



## QUERIES

Janet Sharp would like to hear from descendants of Reuben and Malinda (Reynolds) Corey<sup>7</sup> (Caleb<sup>6</sup>, Reuben<sup>5</sup>, Caleb<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>) who moved to Sonoma, California, from Stanbridge, Quebec, Canada. Her ancestor, Sarah Ann (Cory) Littlefield was brought up by Hiram Corey, the subject of an article in the January 2000 newsletter. Janet's address is:

3321 Fairbrook Ave.  
Modesta, CA 95355-1564  
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Fax: 209-529-1511  
Phone: 209-529-9440

For the many Corey descendants of those who lived in the Stanbridge, Quebec, Canada area, we have a good resource for you:

Judy Antle, Archivist  
Missisquoi Historical Museum  
P.O. Box 186  
Stanbridge East, Quebec  
Canada, JOJ 2H0  
E-mail: [sochm@globetrotter.net](mailto:sochm@globetrotter.net)

Jennifer Burk, a descendant of Reynolds Corey of Indiana, would like to contact anyone who might have information about that Corey line. Jennifer's address is:

Jennifer Burk  
6469 E. 900<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Robinson, IL 62454  
E-mail: [krub@frs-1.com](mailto:krub@frs-1.com)

## THE LEGEND OF MINNETAN KOO

Americans often acquire misconceptions concerning the early colonists and their relations with natives in the Northeastern States. A misconception often encountered is that the English colonists took all the land belonging to the natives and shot all those that opposed them. In fact, the initial policy was to share what appeared to be an unlimited amount of land peacefully, and for the most part the local tribes followed the same policy. The natives, where the earliest settlements were established, were mostly nonaggressive agrarian people. They initially welcomed the presence of the colonists because they hoped the colonists with their guns would be able to keep warlike tribes from the north (e.g., the Mohegans) from raiding their farm lands.

It is widely believed that the native population was decimated by fighting with settlers during the early years of colonization. Conflicts between colonists and natives did occur occasionally, but the death rate among the natives and colonists from diseases they caught from one another, and for which they had no immunity, decimated the natives and colonists alike to a much greater extent than fighting.

Shortage of food as well as disease nearly eliminated the earliest English settlements in New England. The natives had cleared much of the land in the Northeast, mostly by burning. In fact, a much higher percentage of land in the Northeast was cleared of forests than is the case today despite the much larger population and development that now exists. Consequently, there was land to raise enough food to feed the colonists, but few of the first settlers had any experience with agriculture, and none had any experience farming under the local conditions.

In this respect the survivors were saved by the natives from whom they eventually learned how to grow food in the new environment.

It happened that the friendliest native tribes suffered the most from contact between the races because their contacts with the colonists were more frequent. The few who survived often intermarried with the colonists, and as a consequence the friendliest tribes almost disappeared after a few generations. However, it is likely that more Americans have native ancestors than are aware of the fact. The English colonists were racists in that they didn't publicize cases of

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marriage (or mating) between their offspring and natives. Despite this it was not uncommon for colonists to adopt native children whose parents had died and to give them Christian names. Tradition has it that adopted native girls were frequently named "Elizabeth."

Edwin Francis Corey has written the following about one such case:

*Upwards of 60 years ago, there was in the possession of the family of the compiler of these records a manuscript containing a complete history of their line of descent from William<sup>1</sup> down to and including Ebenezer H. which record was in his handwriting.*

*This manuscript, in addition to much other information contained the statement that Elizabeth, the wife of John<sup>2</sup> 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 Indians. Her mother had died previously and the daughter----then a young child----was adopted by a white family by whom she was reared and educated. The Indian name of the girl, together with the name of her father and mother and the family by whom she was adopted were also stated, together with the dates, but all of these data have passed from my recollection.*

*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 "Minnetan koo" but who the author of this article was, or where the information was obtained, I have no knowledge.*

The story related by E. F. Corey has not been confirmed to date since the Cory Family Society has located no documentary evidence to support it. However, we do know that the tradition persisted within the Corey families of North Kingstown, Rhode Island, and elsewhere for generations. It is a legend that very well may be true. Based on what we can decipher from the will of John<sup>2</sup>, it is clear that Elizabeth (or Minnetan Koo) was greatly loved and trusted by her husband. He left her in control of much of his estate, which was substantial at the time of his early death. The estate continued to prosper after his passing.

