take us to the First Presbyterian Church of Southold for Sunday Services (John Cory's church). Following the services, we will return to the Ramada Inn.

1:00 PM, we will have the Cory Family Society Banquet, catered by the Ramada Inn. Our guest speaker for this meeting will be the Southold Town historian.

We are looking for an excellent turnout for the 1996 reunion. Not only will we have a great time touring the east end of Long Island, but we will also be wishing Mark Hester our best as he steps down from his 10th year as President of the Society.

Your registration form for the reunion can be found on page three. The deadline for registration will be July 15th. We will not be able to guarantee spaces after that date. For your convenience, we have reprinted information regarding transportation on page two.

If you have any questions, please give Linda Hester a call at (206) 255-0119.

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The Cory Family Newsletter is a quarterly publication sponsored by the Cory Family Society for the Surname Cory, Corey, Coray, Corie, Etc.

Please submit your newsletter items to Linda Hester at the address noted above.

Annual membership dues are \$10.00 per family, payable to Cory Family Society, c/o Maxine Hester at the address noted above.

Cory Family Reunion — Transportation/ Registration Information

Transportation

In order to assist you as much as possible, we have listed numbers for the ferry service and researched ways to arrive from the airport.

Ferry Service: Cross Sound Ferry - (516) 323-2743. Bridgeport & Port Jefferson Ferry — (516) 473-0286.

If you plan to fly, you will want to consider landing at J.F. Kennedy Airport, or LaGuardia. If you land at Newark, you will be subject to at least \$12 in tolls. If you land at McArthur Airport, the transportation to the hotel is limited, and quite expensive. The best price for getting to the hotel without renting a car is the Long Island Limousine Service (516) 234-8400. They run 11-passenger vans and charge \$22 per person from airport to hotel, leaving the airport every hour on the half hour (e.g., 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, etc.). However, if you arrive after 8:30 PM., it is \$42 per person and considered door to door service. Please consider this information when making your airline reservations. Below are events that have been discussed, but not finalized.

Hotel Reservation

When placing your hotel reservation at the Ramada Inn, Riverhead, (516) 369-2200, please mention the Cory Society for the best rates available. We have reserved a block of rooms for the Society. This block of rooms will be held for members until the 1st of July, so please make your reservations quickly.

Tracing My Family Tree

*I started out calmly tracing my tree
To find, if I could, the making of me
And all that I had was Great Grandfather's name
Not knowing his wife or which way he came.*

*I chased him across a long line of states
And came up with pages and pages of dates
When put altogether it made me forlorn
I'd proved poor Great Grandpa had never
been born.*

*One day I was sure the truth I had found
Determined to turn this whole thing upside down
I looked up the records of one Uncle John
But then found the old man to be younger than his
son.*

*Then when my hopes were fast growing dim
I came across records that must have been him
The facts I collected then made me quite sad
Dear ol' Great Grandfather was never a dad.*

*I think maybe someone is pulling my leg
I'm not at all sure I wasn't hatched from an egg
After hundreds of dollars I've spent on my tree
I can't help but wonder if I'm really me.*

Source Unknown

Family Announcements

We've Moved:

Jenny & Carl Withers
3419 Courtland Road
Pepper Pike, OH 44122

Births:

Nathaniel John Morgan
Born: 29 Sept 1995
Son of Jill Cory Withers Morgan
Daughter of Carl & Jenny Withers

Ill:

Vernon Cory has suffered a debilitating stroke. Your prayers would be appreciated.

If you would like to publish a birth, marriage, death or other special event, please send your notice to Linda Hester at the address noted on the left of this page. The next issue will be sent out the end of July.

She Was Apt to Keep On Going

BACHELOR BESS

The Homesteading Letters of Elizabeth Corey, 1909-1919

Edited by Philip L. Gerber

Illustrated, 462 pp. Iowa City:

University of Iowa Press. Cloth, \$12.50. Paper, \$14.95.

By Curtis Harnack

In 1909 Elizabeth Corey, a 21-year-old Iowa schoolteacher, filed for 160 acres of free Government land on the Bad River near Fort Pierre, SD. She proceeded to fulfill the residency and development requirements in order to "prove up" her claim - which also meant proving to herself and the home folks that she had the guts to make it.

