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# Cory Family Society Newsletter

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Vol. 15, No. 3

July 2000

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## COATS OF ARMS

The custom of adopting artistic designs on shields or elsewhere by rulers in medieval Europe began early in the 14<sup>th</sup> century for identification and as signs of authority. Initially, Arms were adopted by individual nobles by proscriptive right and it was not necessary to inherit the right to display such Arms. However, from the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> century laws were passed by rulers in Europe forbidding anyone to display Arms unless he had them by right of ancestry or by the grant of lawful authority. In England the right to display Arms only by inherited right or by grant of lawful authority was established by a writ of Henry V in 1417. By the 16<sup>th</sup> century, it was the rule practically everywhere in western Europe that new Arms could be displayed only by grant of the sovereign.

Thus the display of Arms is a relic of feudalism in Christian Europe, but it continues to be a living reality through its nobility functions in modern Europe. Arms continue to have a legal status in much of western Europe, especially in England where the granting of Arms is regulated by the College of Arms in London. Arms (in England) can be inherited only through direct male line descent from the man who was originally granted the right to display such Arms. Moreover, every individual who wishes to display Arms must apply to the College of Arms and must provide rigorous proof of his direct male line ancestry, a very expensive process.

The process of obtaining the right to Arms is called "matriculation." The Arms must show where the petitioner comes in the family line. Consequently, the petitioner applies for the right to display "differenced" Arms, "differenced" being a term meaning that the Arms will be modified to show where the petitioner comes in the family line.

The American Revolution was partly a reaction against the feudal establishment of Europe, and the constitution of the United States specifies that no titles of nobility will be granted. As a corollary, Arms have no legal status in the USA. Because more than two centuries have passed since titles and Arms had a legal status here, most Americans have only a hazy understanding of the original significance of Arms, and no appreciation of how they are regarded elsewhere. To most Americans, a Coat of Arms is merely a symbol associated with a family name.

Since researching family history has become popular here, many Americans have adopted the custom of displaying so-called "Coats of Arms" in their homes. The Arms they display are usually thought, often mistakenly, to have some connection with their family name. The custom has been promoted for commercial purposes. For example, Halberts, a company in Bath, Ohio, sells Coats of Arms for almost all names, be they English, French, German, or Spanish, etc. An injunction was placed upon them in 1996 for misleading sales practices, but they are apparently still making somewhat similar sales.

The habit of displaying Arms in American homes is not likely to disappear in the near future, and hardly anyone in America regards this as a serious matter. However, a question arises as to the wisdom of a genealogical organization like the Cory Family Society adopting a modification of the Bramerton Coat of Arms as a society logo. The question is not primarily a legal one, since Arms have no legal status in America. However, our Society has English members, and they could be breaking their laws if they display Arms that have not been matriculated by them. It is not clear how English courts would react to the display of an imitation of a Coat of Arms. However, it is clear that descendants of the Bramerton Cory line find our

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Vacant

The Cory Family Society News  
letter is a quarterly publication  
sponsored by the Cory Family  
Society for the surname Cory, Corey,  
Corry, Corrie, etc.

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

use of an imitation of their Coat of Arms as a logo to be inappropriate, as I have been informed "in no uncertain terms" by someone connected to the Bramerton Cory line. It seems to me that our Society has nothing to gain and potentially much to lose by irritating our English friends.

By way of an explanation, not an excuse, a version of the Bramerton Coat of Arms was adopted as an unofficial logo by a former editor of our newsletter. At the time, the editor was convinced he was descended from the Bramerton Cory line and he began displaying the logo on our newsletters. At the annual meeting in Salem in August, 1992, President Mark Hester pointed out that the use of this logo was not appropriate. Accordingly, it was agreed to find an official logo and members were asked to submit suggestions. The members voted to stop using the unofficial logo.

At the annual meeting in Salt Lake in 1994, another modification of the Bramerton Coat of Arms was adopted as an official logo. The modifications included replacing the Latin motto with an English motto "Hold With a Firm Hand," and adding the names Cory and Corey as part of the logo. It was felt that the modifications would make this logo acceptable for our English members. The logo authorized at the Salt Lake meeting was displayed on the newsletter for the year 1995 only. For some unknown reason the earlier unofficial logo was used from January 1996 until April 2000. Unfortunately, the logo passed on to me when I assumed the position as Editor retains the Latin motto, and does not display the names Cory/Corey --- facts that I overlooked when I began using the logo on our newsletters, and it apparently was overlooked also by my immediate predecessors. Because, the logo that has appeared on our newsletters since 1996 is not the one authorized by our members at the Salt Lake meeting, I will discontinue its use.