If the legend is true it means that descendants of Hiram Corey, your newsletter editor, a host of other Cory Family Society members, and a great many more Coreys whose names can be found in telephone directories in every part of North America are carrying as much DNA inherited from a Native American as we inherited from John<sup>2</sup>. From what we have learned about Elizabeth we can be proud of this part of our ancestry.

## More about hiram corey

The article in the January newsletter about Hiram Corey of Salinas, California aroused the interest of our genealogist, Charlotte Muller, and she has traced his ancestry back to William Cory of Portsmouth, Rhode Island. She found that Hiram was the third of ten children of Reuben Corey and Melinda (Reynolds) Corey. Reuben<sup>7</sup> was born in Hancock, Massachusetts, and Melinda was born in St. Armand, Quebec. They resided in Stanbridge, Quebec, until 1857 when they settled in Bloomfield, California. Edwin Francis Corey (b. New York City, 1831) conducted an extensive genealogical investigation of the William<sup>1</sup> line. His original handwritten records ended up in the Miller House in New Jersey. According to Edwin's notes which have been found to be generally reliable by subsequent investigators, Reuben's ancestral line is: Caleb<sup>6</sup>, Reuben<sup>5</sup>, Caleb<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, and William<sup>1</sup>.

Reuben and most of his children eventually settled in California although not all at the same time. Apparently, Hiram and his brother Noah were the first to arrive in California. The ten children of Reuben and Melinda were all born in Stanbridge, Quebec. Edwin Corey provided the following information concerning them:

Paulina, born April 20, 1826, married Horatio Nelson Bentley of Westford, New York, March 15, 1848. They moved to Petaluma, California, in 1857 and settled in Birmingham, California, in 1863. He was a farmer and wool grower.

Noah, born November 14, 1828, married Sarah Kilburn, daughter of Josiah and Sarah Potter of Essex, Vermont, on December 18, 1855.

Hiram, born March 7, 1831, married Rosanna Cox, daughter of Abraham and Minerva Frost of Essex, Vermont, on October 8, 1856. She was born in Shoreham, Vermont. They settled in Salinas, California. He was a dairy farmer.

Melinda, born December 7, 1833, married Rodney Carleton Reynolds in St. Armand, Quebec, March 6, 1856. They settled in Moore's Station, Canada.

Cynthia Elizabeth, born June 11, 1836, married Joseph Stocking in Bloomfield, California, October 8, 1857. They resided in Bloomfield until 1872 after which they settled in Moro, California.

Reuben, born September 2, 1838, married Jane Elizabeth, daughter of George Edward and Jane Rosenberger of St. Armand in Highgate, Vermont, April 6, 1863. She was born in Stanbridge, April 6, 1844.

Adelaide, born July 1, 1841, married George W. Case in Petaluma, California, February 18, 1858 where they were residing in 1876. He was a farmer.

Minerva Elizabeth, born August 8, 1843, married Jared Charles Hoag in Bloomfield, California, June 21, 1860. They were residing in San Francisco, California, in 1876. He was a farmer.

Sarah Ann, born August 4, 1845, married Charles Littlefield in Bloomfield, California, November 18, 1863. They resided in Bloomfield where she died and was buried June 1, 1871.

Augusta Felina, born September 22, 1847, married William P. Hall in California, January 10, 1865. He was a farmer and they were residing in Bloomfield, California, in 1876.

Records compiled by Al Bertus Cory, "Corys of America, Ancestors and Descendants," second edition, Volume II, confirms most of the information compiled earlier by E. F. Corey. Al's book also contains the information that Hiram's only child, Augusta Eleanor, was born April 4, 1902 in Salinas, California, but provides no other information about her. It is interesting to note that Augusta was born to Hiram's second wife, Mimi, when he was 71 years old.

