



Cory Family Society Newsletter

Vol. 14, No. 1

September 1999

"Art Corey has agreed to serve as Interim President and Editor until the next annual meeting."



In This Issue...

Cory Family Society Meeting at East Palestine, Ohio	1
Your Interim President	2
The John Cory Mystery	3
Last Will and Testament of John Corey - February 1, 1685	4
Meeting at Pacific Grove, California	5
2000 Membership Renewal Form	5
Cory Family Society and the Internet	6

CORY FAMILY SOCIETY MEETING AT EAST PALESTINE, OHIO

The Western Pennsylvania Cory Family Association held their 90th annual reunion at East Palestine, Ohio on August 14, 1999. Members are descendants of Elnathan Cory, a veteran of the Revolutionary War who was born in New Jersey in 1759 and settled near the Ohio border in Beaver County, Pennsylvania in 1797. Elnathan had 15 children and hundreds of descendants many of whom still reside in Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio, forming what is probably the largest block of Cory/Corey descendants in the USA. The descendants of Elnathan created their association in 1909 and have met annually every year since.

Members of the Western Pennsylvania Association, notably Marge Chilson among others, were responsible for organizing the National Cory Family Society in 1988. Marge became the Society's first Genealogist and Mark Hester the first President. Annual meetings of the National Society were held every year thereafter until this year. During the annual meeting in Salem, Massachusetts in 1992, the word "National" was dropped from the society name because it was desired to accept members from other countries including England and Canada.

Officers of the Cory Family Society and a few other members who attended the East Palestine Reunion, held an informal meeting at the home of Marge Chilson following the Western Pennsylvania reunion. Because of health problems Charlotte Muller, current president and genealogist, wished to resign her role as president while continuing as genealogist. Arthur T. Corey agreed (pending the approval of Charlotte) to assume the role of president, and editor of the news letter, until an annual meeting can be arranged next year. Charlotte has given her approval for this arrangement. Everyone who attended the informal meeting wishes to express their sincere appreciation to Charlotte for her past and present service to the Cory Family Society, especially during the past three years while she has served as both president and genealogist.

Cory Family Society Officers

Interim President & Newsletter Editor

Arthur Corey
1309 Kirkwood Drive, #601
Fort Collins, CO 80525-1981
(970) 482-1636
E-mail: artcorey@webaccess.net

1st Vice President

Jenny Withers
3419 Courtland Road
Pepper Pike, OH 44122
(216) 831-8766

2nd Vice President

Dorothy Rout
3157 Halesworth Road
Columbus, OH 43221
(614) 457-8206

Treasurer

Maxine Hester
1123 N. Cambrian
Bremerton, WA 98312

Genealogist

Charlotte Muller
30001 Northbrook
Farmington Hills, MI 48334

Secretary

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.

YOUR INTERIM PRESIDENT

For those who are not acquainted with me: I answer to the name of Art. I am a native of Maryland. My father, Daniel P. Corey/Cory, was a native of Connecticut whose ancestors belonged to a Corey/Cory clan that lived along the Connecticut-Rhode Island border. Some lived in Exeter, RI and some in Voluntown, Connecticut. Some lived at various times in both states. They spelled their surname at various times with an "e" and at other times without an "e". In his youth, my father spelled his name without the "e", but by the time I was born he was spelling it with the "e". Thus, my older brother's birth certificate reads "Joseph Albert Cory" and mine reads "Arthur Thomas Corey".

The progenitor of most Coreys of the Rhode Island-Connecticut border clan was Sheffield Corey/Cory, a veteran of the Revolutionary War, who was born in 1749 in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, and spent most of his life in Voluntown, Connecticut about four miles from the border. Sheffield was a descendant of John Corey, the elder son of William of Portsmouth. My great grandfather, Joseph, who was born in Rhode Island, also spent most of his life in Voluntown. As yet I have no proof of Joseph's ancestry but it seems likely that he was a descendant of Sheffield, as he was certainly a member of the border clan.

The border Coreys were originally farmers, but later some of them were in the lumber business. In this connection Coreys owned large tracts of forested land on both sides of the border. Much of this land is now a state forest. One of the last Coreys to have retired from the lumber business is a member of the Cory Family Society, John H. Corey, who now lives in Wickford, Rhode Island. He is a descendant of John R. Cory, one of Sheffield's four sons. John R. farmed in Exeter, Rhode Island a few miles east of Voluntown, Connecticut. Another descendant of Sheffield is Patricia Wyatt of Narragansett, Rhode Island, who is currently President of the Rhode Island Genealogical Society and is also a member of the Cory Family Society.

