

**William Cory of Portsmouth, Rhode Island – Family History**  
**Transcribed Tape of the Cory Reunion of 1993**  
**Narrated by Charlotte Muller**

About twenty-nine of those men came down here to this area in Portsmouth, and began cutting trees and building cabins. The family and Ann Hutchinson followed a few months later. They were expelled from Boston because they did not conform to the Puritan religion, and she was a minister in England. She came over here with her family of about twelve children, and settled in Boston, and she created quite a stir. Not only for her different religious beliefs, but also because she was a woman who step out of her place. And so they got rid of the whole kit and caboodle.

Well, this happened to a lot of groups. Connecticut, Rhode Island and Long Island in New York were settled in the same way by religious groups who were expelled from the Boston Puritan group.

We do not know exactly when William came to this country because he was born in 1634. They had his baptism in the church in Bristol, England. The name of his father was John, who we assumed came with him because there was a John here in 1643.

But he came mainly with his grandmother who had married her second husband John Roome. His name is on the original Portsmouth Compact of the followers of Ann Hutchinson. So we assume that the rest of the family waited in the Boston area until there was some sort of homes built down here for them to occupy. And that they came down with the remainder of the group.

Within a year or so there were one hundred families here. Ann Hutchinson lived across the street from Governor Winthrop and many of the people where were expelled from Boston at that time, were equally wealthy, highly educated, the leading citizens of Boston who all lived on the same street with the Governor. So you did not have a large percentage of workman and craftsmen. You had the elite of the Boston colony in that day who migrated to Portsmouth, and many of them went in other colonies too.

The mere fact that Ann Hutchinson lived across the street from Governor Winthrop indicates that she was wealthy and that her family was highly positioned in England before they came over here.

Ann Hutchinson lived on the opposite part of England, so we do not think that William's grandparents were members of her religious group in England. But they definitely would not have gone through all of the harassment and all of the problems that Ann Hutchinson's group faced in Boston had they not believed in her religion and were followers of her.

When they first came down here, West Main was an Indian trail. They landed about three miles north of here when they came over from Providence. We do not know

what happened to William's father, John, but it seems that in 1643 he was charged with a felony, and about the same time that his grandfather was fined and censored for using fowl language to Governor Coddington, who was a follower of Ann Hutchinson, but he came down here with the idea of taking over and had appointed himself as Governor for life.

What they did when they came here is they organized and Governor Coddington and his group of people who moved from Portsmouth on down to Newport were responsible for setting up some sort of a government with representatives from each of the settlements, and that continued for many years.

I do not know if all of these people at the beginning were elected or were just chosen by their local counsels. But it was government by representation, and they met four times a year in various areas around. They made the laws that affected not only the island of Aquidneck, but they made the laws for all of the settlements around. Eventually they set taxes, and they had courts and they had trials and they maintained their own government with elected or with chosen representatives right off the bat. This is probably one of the first settlements in the whole United States where they had organized that type of government right off the bat.

You will see by your map John Roome was a pretty sharp man. His grandson William Cory, in 1638 was about four years old - obviously not old enough to own property because you had to be twenty-one to own property. The first land grant that John Roome gave is south of the Wading river, which is just north of here. That's the little piece of land across the top.

Then he had a thirty acre grant of land on the inside leaving this nice long strip - very narrow, of eight acres for his grandson William when he old enough to have a land grant.

John Roome also was one of several men who were in charge of assigning or helping settlers choose their pieces of land. His name is on the the deeds with his name are on all of the grants. William was issued his land grant in 1657 when he was twenty-one. The records of Portsmouth show that a few months before he was issued his land grant, the town council declared him a "townsman amongst us". Now, that's not a very uncommon term, and we're not quite sure, and the clerk at the City Hall is not quite sure what it meant, but it probably means is the town council recognized him as being twenty-one years of age, and thereby eligible to legally own land because the next town council he was issued a land grant, and then a few months later was declared a freeman.

Now that was true for a long, long time until last summer when I came here and asked. A freeman is nearly someone who is twenty-one years of age and legally owns land. That gives him the right to not only pay taxes, but to vote in the town council, to serve as town council officers, and to generally be a recognized citizen.

Question: Doesn't he have to take an oath before he can become a freeman?

I don't think so. No. They mention no oath.

Question: In Long Island, John had to take an oath. In fact, he refused a few times.

Ok now, what you're probably talking about is when a new settler came into town, before being accepted, and before being allowed to stay in that town, he had to sign an oath to obey the laws and to be a responsible citizen. In Portsmouth, that was the Portsmouth Compact that was signed in 1638 by the original men who came down. So that nearly gave them a legal and a moral standing in the community. Many people refused to and they would not sell them land.

Question: Do you think that it was possible that John at the time at first felt his first allegiance was to God, not to New Haven?

It's hard to tell what is in the minds of him. There have been various descriptions of the Portsmouth men, most of them by followers of Coddington or the Boston Puritans that are very unflattering. And a whole group of men and families enjoyed being stubborn and not following the prescribed religion. (Sounds like Cory's to me). You can find Cory's today that take pride in that. But they didn't go against the grain. They did not follow the powerful people that wanted them to follow. They were independent and they were stubborn. This goes on through when they moved over to Tiverton where they refused to join the state mandated religions over there and create quite a little bit of trouble over there because state mandated religions also mandated that everybody pay taxes to support the church and the minister, and they point blank refused to and they gave them a good hard time over it at Tiverton.

William's grandfather was a house carpenter and that tells us why William was a house carpenter. After the John Cory that he is mentioned in the records got into that little bit of trouble and is mentioned with another man also a signer of the Portsmouth Compact, there's no record in Portsmouth that anybody has found, of those two men.

There is a mention of John, and because we have church records in England that have been found in Bristol, England mentioning that William's father was a John, and his grandfather was a John, and the church records exist, it is assumed that the John that is mentioned in the records, is the father of William, but there's no proof of it yet.