When Charlotte Muller was in Rhode Island last November, she found the name of Janet Sharp, who was looking for information about her ancestor, Sarah (Corey) Littlefield. Charlotte called Janet and sent her a copy of the September newsletter. During their conversation Janet related the story that Sarah Littlefield died in 1871 leaving four young children, and the family decided that Charles Littlefield, as a single father, would not be able to raise his children. They were given to Hiram and Rose Corey to raise since the latter had no children of their own.

If any members of the Cory Society also are descendants of Reuben and Melinda Corey, or know of someone who is, Charlotte Muller and your newsletter editor would appreciate hearing their story.

# father of william of portsmouth and john of southold

Documents Discovered to Date

by Charlotte C. Muller

## St. James Church records, Bristol, England<sup>1</sup>:

13 June 1606 John Corye married Ann (Anis, Agnis) Wauker  
11 April 1611 John Corye, son of John Corye baptized  
1 September 1621 John Corye buried  
25 May 1622 Agnis Corye married John Roome  
21 May 1634 William Corye baptized

A search of records in Bristol by members of the Cory Society has not yet uncovered any information about the mother of William<sup>1</sup>, who was baptized in 1634. However we know that William was raised by Ann and John Roome and taken with them to Rhode Island.

## Portsmouth, Newport Co., Rhode Island, records:

Portsmouth Compact<sup>2</sup>, 1638/9 was signed by John Roome but not by John Cory. Newport County Court Records, September 1643, show John Roome of Portsmouth, Rhode Island was indicted (and paid a fine) for using "offensive language" to Gov. Coddington<sup>3</sup>. At the same time John Cory was charged with a felony and remanded to the December session of the court in Newport, Rhode Island. There is no mention of John Cory in the December court records, nor has any other record been found referring to John Cory in Rhode Island after September 1643.

## Southampton, Suffolk Co., Long Island, New York, records:

Southampton Town records list a John Cory as a resident in 1643<sup>4</sup>. Unfortunately, the original page has disappeared. In November, 1999, I visited Southampton and spent a day in their Archives going through old records with their archivist. She stated that years ago records were often stored in private homes and some were never returned. Likewise some of those returned had not been included in official transcripts. Town records for March 7, 1644<sup>5</sup> outlined procedures to be followed for the harvesting of whales washed up on Southampton's shores. John Cory was one of the forty four men assigned the job of cutting up the whales. On March 8, 1644<sup>6</sup> John Cory was granted the use of a 2-acre lot but no deed was issued to him in Southampton. A list of Southampton's townsmen dated May 10, 1649<sup>7</sup> did not contain the name of John Cory.

## Southold, Long Island, New York, records:

Town records before 1652 were destroyed in a fire so there are no records of the earliest settlers in Southold. According to tradition of later years, John Cory was one of the original settlers, but no documentary evidence of this exists. A list of Southold residents<sup>8</sup> compiled before 1654 contains the names of 55 men, among them William Salmon, but not John Cory. The earliest mention of John Cory in Southold's records was in 1657 when William Salmon deeded John Cory a portion of his town lot.

## Conclusion:

From the few records available, it appears possible that the John Cory who disappeared from Rhode Island after September 1643 and the John Cory who appeared in Southampton six months later could have been the same man. We have no proof that he was and no proof that he was not the same man.

## References:

1. New England Historical and Genealogical Society, CXLVII April 1993, p. 162.
2. Portsmouth Compact, Early Records of the Town of Portsmouth, Rhode Island, edited by Perry and Brigham, 1901.
3. Documentary History of Rhode Island, H.M. Chapin, NEHGR, CXLV April 1991, p. 122.
4. First Book of Records of the Town of Southampton by Hodges, Pelletreau, and Foster, 1874, p. 30/1.
5. Original Southampton Town Records, p. 34.
6. Original Southampton Town Records, p. 35.
7. First Book of Records of the Town of Southampton by Hedges, Pelletreau, and Foster, 1874, p. 31.
8. Index to Southold, Long Island, New York, Charles B. Moore, 1868.

