

WILLIAM CORY
of
Portsmouth, R.I.
and his
Descendants
FAMILY HISTORY

Section I
Early Years

1993
compiled by
Charlotte C. Muller

compiled in conjunction with the

1993 CORY FAMILY REUNION

August 6, 7, 8

Portsmouth, R.I.

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Preface

The Cory Family Society elected to hold the 1993 Annual Reunion in Portsmouth, R.I. in honor of William Cory and his descendants. To learn more about the William Cory line, I have prepared a booklet which includes historical material, maps and recently discovered information.

Independent of compiling the Cory genealogies by Al B. Cory and the Cory Family Society, Jane Fletcher Fiske, editor of The New England Historical and Genealogical Register, began her research in old Rhode Island records for new information on William Cory and his grandmother, Ann, wife of John Roome of Portsmouth, R.I. The New England Historical and Genealogical Register published her results in issue No. 145, April 1991. Subsequently, Wayne Wilcox of Eastport, ME initiated a search of Cory records in Bristol, England. The New England Historical and Genealogical Register published his findings in No. 147, April 1993. Jane Fiske and Wayne Wilcox have graciously given me permission to reprint their work. Descendants of William Cory of Portsmouth are deeply indebted to them for their fine contribution in adding to our knowledge of our ancestor.

In reading about the early history of Rhode Island, and in particular Portsmouth, I found many inconsistencies as to dates, circumstances, and names of the person or persons involved. I apologize for any inaccurate data that may appear in this booklet.

Even with all the new information we now have concerning William Cory, we still do not know when he came to New England nor do we have any positive proof that his grandparents, John and Ann Roome, or his father, John Cory, were members of the First Church of Boston with the Ann Hutchinson religious group called Antinomians. We do not have the name of William's mother or the date of her marriage to John Cory.

Due to the large amount of material accumulated which I have not had time to review and put in a proper format, there will probably be another booklet in a few years. New material is most welcome as well as corrections and additions to this booklet.

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The Struggle for Religious Freedom

The story of William Cory¹ in Portsmouth, R.I. begins not with William but with Ann, his grandmother, and her second husband, John Roome. It now appears that William spent much of his youth in the care of his grandparents in Portsmouth.

Investors in England organized the Massachusetts Bay Colony and the Plymouth Colony as merchant-adventurer companies with appointed administrators. These colonies centered around a specific religious group. In Boston, John Winthrop was the administrator and the Puritans were the religious group (later named the Congregational Church). In Plymouth, William Bradford was the administrator with members of the religious group known as Separatists.

Beginning in 1630, Winthrop brought thousands of settlers over to Boston. Many of those accepted were ministers with their followers who were not members of the Puritan Church. But once in Boston, the Puritans required them to preach in conformance with Puritan tenets. Those who refused were tried for heresy, and if found guilty were expelled from the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Many of these groups resettled in Connecticut, Rhode Island and Long Island, New York.

Ann Hutchinson, a minister of a group first called Familism by the Puritans, arrived in Boston from Lincolnshire, England in 1634. During the next three years, she caused a deep schism within the First Church of Boston. Many of Boston's best educated and most powerful families supported her. Gov. Winthrop considered her a personal threat to his authority and deemed it absolutely necessary to put her in her proper place as a woman. The Puritan Church tried, convicted, and expelled her for heresy along with fifty-eight men from Boston and twelve others from surrounding towns. Following the death of her husband in 1642, Ann Hutchinson went to Pelham Bay in the Dutch half of Long Island. In 1643, Indians massacred her and all but one of her household. Years later, her group was referred to as Antinomians.¹

When traveling to Providence, Ann Hutchinson, her family and followers met with Roger Williams who directed them to Aquidneck Island (later named Rhode Island) where they started the town of Portsmouth in 1638. Rev William Coddington, a Separatist from Lincolnshire, England, and Rev John Clarke, a Methodist minister joined them the following year. Both of them supported Ann Hutchinson in Boston. Friction developed between the Hutchinson and Coddington groups. But, it is not clear whether the conflict was caused by religious differences or whether Portsmouth was just not large enough for both leaders. In April, 1639 twenty nine men signed the Portsmouth Compact for the Hutchinson group and Coddington signed a similar compact with nineteen of his followers. John Roome signed the Hutchinson Portsmouth Compact but there was no Cory name on either document. By the end of 1639, there were almost one hundred families in the Portsmouth settlement. About 1639, Coddington and Clarke took their followers and moved to the southern end of Aquidneck Island and formed the town of Newport.²