Several years later when Ann Roome was reaching the end of her life, she made several legal depositions. One of who listed property that John Roome owned in Bristol, England, and deputizing her grandson William to go to England to sell the property and handle it.

In those two depositions, she indicated that William's father's name was John and that he was deceased. We have no idea whether he was really deceased or rather that was a convenient way to keep her son anonymous because wealthy men have long arms,

and even longer memories. If he had insulted Governor Kottingham, there's no reason to assume that he forgot about it. I like to think that John Roome used verbal language against Governor Coddington which we know from the records, and that his stepson and the other man used their fists to settle their argument.

Let me tell you something, you didn't run across powerful men like that and survive in the community. He would have been kicked out in dishonor and that sort of thing. So maybe he took the quick and easy way out and took his mother's bible and went to Long Island.

The baptism date of John Cory is in England. It's found in the church and they have the date, and it's 1611, which coincides with the date given for the birth of John of Southhold. That's not proof, but it sure puts it in the same ballpark.

So John Cory of Southhold maybe William's father.

Question: You mean that makes us related to all of Corys, O' my goodness.

You don't have to be kissing cousins if you don't want to.

Oh no, I want to be!

Oh boy! More kissing cousins.

But the tradition has long been voiced and written that John of Southhold, and William of Portsmouth were brothers, but this puts them in a father son relationship. It's up to the John people to prove that it's not true.

Now when William Cory grew up, he had this little strip of land and he made cash. He went out and bought property for his sons. He had forty-some acres here because he inherited his grandfather's property, and the final signing of the deed was in 1669 when Ann Roome signed over all of the property here.

In 1657, John Roome signed the deed for no money to William Cory for the thirty-acre strip in the back. I have the deed for that. There's a copy of it in there (in the book) if you want to try and read it. That allowed William Cory to be declared a freeman and to be made eligible to receive a grant for the eight acres here, all of which happened about the time he was twenty-one.

A few years later, he and his brother-in-law William Earl applied to the city council to trade a piece of land, a couple of acres on this side of the road, for an appropriate amount of land over across the street on Briggs Hill to build a windmill, and that was approved.

There's no evidence that William Cory operated the windmill. There's no evidence that he didn't, but it may have been an investment of his money. And that

remained in the family shortly until Mary Cory wanted to dispose of some of her land and she traded it back for land down here – presumably the same land he originally owned.

William also applied for a license to operate an ordinary or a videling house. That means a mom and pop kitchen where they served meals. And that was also granted. He paid ten shillings for his license which goes to show that things haven't changed much over the years. I had a letter a few months ago from a gentleman who, in all seriousness, informed me that because of that license given to him in the 1660's, any descendent of William Cory is eligible to join the Flagens Trenchers Association of Colonial Tavernkeepers.

Now if anybody is interested in joining, let me know and I'll be glad to provide you with the man's name and address.

Excuse me Charlotte, what's our Owl Number?

What?

What's our Owl Number? That's on the application for Flagens and Trenchers. They want to know your Owl Number. (laughing)

I don't know anything about that. I just got this letter from the man and I'm passing out the information because I thought it would be amusing. (laughing)

Frankly, it sounds like a marvelous association but there are some benefits for being a member. It is not known from the town records how long he operated the videling place, but he did hold the town meetings in his "Great" room, and presumably as the people came in for their meetings, it was convenient to have a place where you could eat and have some refreshments.

The town meetings were held in his home throughout his life, and after he died, it is mentioned that they are held in the home of widowed Mary Cory until about 1693, about which time she married Joseph Timberlake, her second husband.

After that, the meetings were held in the home on William Cory, Jr. who had inherited this eight acres from his father. It's not known how long he continued working as a house carpenter but there is no doubt that there was plenty of work available, and he was a valuable member of the community.

Question: Was William's main house on the same acreage?

Yes. Also having the ability to build your own house makes it easier to have a larger house, and a better quality house than he would have been able to afford probably in the early days.

There were eventually three houses on this property. John Roome and his wife Ann Cory Roome built their first house on the eight-acre strip that runs along the creek. After they purchased the thirty acres here, they built another house on it and when William Cory inherited that, he rented it out and part of the rent was that the lessee had to clear two acres of land each year and plant it in good hay seed. So at the end of ten years when William's eldest son John was of the age to take over, they had a producing and growing farm on this thirty acres. John was left thirty-eight acres more or less and that would be the strip along the creek that belonged to John Roon and the back thirty acres that belonged to John Roome. And this is where he brought his family up, and where it is assumed most of them were born. He moved to North Kingstown about 1705.

Before he moved, he made arrangements for William to take over the withall of this land. This is William Jr. When William Sr. made his will, he wrote some very unusual arrangements. The property could only be inherited by sons or daughters of the full blood – meaning no stepchildren (half brothers or sisters) – lawfully begotten. No illegitimate, and no stepchildren allowed to inherit the Cory land.

He also put in there the stipulation that it must be sold to other sons or daughters. So that means that the Cory boys could not sell their legacies and take off for Timbuck Too. They had to stay in the land. I have not traced this property further than the third or fourth generation. It passed to John over here, and William Jr. in the front. William Jr. ended up with all of the land. He died in 1704 and he divided up not lengthwise, but crosswise to his three sons. Presumably they lived on this land for some time. But there were so many deeds by that time with the names that I did not have time to press them.

So we do know that William's children remained on this land. Now the land tells about being on the highway, and also William's Jr., will mentions a highway on the south quarter. So by 1704, Cory's Lane was in here. It was mentioned as a landmark or a land border.