I will make a motion at our meeting in August to seek a logo that does not allude to the Bramerton Coat of Arms in any way. We are justified in making such a change because we now have evidence that a majority of Cory/Corey families in America have no direct connection with the Bramerton line as had previously been assumed. William of Portsmouth came from Bristol, England. His father, John, was born in Bristol as was his grandfather. We can only speculate that ancestors of both the Bristol and Bramerton Corys came from a place in Cornwall near Launceston, formerly called the "Great Cory" but now known as West Curry.

We have no proof, but convincing circumstantial evidence, that the father of William was also the John Cory of Long Island. This evidence was described in previous newsletters. We have no evidence of any kind concerning the ancestry of Thomas of Chelmsford, the third principal progenitor of American Cory/Corey families, and we have no record of where he came from. Consequently, there is no historical justification for adopting an imitation of the Bramerton Arms as an official logo and no reason to risk irritating our English members.

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## CORY/COREY LOYALISTS

The American Revolution began in 1775 with the backing of many colonial activists and probably with the backing of a majority of the colonists, but we have no proof that a majority supported the war initially. We do know that many colonists opposed the war and remained loyal to the British government. Many enrolled in loyalist regiments and fought for the British cause until the end of the war.

As the war dragged on the position of loyalist families in America, especially the families of loyalist soldiers, deteriorated. They were severely harassed by their neighbors, sometimes imprisoned, and their property was often confiscated. At the end of the war many emigrated to Canada, or other places under British control. They were victims of the strong anti-British sentiment that prevailed in America at the time. Even the Church of England, previously the official church of Virginia and other southern states, found it expedient to change its name in America to the Episcopal Church. Evidently, most Cory/Corey families supported the American Revolution, but a number of Cory/Corey families were among the loyalist families that emigrated. The story of one such Cory/Corey line follows:

Griffin Cory was born 15 January 1727, the son of Thomas Cory and his first wife Miriam who were living at that time in Stamford, Connecticut. Thomas, born 21 September 1681, was the son of John and Mary Cornish of Huntington, Long Island, and the grandson of John of Southold about whom we have written in the previous three newsletters. Griffin lived from at least 1760 to 1778 in Cortlandt Manor, Westchester County, New York. He married Sarah whose maiden name is not documented but was probably Smith as that name appeared frequently as a middle name among his descendants.

By the time of the revolution, Griffin was a prosperous farmer, owning several hundred acres of land and considerable personal property. Griffin favored the British side and, although too old to fight himself, two sons joined the New York Volunteers, a loyalist regiment. Griffin was confined in a prison ship because he refused to take the oath of allegiance. In February 1778 he sought refuge with the British on Long Island. In a memorial of 1787 Sarah said that her husband suffered greatly from imprisonment and abuse, and that at last he was obliged to quit his home. Shortly after Griffin fled, the Americans took possession of his property. They first sold the moveables at auction, giving Sarah a little of the proceeds.

Sarah and the children were permitted to remain in one room of the house for a while, but about October 1778 they were sent to join Griffin on Long Island "destitute and stripped of all their property." To add to their misfortunes, Griffin fell sick and was unable to support the family, several of whom were also sick. Griffin died at Hempstead, Long Island, in the latter part of the year 1780. Shortly afterwards Sarah and the children were assigned two rooms and forty acres in Kings County, Long Island by the British authorities.

In 1783 Sarah and possibly five children were evacuated to St. John, New Brunswick, Canada, and then up the river to Gagetown where they settled. The British government finally awarded Sarah 686 pounds sterling as partial compensation for the loss of the New York property. She and some of the children received grants of land in or near Gagetown in Queens County.

The eldest son of Griffin and Sarah Cory, Thomas, was born in Cortlandt Manor, New York about 1753. He enlisted in the New York Volunteers, one of the best of the loyalist regiments, and served to the end of the revolution. This regiment was engaged in extensive fighting and Thomas carried a bullet in his body for the rest of his life. At the end of the war he went with his regiment to New Brunswick and settled near Gagetown along with the rest of his family. He married Catherine Vail, the daughter of Nathaniel and Elizabeth (Denis) Vail, a loyalist couple from Elizabethtown, New Jersey.