## charges for annual meeting

Galen Moore has announced the following charges for those attending the Annual meeting in Newport News on August 25-27. Transportation for the tours of Jamestown and Yorktown on August 25<sup>th</sup>, and the tours of Fort Monroe and Fort Story on August 26<sup>th</sup>, will be by bus. The charge for the bus for two days will be \$700.00, and the cost per person will depend on the number attending. The bus fee will be collected at the time of the meeting. We will have lunch on August 25<sup>th</sup> at Nick's Seafood, a popular restaurant located under a bridge across the York River. The cost of the lunch will depend on what you order. Tickets for entrance to the parks at Jamestown and Yorktown will cost a total of \$7.00 per person. Group tickets are not available--each family will purchase their own. There will be no additional charge for the tour of the museum at Fort Monroe on August 26. The charge for a buffet dinner (before the Society meeting on Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup>) will be \$20.00.

Reservations at the Ramada Inn in Newport News will be made on an individual basis. The toll free number at the Inn is: 1 (800) 841-1112. The room charge is \$71.00 for either a single or double room, provided we occupy at least 10 rooms. Galen requests that you try to arrive at the Inn by Thursday evening, August 24 in order to facilitate arrangements for the tour on the following day. Please make your intention to attend the meeting known to Galen Moore as soon as possible. His address is:

P.O. Box 2206  
Newport News, VA 23601

and his phone number is (757) 728-3630, and e-mail: [galen31@home.com](mailto:galen31@home.com).

	<b>1000 Membership</b>
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State/Province: _____ Zip Code: _____	
Country: _____	
Telephone No.: (____) _____	
Do you want your address published? _____	
Yes _____ No _____	
E-mail Address: _____	

**Membership dues are only \$10.00 per family. Please send this form and your check, payable to Cory Family Society to:**

**Maxine Hester  
1123 N.  
Cambrian  
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Washington  
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# The cory family society and the internet

by Earl S. Cory

As many of you may be aware, last year I started developing a web site for the Society to view and determine if it was a good idea and useful to the Society. The reception has been overwhelming. I receive several e-mails a week from fellow Society members and other researchers asking about particular people, lines, general information, membership information, membership applications, information about paying dues, requests for Al's books, correction, additions, etc.

Al. B. Cory furnished his databases from his two-volume Corys of America, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. I used this material, along with information supplied by Dr. Joan S. Guilford, my databases on the Thomas and Giles lines, and the many submissions and corrections from visitors, to create the web site and make corrections and additions to the databases. I still have a great deal of information from our Genealogist, Charlotte Muller to add.

In March, I obtained the CoryFamSoc.Com domain name and moved the site to it's own domain server: <http://coryfamsoc.com>. Each of the officers of the society is able to have their own own e-mail account. For example, e-mail sent to [president@coryfamsoc.com](mailto:president@coryfamsoc.com) is directed to Art, and I get mine from [webmaster@coryfamsoc.com](mailto:webmaster@coryfamsoc.com).

The web site has genealogies for each of the major Cory lines: Giles, John<sup>1</sup> of Southold, Long Island, John of Roxbury, Massachusettes, William of Portsmouth, Rhode Island, Thomas of Chelmsford, Massachusettes, and a section entitled "Other Corys." The home page has a brief history of the Society and the Corys, the various spellings of the Cory name, links to genealogy resources and bulletin boards.

Included is a page about the Cory Society, with a link to our English counterpart's new web site, <http://www.corysociety.org.uk>. Other things that may be found on the site are: Art's first letter to the Society, information on the upcoming meeting in Newport News, information on the Western Area Cory Reunion Society, membership applications, articles written by members of the society, Officers Directory, Publications by Society members, a Bibliography, and "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQ).

I will be attending the annual meeting in Newport News and look forward to getting your "feedback" and ideas about the site and what we can do with it. In the meantime, send me your thoughts and suggestions. As I said, my e-mail is [webmaster@coryfamsoc.com](mailto:webmaster@coryfamsoc.com).

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