Very interesting side effect, Libbey showed me a book on windmills of the island which published just within the last year I guess. William Cory's name is spelled "Casey", and it says that the windmill was on Quaker Hill when the deed says Briggs Hill. So, so much for posterity. But in later years, this land over on this side was owned by Samuel Cory the Patriot. His son, Samuel, inherited apparently this land. And further on down (and we're going to ask the bus driver to go down a little bit and go down and turn around), on the right hand side is a priority, and I'm not sure what goes on there, but that is part of Cory's land – who was the brother of the Samuel up here.

So this land eventually went to descendants of Samuel's who married into the Briggs family. The same family that is across the hill here. There will be Briggs family over here who grew up on this land. Libby can you tell us were the cemetery is?

Libby: It's right down here on the left.

Right down on the left.

Charlotte, you might say that there's still a Cory living on Cory's Lane. My daughter.

Charlotte: Ok, alright. Libbey's daughter married a Chase and is now living on Cory's land. And we're not sure whether she's living on land that ever belonged to a Cory, but you know by the time you'd have any where from four to twelve children who marry and have children, if you look deep enough you can find Cory's all over the place.

We came down East Main Road and you saw the Cory's house over there, that was owned I know as far back as the 1700's by a John Cory who had five sons who lived on that corner. There are other Corey's up and down East Main and there are other Cory's up and down West Main which we're on now.

Does anybody have a question about William? Or have they heard too much already?

No!!

Question: It's in this book.

Charlotte: Yes.

Question: Are you selling this one?

Charlotte: That is a copy before the final editing. My daughter, Elizabeth has had her arm twisted and she ..... (they're all laughing a lot).

Question: When he was a child, who raised him?

Charlotte: His grandparents.

Question: He did live with his grandparents?

Charlotte: Well it's obvious. A ten year old boy is not going to live on own. There appears to have been a great deal of affection, and I can't figure why any people of grandparent ages who brought no children with them, there are no other Roomes that we have been able to find in the New England area.

There are no children listed to John Roome. He married Ann Cory in England and he came over with her family.

Question: And no other siblings of William's either stayed here.

Charlotte: No. There are no other Cory's listed here that we can find other than the ones mentioned, a John Cory.

Question: Have you found any connection between Thomas Cory of Massasseutts and William?

Charlotte: Now Thomas Cory is a couple of generations later. He's not as early. He's a little later. Maybe Al can tell you his probably birthdate.

Al: 1683.

Charlotte: So he's a later time. We do have other unknown Cory's mentioned in Massachusetts – up in that area.

Question: I had thought he came over about the same time as William..

Charlotte: No, he is about the same age as Giles Cory, and there was a man whose will is recorded in 1682 and he mentions four sons in his will. Now that's a minister by the name of Joseph Cory in Massassetutts. But they know nothing more about that. And 1682 is awfully close to 1692 and the witchcraft problems in Salem. If your name were Cory in Salem in 1692, you wouldn't be too eager to get in the records either. If it was I, I'd disappear and that is what they did.

Comment: Come on to Portsmouth.

Charlotte: No, because 1692 William Cory – his family was well established down here. William left each one of his sons land. William Jr., and John inherited land here. And as we know, John eventually went to North Kingstown.

Now if any of you were from that line and you have Kingston on your records, correct it. Libbey called up City Hall and it's always been North Kingstown. It's on the maps with "ston", I've seen current maps with "ston".

Comment: Kingston is a village of Kingstown.

Charlotte: Yes, okay, so it's North Kingstown is the general area and that would be like a township or a larger area with little towns in it. Tiverton is the same way. We have West Tiperton, we have Tiperton, and we have Tiperton Four Corners. But it's all in the town of Tiverton and that is sometimes confusing to people.

But the correct expression is North Kingstown. And the area is called Quidnesset. Libbey is that close enough? I sometimes have trouble pronouncing the Indian names if you'll excuse me. But when we went to Salem last year Peabody was (Pedabody).

I grew up in Michigan and we speak a reasonable form of English there. I would never get Pedabody. Okay, I want to explain about the cemetery. That is an old cemetery. The last cemetery census listed it as "no name" cemetery, but I read a record

that was published many years ago and it was called the Pioneer Cemetery. It's been there so long nobody knows the origin of it, and it was stated that it was assumed that it was a cemetery for the early settlers of this area.

Now I don't think William Cory or either of his sons owned the land across the street. So it would have started as a general cemetery for many people. There are fifteen stones surviving. It is known that Samuel Cory, the Patriot is buried there. None of the stones are readable. Libby's daughter and son-in-law, a few weeks ago and sprayed it and killed off weeds, and started cleaning it up, at which time they were joined by several of the Briggs brothers who had grown up there and they came over and finished cleaning it up.

Comment: Mark, the oldest Briggs brother said that when he was a little boy living up here in this house, that his grandfather I think it was, one of the jobs that he had to do was to go down there and clean out the cemetery. It really brought back memories to him.

Charlotte: I'm not sure of their ages but I think they're about my age which is thirty-nine plus. So there are people that remember the old days.

Libby, do you know if this house here was a part of Samuel's home?

Libbey: I never asked her. You can ask her at the dinner.

Charlotte: Because Samuel, Jr.'s family – his daughter married a Briggs. Les is descended from Benjamin, the son of the patriot, Samuel, who moved over to Timperton, and his family has been living over there ever since.

### **Old Cory Cemetery (No. 38 Listed as a no name and Old Pioneer Cemetery in Portsmouth's Registry of Cemeteries)**

(Inaudible conversation) It is thought that many of the early families here were buried in there. It's thought, but there's no record that William was also buried there. Now the cemetery may have been made smaller over the years. (Almost completely inaudible). Let's get Lester out here who's descended from him.

Comment: You are too.

Charlotte: Well, no not really. This is Samuel's.