Bess Corey's letters were saved for posterity by her youngest brother, Paul, who became a novelist, perhaps influenced by his sister's vivid language, exemplified in this invitation to come visit: "Will find a nest of pack rats and tie strings to their tails and drown them in the cistern and use them for coyote bait." These letters make compelling reading, and the editor of "Bachelor Bess," Philip L. Gerber, a professor of English at the State University of New York, Brockport, provides valuable ancillary information.

"I only write you a little but there is really a great muchness." Corey addresses most of the correspondence to her mother, with whom she has a complex love-hate relationship well delineated here. "Smile, Darn You, Smile" is her motto, largely because her difficulties are so immense there is no other feasible attitude to take. Her missives pulse with excitement - tall tales, fully rounded anecdotes, sharply drawn sketches - and Corey herself is in the center of the drama, a heroine bigger than life, all 200 pounds of her.

Pioneer journals and letters often read like garbled messages in a half-foreign tongue, with too much missing between the lines. But Corey relishes the telling detail, an apt turn of phrase. Her punchy, breezy style (she's a terrible speller) owes much to humorists of the period, such as Walt Mason and George Ade. About a clumsy German suitor on horseback: "He is as suple as a bear, mounts as easily as an elephant and rides with the grace of a grasshopper." And she ends with: "If I was a man I believe I'd thrash that dutchman till the slack in his pants would drag his tracks out."



Corey goes deeply into debt, buys horses but has to mortgage them and seldom knows whether she'll find a teaching job near her claim. "A girl alone among strangers," with no means other than her seasonal \$45-a-month salary, she persists, for "when I once get started I'm apt to keep on going."

In one letter she tells of a marauding wolf, a tornado damaging her roof, cattle running the cornfield, a near miss with a rattlesnake and some uneasy doings with a desperado. In the next letter: "I made a black underskirt - its a dandy - black sateen with a heatherbloom flounce."

Bachelor Bess, as she signs herself, is tempted by marriage offers but opts for her continued precarious freedom. A woman pioneer had certain advantages - "men were made to work and be worked," and she finds they like to help her, though it annoys the wives. In some ways she's better qualified than a man to be a homesteader, for she can handle every domestic aspect as well as deal with livestock, machinery and crops.

Ironically, the struggle wasn't worth it. The Government had been cruelly deceptive in holding out the myth of homesteading for this arid, poor land, which eventually reverted to its original tumbleweed state, the dams and shacks abandoned by everyone. Bess Corey ends her years alone, hard up, her health wrecked. But what a life! In these letters she lives as memorably as Mari Sandoz's homesteading father, "old Jules," or Willa Cather's Antonia.

THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW,
DEC. 4, 1990

Our thanks to Ellen Miller Moore, descendent of William Cory of Rhode Island, for submitting this article.

Hiram Colver McNeil and Family

By Carol McNeil Holler

Hiram Colver McNeil (son of Samuel and Elizabeth Hannah Cory) was born October 2, 1866 in Winchester near Emerald in Adams County, Ohio. He was baptized March 5, 1883 and united with Winchester Baptist Church in Adams County, Ohio. In August 1887 he passed the County Examination and received his certificate to teach. In September 1889 he began teaching at a school in Emerald. In September 1895 he began classes at Dennison University and graduated in June 1896 with a Bachelor of Science degree. Four years later in 1900 he received a Master of Science degree. Subsequently he studied at Harvard University and the University of Chicago. From 1899 through 1904 he was head of the Chemistry Department at Shurtleff College in Upper Alton, Illinois.

On September 4, 1901 he married Sarah Mae Hooper (daughter of Richard Robert and Susan Louise Hildreth) at her home in Columbus, OH. Their first son, Robert Hooper McNeil was born November 9, 1902. A second son Ernest Samuel McNeil was born January 2, 1904. In September 1904 Colver went to Washington, DC and worked as a research chemist at the United States Geological Survey while attending George Washington University, where he received his Ph.D. May 31, 1905. He then joined his family in Columbus, Ohio, where he was employed by the Columbus Pharmacal Company.

