

Corey/Cory DNA Report 2021

The Cory Family Society DNA Project was initiated in 2002 under the guidance of the late Art Corey, PhD., and subsequently transitioned to a surname project at Family Tree DNA, administered by Thomas E. Corey. Andrew Shetland Corey and David A. Cory have joined Tom as co-administrators.

Members of the Corey/Cory Surname Project at Family Tree DNA include, among others, 35 males whose paternal lines are related to one of the three main American lines—John Cory of Southold, William of Portsmouth, and Thomas of Chelmsford. Many of these are known direct descendants of one of the American progenitors, but in other cases, the relationship has not been proven. Among those known to descend from one of the progenitors are fifteen males who have tested at the highest level offered (Y-700, also known as the Big Y)—four descendants of William of Portsmouth, one descendant of Thomas of Chelmsford, and ten descendants of John of Southold. The Big Y test analyzes 700 markers called short tandem repeats (abbreviated STR, and commonly pronounced “stir”), compared to the 26 or 43 markers tested in the early years of the Cory Family Society DNA Project. Compared to lower levels of testing, the Big Y has the added benefit of testing for variants known as single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNP, commonly pronounced “snip”), which provide information about ancient ancestral migration patterns as well as establishing DNA profiles (known in genetic genealogy jargon as terminal SNPs) for individual lines of descent from the three American progenitors.

The original Cory Family Society DNA Project accomplished the goal of determining whether the three American progenitors were related in a genealogically meaningful time frame. They were not. Early on, the project established a connection between American descendants of Thomas of Chelmsford and the English Corys of Harpole. We have not been able to establish DNA matches in the UK for the John of Southold or William of Portsmouth lines, though there is documentary evidence for William coming from Bristol. SNP testing of American descendants has shown that John Cory’s remote ancestors lived in Scandinavia roughly 2000 years ago, but there is a large gap in our understanding of his ancestry between that time and the time he first appeared in Long Island records in 1644.

The Corey/Cory Surname Project serves as a DNA repository to help any male descendants related to one of the three lines determine their genealogy. We have helped solve a few adoption mysteries or given a thread of evidence to others over the years.

One challenge faced by the project is testers with incomplete paper trails, which are needed to verify relationships suggested by DNA. Another problem is locating living descendants in certain lines. Any males with the Cory surname or one of its variants are encouraged to consider Y DNA testing and to email davecory2@gmail.com, or visit the website familytreedna.com for further details. Testing may increase understanding of your own genealogy and will add to the database for the benefit of future generations.

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Cory
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