(They're outside walking the cemetery)

### **Tiverton Area**

Charlotte: In the Original Pocasset purchase (Tiverton), William bought this land about 1680 just a short time before he died, and his two sons inherited the land. Now, as

near as I can figure out, this land is right under the freeway 24 as you cross the bridge. If we can cross the bridge and turn around and come underneath and there's a place down there where we can stop, we'll be stopping down here on Evans Avenue, and I'll tell you about the original land, but because of the traffic, we cannot stop, but we will be going right across it.

(Inaudible conversation Charlotte's pointing out houses)

We'll take Evans Avenue down here just below the bridge. That's where we are. Pardon Cory who was a brother and son of Samuel Cory. Now I'll have to tell you a cute little antidote. William was very smart in buying land around. He bought this land over here when it was first opened up and as you heard last night in Edna Snell's slides, Edward Gray was the big land baron here. And he was the one who made the arrangements for the purchase of this land which comprises now most of Fall River, North Tiverton, Tiverton Proper, and down into here which this represents the bottom part of the land grant here.

The original lot – it was divided up piecemeal – a bit at a time. The original section, and it's called Section I, although I've erased most of it on the map, consisted of a nine-acre acre house lot and they would have fanned out this way up through the hill. Very long, very skinny, but sufficient to build a house and have a barn and a hen house, and sheep and things like that.

And also included was this lot up here which consisted of one hundred acres more or less. The South West land marker is listed as a huge rock with a cedar bush on top of it. That's in the deed for the whole purchase.

What they did is they set it up in sections and it was generally sections of the type of land. There was a swamp section, and there was a section way up over there. It was generally decided by natural streams or a range of rocks, and this sort of thing.

Between 1680 and 1700, the other sections were divided up. So the whole share of which William's original was about 110 or 112 acres, the whole share was about 375-390 acres. These lots down here were between 800-900 feet wide, and a mile long starting at the river and going up this way. Most of the purchasers from here were Portsmouth people. There were a few from Plymouth and a few others came along, but most of the original purchasers were Plymouth people.

Now they had been through all that trouble in Boston, so when they came over here, the land was owned by the Plymouth, not the Boston Colony. This was part of the Plymouth plantations. They had a mandated religion and they taxed them appropriately. So the tax collectors would knock on the doors and you just know what those Portsmouth men felt about that.

Well there was a revolt down in South Tiverton. They hold up in a house, they refused to pay the taxes, they chased their tax man out of town, and then Plymouth Sent

down a man who was ordered to collect troops from the other surrounding towns and come in here and forcibly take the money away from them.

Well, they sent him packing too. And there were no churches. No church buildings in this area from the time of its organization until about 1747, at which time the land was transferred over to the control of Rhode Island and Rhode Island said those men can do whatever they want to do.

Then we had a Congregational church built within a year. A Baptist church built within a year, and a Quaker church built within a year. The Quaker church I believe, is used for other purposes. But the congregations from the other two churches are still organized churches here.

In about 1692, Plymouth was a failing colony. They did not have friends in court to get a charter. They did not have any authority to exist, and so the courts in England said you will join the Boston Bay Colony. So then they went from the Separatists mandated religion the next week, to their Puritan religion, which is later called the Congregational Church. And of course those Portsmouth men over here had no intention of joining that church either. And there was a lot of trouble again. Boston is where Ann Hutchinson their leader had all that trouble and those Portsmouth men were just as stubborn and just ornery and just as contrary generations down the line.

So they did not get very far in collecting taxes here to support the church and there are historical documents that describe some of the shenanigans that went on. But they did not pay taxes to the Boston church either. So as time went on, they evolved a good court system to handle marriages, but they in Portsmouth record in the central government. It was voluntary. You'll find some families that every single birth, and every single marriage is in the records except for the Quakers. They were not much inclined to publicize their vital records.

They did not want that information made public. But there are excellent Quaker church records kept. I am told, but I've never seen any of them. I am told they go into great detail about family problems or connections and that those records are available for research.

Comments: In Massachusetts those old Quaker records have been turned over to the towns and are part of the Mormon records.

Charlotte: Yes. I think they are for now. The Mormon Church has been through this area and I understand very carefully filmed all these old records including Quaker records. I think it's called the Family Locality Index.

Comment: It's called the Family Locality Index.

Charlotte: Alright, it's called the Family Locality Index. It's not the IGI, which has a lot of errors in it. So don't take the IGI as a place to start to look. Because if a

book is published with an error in it, and they put the book in their IGI list, the error is compounded.

The Family Locality Index will be by country, and there are countries from all over the world, state or regional divisions, county within that state, and the town within that. And there are long lists of Rhode Island records including the Quaker churches.

Some of the Quakers in the early days up until 1850, were not particularly good about putting material on the headstones. That was against their religion – engraven images or something of that sort of thing. Not believing in engraving their headstones. So you're not going to get too much information from old Quaker headstones.

Comment: And don't look for baptism records because they don't have that.

Charlotte: No, but they will have church records. They mention families and children and all sorts of intimate details, probably more than you ever really wanted to know, and lots more than you really want to go through.

They do produce this information. Some of our families have had their information entered for their ancestors into the public records, so you will find a few of the families whose records are public records for the Quakers.

These records are also available over in the Rhode Island Historical Society Library. The Newport Historical Society Library has a lot of the original records. So if you're looking, you're going to find lots of little tid bits.

Somebody just mentioned to me, well, gee, I don't see Roger mentioned very often on this map. Roger did not seem to be very much in registering his family's genealogy. We have the names of all of his children and the birth dates of some of them. We're going to start digging into Tiverton records to see if we can come up with any more connections on Roger.

However, you will notice all of your maps with the dark lines again ... when William, Sr. died only two of his sons were of age, or twenty-one years old. All of the others were minors. So the land was held until they were legally of age.

When Tiverton was organized in 1692, Thomas Cory, the older brother of the two, was listed as an inhabitant, a property owner, one of the twenty-seven families that were listed. Roger was not listed so we only can assume that Roger was under twenty-one at that time and was not yet old enough to legally own his own land that he inherited.