John Roome, a house carpenter from Bristol, England, no doubt played an important role in constructing the homes for those early settlers and was active in Portsmouth affairs until his death in 1664. He served on a committee to assign land to interested settlers and served in many capacities within the town. Later in life, he served several years on the General Assembly and also on the jury for the court of trials. The Portsmouth Town Council voted John Roome a freeman [any male over 21 and legal land owner approved by the town council] on March 16, 1641/42 (see editor's note on

page 3). On November 14, 1644, the Council gave him permission to have land at the "wading river," later named the Mill River bordering on the north of his property. On May 18, 1653, John Roome, with seven others, served on a committee rehearing matters concerning Long Island in the case involving the Dutch. On December 10, 1657, the Council granted him an additional 30 acres which he later deeded to William Cory, grandson of his wife, Ann Roome. On December 27, 1666, Ann Roome deeded to William Corry, her grandson, 8 acres, the original land grant of John Roome for the sum of 83 £ (pounds) and 10 s (shillings) sterling.³

Sometime before September, 1643, Gov. Coddington charged John Roome with using offensive language. At the September General Assembly, Mr. Roome acknowledged his guilt and paid his fine. At the same time, a John Corry and a George Cleere (Cleare) were charged with a felony and remanded to the December sitting of the court.⁴ Apparently, they left the area as no further mention of either man is found in the Portsmouth Town Records.

In 1657, Gov. Coddington welcomed the Quakers (Society of Friends) into Newport. Many Portsmouth families joined this religion, as well as Gov. Coddington. The religion of the Antinomians eventually evolved into the Baptist religion. For many years, the Baptists and the Quakers were the only religions on Aquidneck Island. (*Portsmouth there*)

When Roger Williams set up the town of Providence in 1636, he insisted on complete separation of church and state and in this manner organized the governmental structure to operate independent of the church.⁵ Gov. Coddington welcomed other religions onto the lands in Rhode Island, but it was those independent, stubborn men of Portsmouth whose refusal to join a religion against their wishes which made the concept of religious freedom a reality in this new country.

In 1661, Gov. Coddington succeeded in obtaining a charter for Rhode Island from King Charles II of England. The charter included a five mile strip of land (containing most of present day Fall River, Tiverton, and Little Compton) then under the jurisdiction of the Plymouth Colony and Plantations.⁶ The Portsmouth men were in the habit of pasturing their livestock on this land during the summer months and many bought shares in the Pocasset Purchase.

Investors purchased a large tract of land in Plymouth Colony called the Pocasset Purchase in 1679 and sold thirty shares. William Cory paid 48£ 13s and 8p to buy one share, and in 1681 he received from the first division a nine acre house lot and a great lot of approximately one hundred acres. By 1701, the entire Pocasset Purchase had been separated into six divisions. Refer to the map of the Pocasset Purchase on page 44 for details of the divisions.

Portsmouth men purchased the majority of both the Pocasset Purchase (most of Fall River and northern Tiverton) and the Punkateest Purchase (southern Tiverton), but they encountered more religious conflict. The laws of Plymouth Colony did not allow other religions within their boundaries and required all to pay taxes to support the Separatist Church to which few, if any, of these proprietors belonged.⁷ One can imagine the reception those tax collectors received when they knocked on the doors of the men from Portsmouth, for they soon rebelled and trouble began!