My parents, Daniel P. and Mabel (Davis) Corey moved to Anne Arundel County, Maryland in 1918, one year before my birth, and established a truck farm on a tributary of Chesapeake Bay called Bodkin Creek. They had seven children. Today, when their descendants and spouses get together for a reunion at the home place on Bodkin Creek the number of those attending is often about one hundred. The Maryland Corey clan does not rival the Western Pennsylvania clan in numbers but it is growing fast.

I joined the engineering faculty of Colorado State University in 1956. Fort Collins has been my home ever since. I retired from the faculty here in 1977, but I have lectured as a visiting professor at three other Universities in the USA and three Universities overseas since my retirement from CSU. Although I was always interested in family

history, I was much too busy to pursue the subject until recent years when I managed, with the help of Charlotte Muller and John H. Corey, to learn a few things about my Cory/Corey heritage.

Since I have taken on the task of editing the Cory Family Newsletter, I would appreciate any contributions from our members who may have information that is of interest to our Society as a whole. Information that will help others learn something about our common Cory/Corey history, and perhaps provide clues to help others trace their family background, will be especially appropriate. Please send any such contributions to:

Arthur T. Corey
1309 Kirkwood Drive, # 601
Fort Collins CO 80525-1981

My e-mail address is: artcorey@webaccess.net, and my phone number is (970) 482-1636.

I expect to be at the address shown above for the remainder of the current year with the exception of the month of November. For most of November, I will be in Thailand as I have agreed to attend the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Asian Institute of Technology, an institution I helped to organize in 1959-1961.

THE JOHN CORY MYSTERY

Investigations by Cory Family Society members both in the USA and in the UK have uncovered much more information about our family history than was known before the Society was organized. We now know, for example, that most Americans who bear the Cory/Corey surname are descendants of three progenitors in America: John of Long Island, William of Portsmouth, Rhode Island, and Thomas of Chelmsford, Massachusetts, each of whom immigrated to America in the first half of the 17th century -- shortly after the Plymouth colony was established in Massachuset. However, the Society has not established how (or if) the three progenitors were related.

The question of the relationship between William of Portsmouth and John of Long Island is particularly intriguing and has been the subject of much speculation and considerable research, especially by Charlotte and our current Vice President, Jenny Withers. Jenny and Charlotte have located the birth registration of William in Bristol, England as well as the birth registration of a John Cory (a seaman) who was William's father. The Society has known (for some time) that William immigrated to Portsmouth in approximately the year 1638. He came with his father and his grandmother, Anne (Wauker) Broome, who raised William. Anne had earlier been married to a "Correy", the father of John. The mother of William, whose name is unknown, apparently died before the family immigrated to Rhode Island.

Both John Broome and his stepson, John Cory, apparently got in trouble with the authorities of the colony for slanderous comments about Governor Coddington. The court records of the colony indicate that John was indicted on suspicion of a felony and his case was referred to the next sitting of a court to be held in Newport on December 1643. However there is no record of his having appeared in court on that date, and no further record of his presence or death in Rhode Island.

It is known that a John Cory was in Southold, Long Island in the 1650s. John of Long Island had many children and was the ancestor of many Americans who bear his surname, including the Cory clan in Western Pennsylvania. For many years descendants of the Long Island clan have assumed that John had immigrated to Southold with the founders of the Southold colony. However, there is no documentary evidence to substantiate that assumption.

Recently, Charlotte and Jenny have located documentary evidence indicating that John arrived in the Southampton colony on Long Island in 1644. He apparently moved to the Southold Colony by 1649. This bit of evidence strengthens the suspicion that many of us have had for some time that the first American progenitor of both the Rhode Island and Long Island Cory clans was the same person, John Cory, a sailor who immigrated from Bristol. Those who argue against this theory cite a statement by Anne Broome that William's father was dead when she testified that William should inherit family property in Bristol. However, it would seem to this writer that she may well have made this statement to protect her son who might have been subject to arrest if his whereabouts were known by Rhode Island authorities. Of course, our suspicion is no substitute for documentary evidence which we are still seeking but may never find.

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF JOHN COREY – FEBRUARY 1, 1685

In July of this year, Jenny Withers discovered the Last Will and Testament of John of Southold. She and her husband, Carl Withers, transcribed the will, believing that it would be of interest to other members of the Cory Family Society, especially those who have traced their ancestry to the Long Island Cory clan. Their transcription is reproduced below:

The Last Will and Testament of John Corey February 1, 1685 as follows: I give unto my Son John my brass kettle and Goldmetle Skillet, bed, rugs and bowglass, chest and the great Bible, chest and what was in it and cloks (Cloaks), one half of a debt of twelve pounds and half of my weaving takell (treadles or heddles).