I don't have a date for Roger becoming a freeman, meaning he was twenty-one and he legally owned the property. Thomas was very good about registering his family, and in one of the Portsmouth Historical and Genealogical books it says something to the effect that it can be assumed by the number of records in Tiverton that this is where the family started. (not correct obviously) So somebody put out a great huge book, not even

bothering to find out that William Cory started over there, and this is where his son started. So it just goes to show you that you can't believe everything you read in the books.

### **Thomas Cory of Tiverton**

Thomas obviously made a lot of money because before Thomas died, we have discovered he had purchased at least a thousand acres of land in and through this area, and over into Dartmouth which is now Westport.

He also purchased 190 acres further on down in Tiverton Four Corners. One of these, lot 10 up here, he purchased the whole share, which means the 380-390 acres. The others he purchased as near as we can find out from the deed, just the main land here which would be approximately 100 acres, or in the case of one and a half lots, 150 acres.

He purchased the 240 acre farm his brother Calib over in Dartmouth when Calib died in 1704. He purchased that land in 1716, and the south Tiverton land in 1720. So by the time he took over here around 1690, for the next thirty years, he amassed enough cash to pay for this land. Lot 18 where he just bought this 100 acres here, he paid 200 pounds for it. So 240 acres in Dartmouth, he paid 550 pounds for it.

Now I don't have the deeds for a couple of these others, so I don't know how much he paid for them, but he made cash. One of the things we looked for is just what did he do to earn all of that money. But his brother Roger does not seem to have done financially as well.

Thomas owned a miscellaneous 475 acres of wild land that he did not deed to any of his children, and he left each of his three sons a sizable farm. He left each one of his three daughters 600 pounds which was a small fortune in those days.

Roger, on the other hand, may have divided his estate up before he died, and left each one of his sons five shillings.

So you get an idea of the value. So Thomas must have been an important man in this area because land is money, and land is wealth and power. So I'm going to be looking into just what he did.

This Evans Avenue, as I said, the lots are about 800-900 feet wide, so Evans Avenue is just about where the highway was. There was a Ferry lot down there.

Comment: (Inaudible) This is not Evans Avenue.

Charlotte: It isn't?

Comment: This road here (inaudible)

Charlotte: Okay, can you straighten me out on that? Where would it be?

Comment: Cook Pond in the upper left quadrant shows coming down from it Eight Rod way back never existed as a road.

Charlotte: Never existed as a road.

Comment: But it would be a mile east. So therefore where we are now is about halfway between Eight rod road and the water. Evans Avenue as shown here on the map never existed. What is shown as Eight Rod Highway to the left of Evans Avenue is close to where that Evans Avenue was.

Charlotte: So it would be just about under the highway.

Comment: It's probably worth noting also that the upper third of your map is now in Massachusetts. It was originally Tiverton.

Charlotte: Yes, why do you think I have the Massachusetts and Rhode Island little mark on the upper left hand side. And so the land that...

Comment: Most of Thomas Cory's land is now in Fall River.

Charlotte: Yes, and also on there you will find that I put a dash line around John Cook. William's daughter married John Cook, Jr. and lived here, so you had three of William's nine children living here in Tiverton.

Let me tell you they did a lot of inter-marrying, so there are a lot of Cookes, lots of Grays, there's lots of Almays in and out of the family. Lots of Durfees who also owned land.

I don't know of any of this land that is owned by a Cory now. However, lot 18, down here in the house lot, was the house of Caleb Cory, the picture you saw last night. That house is no longer there. But that is on house lot, and he bought that about the time of the revolution. But that same Cory – that same information on Caleb Cory is listed under several different families, so I'm not sure whether it's Roger's Caleb, Thomas' Caleb, or Caleb's, Caleb.

But the records do Caleb's say son of Caleb lived here in Tiverton about the time of the Revolution (the tape skips here so words are lost). So we do have some confusion down here with some of these family members. Any questions?

(Tape is too inaudible for a couple minutes. Everyone talking at the same time. Charlotte is trying to narrate on the bus tour).

Charlotte: When they want to build a house and put a driveway in, they can take out enough stones and leave the rest for the family. It's not good farming land. These people did a lot of work here.

(the microphone was open so there was no audible conversation)

Charlotte: Can everybody hear me now?

Yes.

Charlotte: This is the Robert Drake house, and we're stopping here because Hester's have a home down Drake's Harbor in Washington state.

Do you remember last night Edna talked about Captain Robert Drake who sailed around to the Northwest Territory and his exploration made it possible for the United States to claim the land that is now Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

He was born here in 1765. Now back in the days when paint was a very dear product they economized. They did not paint the whole house. They painted the front that was facing the street. You will see some of these houses later on today.

### **Chace-Cory House**

This corner is the Chace-Cory house and he will take us around several Cory homes.

This is (?) Congregational Church. This is not the original church or the original site, but it is the original congregation that was organized in 1747.

Comment: A lot of the Cory's in this cemetery right here date back to the Revolution. (Inaudible) There are probably thirty or forty Corys in there. Until about twenty years ago, the public whipping post was standing right there on that corner.

Charlotte: If a woman displeased her husband and the other members of the community..... (tape stops briefly). The house would be torn down. The house was torn down but was not moved any place else. It was built literally on the street, and it was a safety hazard (inaudible).

### **Thomas Cory's House**

The other front section of the house is the original house. It is not known when it was built, but all of the land on this side of the street was Almy land. His mother was an Almy. And so that is presumably how he became lord and master of the house.

The original house – the upstairs is in the original condition. The previous owners took away the plaster and the wallpaper and you see the original boards and the

original beams in the house. The floors and the ceilings are made of 20-24" wide pine board. They had a system of signaling set up so that they could signal the citizens who recorded information on the British troops that occupied Newport. They had a system set up with certain positions of a white fence gate. They could signal one another that way. But probably only on a clear day.