Thomas was granted land on the Keswick River in York County, in a section reserved for the New York Volunteers. He sold this land in 1798 and moved to the head of Lewis Cove on the southeast side of Washademoak Lake near Gagetown where he received a grant of 500 acres. All of the eleven children of Thomas and Catherine were baptized in Gagetown. His wife, Catherine, died in October 1822. Sometime after Catherine's death Thomas moved to Ontario to be with his son, Nathaniel Vail Cory. According to an account by Nathaniel's son, Charles E. Cory, Thomas died in Brant County, Ontario in 1836.

Nathaniel Vail Cory was born in Gagetown on 26 September, 1803. He became a sailor when a mere lad, sailing on small sloops which plied the rivers and coastal waters of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, New England, and as far south

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as Cuba and Jamaica. He remained a seafaring man until he was about twenty-seven years old. He moved to Saltfleet Township, Wentworth County, Ontario, about 1829, and there on 7 October 1832 he married Eleanor Springstead, daughter of Simon John Springstead. They lived in Binbrook Township, Wentworth County, for eight years.

Charles E. Cory, son of Nathaniel, wrote that his mother often told him of her early married life when she went directly from the marriage ceremony to a log cabin, built by a "raising bee" gathered for the occasion in a little clearing in the woods. She told of how the wolves and other wild animals would make their presence known every night by their howls and cries, and how after a butchering they would be attracted by the smell of blood and come close enough to let her hear the snap of their teeth. They moved to Dumfries, Brant County, Ontario, where they lived until 1854. They then moved to Oxford County, two miles east of Otterville, where they lived the balance of their lives. Nathaniel died 13 January, 1882, and Eleanor died 7 September, 1887. Both were buried at Milldale (Quaker) Cemetery, three miles northeast of Otterville.

Charles Cory said that his father took an interest in the rebellion led by William Lyon Mackenzie in 1837, and joined Mackenzie's army. He survived his short service in the rebel army. Mackenzie's career was an interesting episode in Canada's history. An account of his life can be found in the Encyclopedia Britannica. At the outbreak of the Civil War in the United States, Nathaniel encouraged all his sons, who were old enough, to cross the border and join the Union forces. Evidently he was passionately opposed to slavery because his interest in the success of the Union forces was fanatical, and he spared no pains to let it be known. He was a fairly prosperous farmer, took a keen interest in schools, was a school board officer for many years, and was a deacon in the Baptist Church for twenty-five years. Nathaniel and Eleanor had eleven children, most of whom eventually moved to the United States.

The sons who accepted their fathers challenge to join the Union forces were Egbert, Gilbert Fasbinder, Heman Fitch, and Horace Miller Corey. Gilbert became sick and died in a military hospital in Washington, DC, 22 December 1864. Heman Fitch Cory married Lavinia Smith and settled on a farm in Kansas. He was elected to the Kansas House of Representatives in 1880 and in 1882. In 1892 they moved to Illwaco, Washington, where he engaged in salmon fishing, served as police judge and justice of the peace. He resided in a number of places in Washington and finally settled in Seattle. He retired as police judge and justice of the peace in 1911. Heman and Lavinia had nine children.

Horace Miller Corey was born in Dumfries, Ontario on 6 April 1846. He changed his surname to Corey and enlisted in the 15<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry regiment. He served in Sherman's army until the Confederate surrender. After the Civil War he was a foreman in lumber camps on the Muskegan River, Michigan. He moved to Olathe in Western Colorado where he was a farmer. On 15 March 1874 he married Martha Jane Brooks in Sylvan Township, Osceola County, Michigan. She was the daughter of Gardner Brooks, and was born in Elkhart County, Indiana, on 3 March 1857. Horace died in Olathe on 16 January, 1906. He and Martha had eight children.

The oldest child of Horace and Martha was Gilbert Lee Corey, born 27 May 1876 in Sylvan Township, Michigan. The information on this family comes from the Charles E. Cory records, and from an account sent to Harry Harmon Cory by Irwin Scott Cory. Gilbert married Lulu May Cline (from Lake City, Colorado) near Montrose on either the 24<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> of November, 1899. Gilbert farmed in Olathe where he died 1 June 1976 at the age of one-hundred. He and Lulu had eleven children, one of whom (also named Gilbert Lee Corey) was born on 7 September, 1923.