I give to my Son Jacob the price of half my land joining ye Oyster Pond upon-neck to be paid to him by my Son Abram, two cows, half my Sheep, wearing cloaths and half of my weaving takell (treadles or heddles), half of my husbandry tools with half my Lumber and fourteen acres land to his Son.

I give my Son Abram my lott of land at ye Oyster Pond upon-neck: next to Thomas Moore, he paying half of price to his brother Jacob: half my sheep, half a debt of twelve pounds in his own hands, half my husbandry tools and half my Lumber: my Son Abram to Receive and pay all my debts which are but very small. He is to pay his brother Isaac five shillings which I give him: and to satisfy my friend John Tuthill for what troubles he is aboute my will. I give my Daughter Hanah my lott by C. Mill and her Daughter Hanah an Iron Pot and one heifer. I give my Daughter Abigaile an Iron Pot and one Iron Kittle, my blankets and pillows, a chest and what is in it.

The aforesaid will was presented to ye Courte of Sessions holden at Southold upon this 20th day of October 1685 by John Tuthill of the will and testament of John Corey, Deceased, which has Declared was as above written: and then and there appeared Thomas May's (?) Son and Samuel Wine who were sworn in Court that the said John Corey, Deceased. bid them take notice that he has Left his instructions concerning his will with ye said John Tuthill: this will being thus proved this said Abram Corey is Admitted, Executor thereunto.

A true copy of ye John Howell Clarke.

Most of the descendants of John of Southold presently spell their surname without the "e", but you will note that this is not the way it was spelt in his last will and testament shown above. This may have no more significance than that this is the way the official who transcribed the will chose to spell the name. Before Webster published his dictionary, spelling of English words and names was not standardized, and spelling was determined by the phonetic interpretation of individual writers.

MEETING AT PACIFIC GROVE, CALIFORNIA

The 1998 Cory Family reunion was held at the Lighthouse Lodge in Pacific Grove on June 26-28 and was hosted by Claude and Phyllis Cory. The program included tours of the Monterey Bay Aquarium and a visit to the redwood forest in the Santa Cruz mountains. The business meeting was concerned primarily with a discussion of how genealogical information provided by the Society Genealogist and the membership could most effectively be made accessible to all who are trying to trace their Cory ancestry.

The suggestion was made that all who have gathered genealogical data on Cory ancestors should submit this data to the LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake. The reason is that the LDS Church has branch libraries in communities large and small scattered throughout the USA. The branch libraries have microfilm readers and computers, and volunteer personnel who can assist beginners in using their facilities to access genealogical data accumulated at their central library in Salt Lake.

It was also suggested that we enter all our data on a web site so that it will be available to all who have access to the Internet. Earl S. Cory, son of Claude and Phyllis, volunteered to undertake this process. Earl's account of his progress to date on this project follows:

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

CORY FAMILY SOCIETY AND THE INTERNET

by Earl S. Cory

During the 1998 Cory Family Society meeting in Pacific Grove, California, I volunteered to create a web site for the Society and to be the keeper of the Cory Database. Subsequently, I created a demonstration site as part of my personal web site. The goal was to have it reviewed by the membership and to invite their suggestions as to the final content. The demonstration site may be found at:

<http://www.thecorys.com/coryfamsoc/>.

The demonstration site includes a list of items that I consider to be helpful and of interest to the membership. Since this is only a demonstration, most of the features are incomplete. I ask the members of the Society to review what I have done and let me know if this is a good idea. Please let me know what you would like included.

The second thing I volunteered to do was to maintain the Cory Database. In this connection, I have contacted Al Cory. He has sent his entire database. This includes all the data published in his books and additional information about ancestors of many of the individuals. I have put all of the information on the web site, and I intend to update the information as new information is received.

If the Society feels that the web site is useful, I propose that we register a site under a Society name. The name www.coryfamsoc.com is available. The cost to Society would be about \$310 to register and set up the site, and about \$275 for on-going annual fees, which would have to be approved by the membership at an annual meeting.

Please send me your comments and suggestions. My e-mail address is: earlcory@aol.com.



Corp

Cory Family Society

c/o Arthur Corey
1309 Kirkwood Drive, #601
Fort Collins, CO 80525-1981