The road we were just on was called Pucketee Neck Road. This is the Cooke homestead and the home of Marjorie and her family. There's also a Debra Cory who is the daughter of Captain Phillip. She's buried here. But you know when they have anywhere from six to a dozen kids, or sometimes even more who live to adulthood, pretty soon every house has Cory's in it.

### **Thomas Cory**

(Charlotte is inaudible)

Fred Corey.

Wes Corey: Hi, Wes Cory. Good to see you.

Fred: I'm from Phoenix, then Nebraska, and Iowa, Illinois, Massessuetts, and here.

Wes: You've had a long run. You live here?

Fred: Yeah. Just a couple miles up the road.

Wes: So obviously your family's been here all these years then?

Fred: Yeah.

Wes: (Can't make out what he's saying)

Fred: William, William, William, William, John, Thomas, Benjamin, Samuel, Samuel, Benjamin, Samuel, Samuel.

Wes: William, John, John, John, Abel John, Clark, Daniel, Daniel, James, and Earl.

Fred: So we go back eleven generations

Charlotte: This is the original part from the door down to the two windows. That's the original part of the house that Thomas Cory purchased in 1720. And the owner of the property at that time was a gentleman named Joseph Rogers. He lived in the house and presumably he built it.

His wife's stone is still in another cemetery that we will see in a few minutes and she died in 1704. He then moved away to Newport and presumably leased the house Thomas purchased it in 17--.

When the house was first built, it was out on the road location. An additional house, not this one, was built on the foundation from the other house.

Descendants of Thomas Cory lived in this house until two years ago when there was a fire in the front section and then they sold it. Many, many Cory's have lived and grown up in this house including Thomas' family. And it went then to his son's family all this time. (Inaudible)

Captain Phillip was in partnership with his brother Isaac Cory over at (inaudible with men talking over her, and the traffic).

### **Old Cemetery in Tiverton**

Captain Phillip Cory and his wife here, and there are several of his children and numerous grandchildren. I think there are some great grand children here.

His eldest son William inherited this Phillip Cory house, and a granddaughter by the name of Comfort Cory married a Lorrie Manchester and lived in it after that. I'm not sure who owned it after that.

Over here is a stone where a little Phillip Cory who was drowned and his father was Phillip IV. That shows you how old the tree is. He was drowned about 1807 and his father was a sea captain and died at sea without ever having seen his son.

His wife's name was Mary Drake. Her second husband was Phillip's brother Joseph and that is Charlotte's ancestry.

(She's pointing out graves) This is Captain Phillip Cory, and this is his wife Comfort Cory, and the stone for the little boy who drowned is over here. ( tree has over grown and around the headstone).

I don't remember who's buried there. But we do have a list of the Cory's buried here. One of the Cory's over here is one of Phillips's daughters. And on the headstone it says, "presented by her three sisters". That tells me the husband did not put a stone here. His wife's sisters got together and erected the stone and they wanted everybody to know that they did it.

There have been a lot of burials in here that we have no record of.

Comment: I suppose a lot depended on how much they owned when they died whether they could afford the engraving. (unmarked stones are earlier stones, engraving of headstones did not start until early 1700's)

### **Chase-Cory House**

Jenny: This is the Chase Cory house.

(Open microphone. Everyone talking amongst themselves, and to each other. Nothing audible for transcription)

### **Cemetery in WestPort Point**

### **Walking Down Main St. Westport Point**

### **Whaling Museum**

Charlotte: (partially audible) The library here has the papers from Captain Isaac's family business starting 1767 and going until business went out in 1915. And all those papers and those papers were kept down for many years down in Captain Isaac's (inaudible). So I came down here and got the drawer out and I started looking for Joseph, and I've been down here three or four times..... There's all kinds of papers available from those days.

(Open microphone inside. Not audible enough to transcribe)

(Outside now at cemetery)

### **John Cory Land of North Kingstown**

Charlotte: You're not standing on John Cory land at this land. John Cory land is right over there. Did anybody think to bring their maps? I have the land spotted – the John Cory house spotted both on reasonably recent mapping and an old one.

This is how we came in over this road here, and we're right over here. This road takes off over that way. On an old map this is the way it looked. There seems to have been a pond build over here and I've covered part of it up.

Charlotte: The old map looked like this and you can pass it around if you would like to.

Question: Why is that spelled with an "E"?

Charlotte: This is the only branch of the Cory family that started early on spelling it with an "E". In this booklet here, I have a copy of a transcription of William's actual will, not an extract. And that will state that William's land can only go to siblings of the whole blood born within the bounds of matrimony.

Now I've not ever found another will that specified that, and we may have a little something there that William was upset about. One can only guess why he put that restriction in and he repeated it word for word for each one of his five sons. The land can go to siblings of the whole blood.

Question: Is this William of...

Charlotte: This is William of Portsmouth. The first William.

Question: The William from England.

Charlotte: Yes. The immigrant. And we can only assume that there's always been some question about his wife being a Narragansett Indian princess.

Question: Which one?

Charlotte: John. This John. That his wife was a Narragansett Indian princess, and there may have been some little problem there that aggravated William.

Question: You mean he wasn't officially married?

Charlotte: Well we don't know.

Comment: He may have objected to the marriage.

Charlotte: Or the first child would have been a five month baby, or seventh month baby, or something like that. Things that many parents have some moral objections to. But at the time William's will was written, and at the time he died, only two of his sons were of legal age, and one daughter. The legal age was twenty-one for the boys, and eighteen for the girls. Whatever motivated him to write his will in that manner could have not have been a result of anything from the younger children. It had to be something with John or William, Jr.

And you can only speculate what motivated a man to write – I have three pages like that of minute writing. In this book, I've done it word for word, and there were only a couple of words that I have not been able to decipher.