Gilbert Lee Corey, Jr. graduated with high honors from Colorado A&M College, later to become Colorado State University. He enrolled in the A&M graduate school in 1948 and obtained an MS in irrigation engineering and met (for the first time) a fellow graduate student, Arthur T. Corey, your current newsletter editor. Gilbert went on to a remarkable and distinguished career, but that is a story for the another newsletter.

Note: The above account came mostly from information compiled by Stanley Corey over a forty-year period. Stanley is a descendant of Griffin Cory.

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## NEWS FROM OUR WEB MASTER, EARL CORY

Thanks for all the e-mail and encouragement you have given me. The members and other visitors are supplying me with many additions and corrections to the online databases, not to mention the great number of questions I get that I try hard to answer. I am trying to update both my databases and the web site as quickly as possible.

Since the last issue several changes have been made to our web site: The section dealing with the William Cory line has been updated with many corrections and additions. The Society's genealogist, Charlotte Muller, furnished many pages of additions and corrections. In addition, I receive email on a daily basis from site visitors who furnish a great deal of information. Data extracted by Art Corey from the 1850 census relating to Cory/Corey families has been added. The significance of the 1850 census is that this is the first census for which the name and ages of all family members were recorded. Consequently the 1850 census data can be a key resource for folks who are researching their ancestry.

Data for all of the New England states, as well as for Southern states with Cory/Corey families has been compiled. Data for Western states or territories included in the 1850 census are also compiled. However, census data for a number of Western territories are not available before 1860 or in some cases later, and a number of Southern states had no Cory/Corey families listed. A tab delimited, ASCII text version of the data is available for downloading. The file is zipped to a 45k size.

I have pieced together two versions of the Cory family history from data compiled by Kathleen B. Cory, an English genealogist now living in Scotland, and Thomas Wendell Corey. I have also included Art's article on the history and use of Coats of Arms on the web site.

If you have moved, you can now fill out a change of address form on the web site. The change in address will then be forwarded to the newsletter editor.

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### 2000 Membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

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  
Bremerton, Washington 98310

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## ANNUAL MEETING AT NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA

The annual meeting of the Cory Family Society will be at the Ramada Inn in Newport News, Virginia, on August 25-27, and will be hosted by Galen Moore. Galen's address is: **P.O. Box 2206; Newport News, VA 23609-0206**

His phone number is: **(757) 728-3630**, and his e-mail address is: [galen31@rcn.com](mailto:galen31@rcn.com). The Ramada Inn in Newport News is located at: **950 J. Clyde Boulevard; Newport News, VA 23601**. Their toll free number 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. Please contact the Ramada Inn directly for reservations. Galen requests that you try to arrive at the Inn by Thursday evening, August 24, in order to facilitate final arrangements for tour transportation.

The closest airports to the Ramada Inn are Norfolk International and Newport News-Williamsburg. Direct flights to Norfolk are available from Chicago, Dallas, St. Louis, and Miami. Flights from other cities, including London, stop at Washington-Dulles airport where commuter flights to both Norfolk and Newport News-Williamsburg are available. There is also an Amtrak station in Newport News. The Ramada Inn operates a complimentary shuttle service from the Newport News-Williamsburg airport and the Amtrak station. The Norfolk airport operates its own shuttle service with a stop at the Ramada Inn.

Tours of Jamestown and Yorktown on August 25<sup>th</sup>, and Fort Monroe and Fort Story on August 26<sup>th</sup> are planned. Transportation will be by bus. The cost of the bus for the Society for the two days will be \$700 and the per person charge will depend on the number attending. The bus fee will be collected at the time of the meeting. Tickets for entrance to the parks at Yorktown and Jamestown will total \$7.00 per person. There will be no additional charge for the tours of the museum at Fort Monroe and Fort Story. A buffet meal is available at the Ramada Inn Restaurant, but no formal meal has been scheduled because an insufficient number of people have indicated their intention to attend.

A room has been reserved for a business meeting starting at 10:00 a.m on Sunday morning, August 27<sup>th</sup>. The agenda for the business meeting will include the following principal items:

1. Election of new officers
2. Adoption of an official web site and election of an official web master
3. Adoption of rules for the selection of material to be entered on the web site
4. Adoption of an official logo
5. Adoption of a site and time for the next annual meeting

After we have completed our essential business we can have an informal discussion. However, in order to avoid prolonging our meeting, we will follow Roberts rules of order until the necessary decisions have been made.

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### **Cory Family Society**

c/o Arthur Corey  
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