In April 1907 Dr. McNeil and his family moved to Washington, DC, where he worked as assistant chemist in the Bureau of Chemistry until 1914. The McNeil's third son, Harold Osman McNeil was born December 12, 1907. From 1910 to 1918 Dr. McNeil was assistant professor at George Washington University. From 1914 to 1918 he was associate chemist at the Bureau of

Standards. He became the head of the chemistry department at George Washington University in 1918 until he retired in 1933.

Colver and Sarah transferred their membership from Hildreth Baptist Church in Columbus, Ohio to Calvary Baptist Church in April, 1909. Sarah had lost most of her sight by 1907 and could not read and do many things we take for granted.

All three boys were reared and baptized at Calvary Baptist Church. Robert McNeil married Elisabeth Booth on September 9, 1925 at the home of the bride. On September 1, 1928, Ernest McNeil married Dorothy Rose at Calvary. The service was conducted by Homer Counciler. On September 12, 1932, Dr. W. S. Abernathy married Harold McNeil and Rebecca Ross at the McNeil home, 1210 Decator St. NW, Washington, DC. Harold was ordained at Calvary December 27, 1934 after completing his theological education.

Professor McNeil was a member of the Masons and belonged to LaFayette Lodge. Both he and Sarah were members of Fidelity chapter, Eastern Star where he was installed as Worthy Patron December 23, 1919. He was also

a member of the American Chemical Society and the History of Science Society. Colver was in Who's Who in America from 1907 through 1937. At Calvary Baptist Church he assisted and taught many Sunday school classes, and served on the Board of Deacons from 1922 through 1924. Colver was a staunch supporter of the Vaughn Class and was president of the Vaughn Class in 1910 through 1912. Under the auspices of the Vaughn Class, Colver conducted services for nearly 20 years at the Central Union Mission. He did not miss a monthly meeting for 12 consecutive years.

Colver and Sarah moved to Los Angeles, CA in September 1936 after several lengthy visits from 1933. On June 8, 1937 he died from cancer after being ill several months.

Sarah moved to Rockville Center, NY and then to Albert Lea, MI, to live with her son, Rev. Harold O. McNeil and family until her death April 23, 1960.

Have you paid your dues for 1996? If not, please use the form below and send it to our treasurer.

Cory Family Society

Application for Membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Fax: (_____) _____

Please fill out the above information and include a check in the amount of \$10.00 for the 1996 dues, payable to the Cory Family Society, c/o Mrs. Maxine Hester, 11123 N. Cambrian, Bremerton, WA 98312-2801.

Beatitudes of a Family Genealogist

Blessed are the great-grandmothers, who hoarded newspaper clippings and old letters,

For they tell the story of their time.

Blessed are all grandfathers who filed every legal document,

For this provides proof.

Blessed are grandmothers who preserved family Bibles and diaries

For this is our heritage

Blessed are fathers who elect officials that answer letters of inquiry,

For some—they are the only link to the past.

Blessed are mothers who relate family traditions and legends to the family,

For one of her children will surely remember.

Blessed are the relatives who fill in family sheets with extra data,

For them we owe the family history.

Blessed is any family whose members strive for the preservation of records.

For theirs is a labor of love.

Blessed are the children who will never say,

“Grandma, you have told that story twice today.”



Queries

Looking for sources relating to the ancestry of Roswell Ray Corey of the William Cory of Rhode Island line — *Ronald E. Yielding, 186 Zacharia Drive, Cathedral City, CA 92234.*

Hog Story Correction:

Verna Valkemin Cairncross pointed out that the Hog Story in our last issue was sent in a letter to Mr. Albert Snyder of Newark, NY, not New Jersey. “Albert Snyder and my mother, Mable Cory Valkemier were first cousins. A Cory Family Reunion was held at Albert Snyder’s home in Newark, NY in 1918 and annually for many years at various locations.”
Thank you for your letter.



Cory Family Society

*c/o Linda Hester
11032 S.E. 183rd Place
Renton, WA 98055-7119*