Comment: Is this information you're going to send to us?

Charlotte: This is in the booklet, and if you haven't seen it, I'll let you look at it. I've got three other copies roaming around.

Comment: But that booklet you're going to publish?

Charlotte: I was going to have it ready to pass out, but I did not receive permission to publish one picture that I wanted to put in here. And so my daughter and I decided to just make four copies and bring it before it has its final editing.

Comment: Will you get the permission or not?

Charlotte: Yes, I have it now, and I have the pictures here. This is an old map. This is an 1870 map. If you don't mind, I'll read you what I have in here. This is the book. I'm not going to read you the whole bit. Most of the information you have. But I will quote the source of the black hand-written genealogy that I have in the room up there. It was written by a descendant of John. We think it was written, we don't have the proof of who wrote it. It was done about 1904 and 1905, and the last date I found in there is 1918. But in 1904 and 1905, the Boston Transcript published about five generations of William Corey, and that material has been the only substantial genealogy published on the William line. So many of had used that material to the detriment of our eyesight, and that is the source for many of the families' genealogy. It is the same material published in the Boston Transcript as is this copy right here.

We figured out who we think the man is. We know that there was a genealogist living in New York City who worked on the William genealogy to the exclusion of others. His name was Edwin Francis Cory and he was descended from John of the second generation, son Thomas.

Comment: You mean this John that came here.

Charlotte: This John that came here. He does not quote any sources for his information except to say that the majority of his information he got from local records. So the volume and quality of the information that he has is extremely good. I found very, very few errors in dates that he copied from records.

He has in there about 100 hand-written pages of notes in addition to the genealogy. And I've quoted these notes to a number of sources of people that have asked about certain branches of the family, and I get this reply back, "where did you get this information"? What is this proof? We have never seen this any place before.

Well, North Kingston, unfortunately in their town records had a fire in 1880 which destroyed most of his will and many other records. And there was a second fire in 1920 which destroyed additional records. I think that we have lots of these records in there that have been destroyed.

When people write me I will copy pages out of that but until it's authenticated, ..... in other words, the book is not up for sale. But I will copy specific information for people when they say my ancestor, so and so, do you have any information about them. I'll copy that material.

But in this book it specifies that this is an unpublished source. It's an unpublished, hand-written William Corey genealogy thought to be written by Edwin Francis Cory. So that people will know that the source is respectable and we have an indication.

I'll read you what he writes in his notes on Elizabeth his wife, the wife of John. "Upwards of sixty years ago, (this would be about 1840) there was in the possession of the family of the compiler".

Charlotte: Okay, you take about 1900 and subtract 60 years from it and you get about 1840. This is direct quote of the material that he put in here. "Upwards of about 60 years ago, there was in the possession of the family of the compiler of these records (meaning himself), a manuscript contained a complete history of their line of descent from William I, down to and including Ebenezer H, which record was in his handwriting."

Now Ebenezer H. was about the fourth generation. You go William, John, Thomas, and Ebenezer H. And then there's an Ebenezer H. Jr. So it would have been the fourth or fifth generation that you're talking about. This manuscript in addition to much other information, contained statements that Elizabeth, the wife of John (2<sup>nd</sup> generation), was the daughter of a chief of considerable prominence in the Narragansett tribe of Indians who had been killed in a battle with the Mohegan.

There are historical facts to support that. A band of Mohegans came over here and raided and there was quite a battle. And some of the chiefs were killed.

Her mother had died previously, and the daughter, than a young child, was adopted by a white family by whom she was reared and educated.

Comment: And given a Christian name.

Charlotte: And given the Christian name of Elizabeth. "The Indian name of the girl together with the name of her father and mother, and of the family by whom she was adopted, were also stated together with dates, but all of the data has passed out of my recollection".

In other words, the family saw these documents according to him, and were aware of their existence when his father was a young child.

Comment: This Elizabeth was the wife of?

Charlotte: Of John.

Comment: John that settled here?

Charlotte: That settled here. John of the second generation. John the son of William – the original William. And this is the one that tradition has married an Indian Princess.

“After the death of my father, the only surviving child in his family, and when I became interested in genealogical matters, I endeavored to find this manuscript without success. Sometime since, an article appeared in a newspaper which stated that the name of the Indian girl was Mennentin Ko. But who the author of this article was, or where the information was obtained I have no knowledge.”

Once we moved a generation of people, in other words, it was a family tradition that they had seen this document, it was well accepted within the family.

He apparently started collecting his material around 1880 or so. At that period of history, people were very, very sensitive about any signs of non-acceptance. They had a false sense of pride.

Comment: Even later than that.

Charlotte: Yeah, but it was particularly strong in that period of history. So what you can figure is that somebody felt that they did not want the records to survive and they deliberately destroyed the records.

Comment: That was Victorian days.

Charlotte: Yes. And that sort of thing was just not proper. Now, from that, and I've quoted this in here so people can understand all we have on the information on that.

Question: So you think that is why John came over on this side of the bay.

That may be why his father had some objection and wrote his will the way he did, you can put your interpretation to it. People say where's the proof? Well there is no proof. But there is a tradition that is pretty well substantiated.

There is an awful lot of information from historical papers left concerning the Indians of the 1630's on up through the history. So it is possible to go through and find the name of some Indian chief who might have been killed by the Mohegans. That sort of information survives, and he might possibly be her father.

Three or four years there were absolutely no information as to where he was born and who his parents were. I had information from this book that his grandmother was Ann Roome and I had started to research about it. Nobody in the family .. that information was not spread around.

So, the amount of information that we now have on William and his children is tremendous so don't discount the fact that we might find something in one of those records.

There are also old history books that have written. I am going to see someone down in South County who is related and her family has a lot of land and she is a Cory too. She has shown some old history books.

You say there are records that were burn here in North Kingstown. Yes we came by the Town Hall. I want to go to the Town Hall it will be open on Tuesday closed on Monday.

Where are We?

We are at corner of Fletcher Road and Newcome Avenue. The City is North Kingstown in South Quidnesett. Not a town. John's farm is on the left. The road makes a bend in the map his farm is on the left of it. The location of the Cory land is on same map (old map and a recent map) and the original land, Underneath this is the name Anna Simmons who was the last Owner of the Cory land. You know Corys had a lot of land around here in various deferent places and lots of it under the name John. This pinpoints it the exact location of the original land that John purchased.

We also have in here (the book) a list .... we start off with an abstract of the deed when John bought the land, it says a 104 acres, he purchased from James Greene and his wife Elizabeth for 200 + pounds (schillings and pence). Sold to John Cory of Portsmouth, yeoman, 104 acres of land in Kingstown in two parts and the date was destroyed in the fire. So we do not have the exact date the deed was recorded. This is an abstract from North Kingstown Land Evidence Records Volume 1 page 83 and 84 the years 1686 to 1709. This is a published book. This was not a land grant that the Corys have previously received. He purchased this land. He did inherited the 38 acres from John Roome. He sold out to William Cory Jr. The ownership of the land down to Anna (Cory) who married Thaddeus Simmons is in here. We have another page that gives a little more information on that. The old cemetery we have not been able to locate but the graves have been transferred to the Quidnesett cemetery that we are going to.

The picture that I was waiting for, I found a picture of the John Cory (William, John, John) house that stood on this property. Is it that in your book? Yes it will be. This is the one that wasn't there. I knew that people would just want to see this. We have here a picture and it will be in the room and it also will be in the book. The first portion of the house here was built in 1713 by John (3<sup>rd</sup>). The second portion of the house was built in 1733 by the same John (3<sup>rd</sup>) probably he was still the owner at that time. The third section of the house was not build till 1870. All of the generations of Corys were born and brought up in this house the first two sections. A number of families lived in here.

Question: Is John I built this house No William, John, John (3<sup>rd</sup> generation) built this house. In 1713 and his father died 1712. John the 4th born was born in this house.

William who married Elizabeth Drake was born in this house. Revolutionary War captain was born and was brought up all of his life in this house.

Question: Could someone born in 1819-21 been brought up in this house. This house was in the Cory family until 1901. In 1941 the it was purchased by the Navy. And the house was torn down and it was called the Quanset Point Navy Air Station. And if any of you men are familiar with Quanset Huts this is where they were developed and built.

Question: Do you the specific site of the house. No, only as shown on the map. After taken over by the Navy it was restructured.

### **Quidnesett Cemetery**

We are in Quidnesett Cemetery (Section 29) in North Kingstown, Rhode Island. The graves were moved from the original cemetery to this cemetery because the Quanset Point Navy Air Station was built in 1942 for World War II.

Here we have Oliver Cory from the Revolution (Rebecca is his wife). Captain William Cory was a descendent of the original William Cory who settled here in Rhode Island in early 1600's. Sarah Cory wife of William Cory died in 1811 of 66 years of age. Here is Benjamin C. Cory, son of Captain William who lived in Providence area. Captain William Cory died in 1870 was son of revolutionary war Captain. He lived in the house and inherited the house. Benjamin is his brother his family lived in Providence Memetable is Benjamin's wife. Mary Cory wife of Albert P. Cory (one of William Childrens). Two young children of Revolutionary captain.

Charlotte: What are these stones for J.C and the E.C headstones? The records show that these are either John Cory I and John Cory II both married an Elizabeth. We do not know which John it is. We do know that Elizabeth the wife from original John I moved to Newport. Remains the possibility that she was not brought up here to be buried. These are most likely these headstones are for John Cory of the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation (John II). No dates are recorded.

### **Business Meeting**

(Charlotte Mueller and her Committee are recognized)

Charlotte: The head of our committee is Edna Snell, so you know that if she has anything to do with it, I get lots of verbal help. As a matter of fact, a few weeks ago she said you are coming early so that I can check everything you're doing and make sure you say the right things. And when I did my little article on her, she took her black magic marker and she went through and made corrections.

Edna was a lot of help although she's not physically able to be with us all of the time and to do a lot of the running around. I would like to introduce you to Libby Beaumont if you have not met her who was our other assistant.

All of you have heard of the research that was done by Jane Fletcher-Fisk and Wayne Wilcox. And the correspondence with Frances D. Cory you did that beautiful red loose-leaf notebook. He mentioned that when the original Fish research came out, he wrote to a cousin in England and asked the cousin to find out about the possibility of having research done in Bristol, England.

The cousin went ahead and hired a couple of researchers who went in to Bristol, England and sent him the results of their work. It seems that Wayne Wilcox and Frances Cory were both researching the same records at the same time.

Mr. Wilcox has lost his job and is no longer able to afford the cost of doing research, and Francis D. has evidenced interest in continuing to do the research. Both of them have leads of new records to search and of course Vernon has also done some research in the Bristol records. So we have three people now working in the same areas and my suggestion was I would love to donate a little bit of money, but I didn't want to donate money that was going to be wasted in duplication researching the same records.

So we decided it would be a good idea to sort of exchange information and ideas and maybe the three of them can set some priorities.

Also, some of those records have been photographed and are available for research in the Mormon library, which can be done for about a \$3.00 rental of film tape.

So I just wanted to let you know that there are areas to research and there suggestions available, and we're going to make some attempt to get some kind of exchange of information between the three men so that research can continue but not on the same records at the same time.

So look for new information. There is plenty of it over there. Frances sent me copies of church records that look just about like copies of our early records. Some of you can read, and some of it you can't read. But I do have copies of some of those early records on William and his grandparents and his father.

So things are moving along. And we're very hopeful that new information will come out.

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