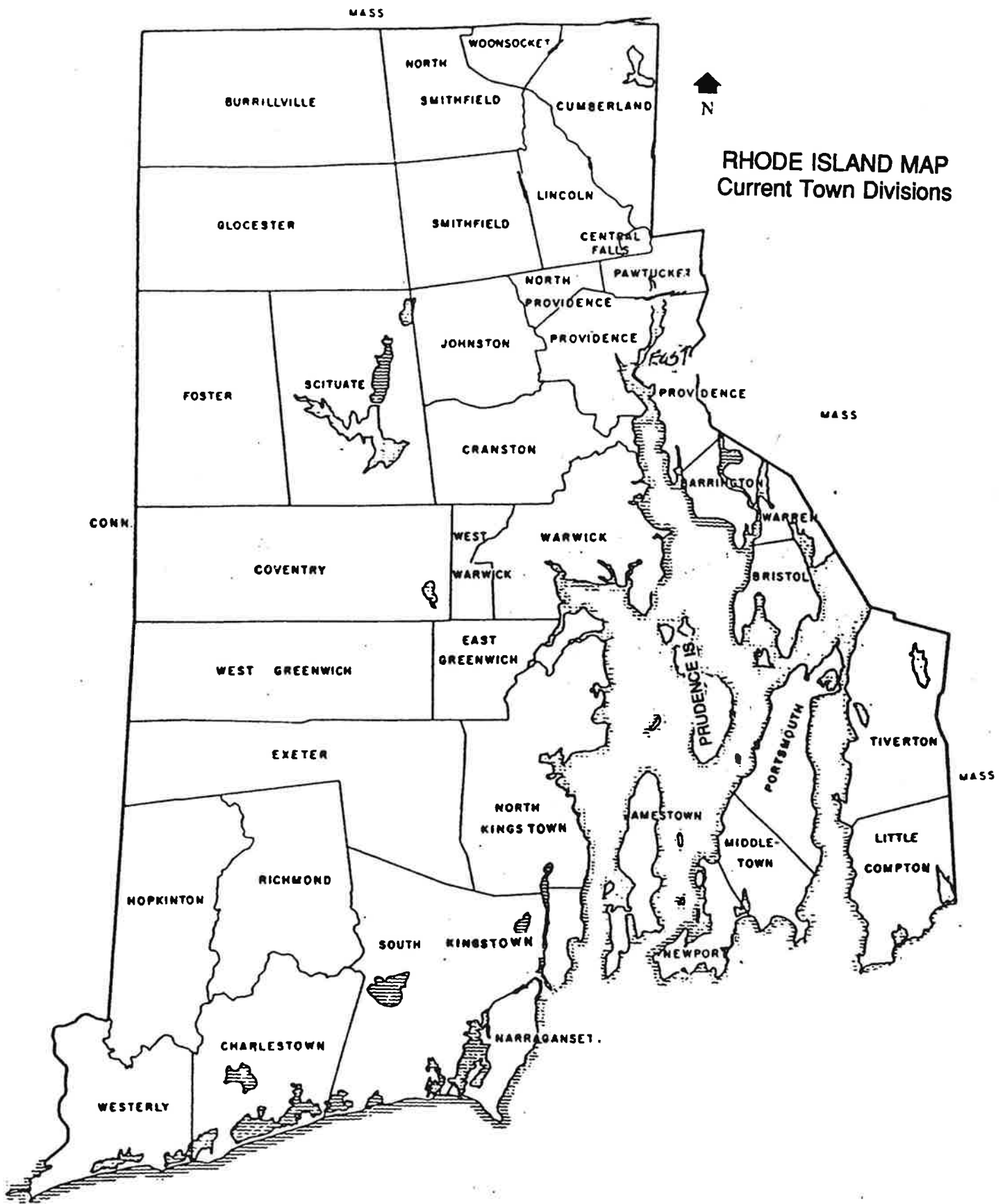
Meanwhile the Plymouth Colony, without financial resources or the necessary influence at court, were unable to obtain a charter and combined with the more successful Massachusetts Bay Colony. The Puritans absorbed the religion of the Separatists and became the Congregational Church.⁸

Rhode Island pressed its claim to the Massachusetts lands included in its charter of 1661, but it was not until 1746 that the courts resolved the dispute in its favor. With the transfer of Tiverton to Rhode Island, the descendants of William Cory finally were free to worship the religion of their choice. Some were Quakers, some were Baptists, some belonged to the Congregational Church and possibly some did not belong to any church.

"FORTI TENE MANU" - HOLD WITH A FIRM HAND

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- 1 Divine Rebel, The Life of Anne Marbury Hutchinson by Selma R. Williams, 1981, pg. 169.
 - 2 The Early Records of the Town of Portsmouth, R.I. edited by Perry & Brigham, 1901.
 - 3 Land Evidence Records in the Portsmouth Town Clerk's Office.
 - 4 History of Fall River by Arthur Sherman Phillips, 1941.
 - 5 History of Fall River by Arthur Sherman Phillips, 1941.
 - 6 History of Fall River by Arthur Sherman Phillips, 1941.
 - 7 New England Historical & Genealogical Register, Vol. 145.
 - 8 History of Fall River by Arthur Sherman Phillips, 1941.

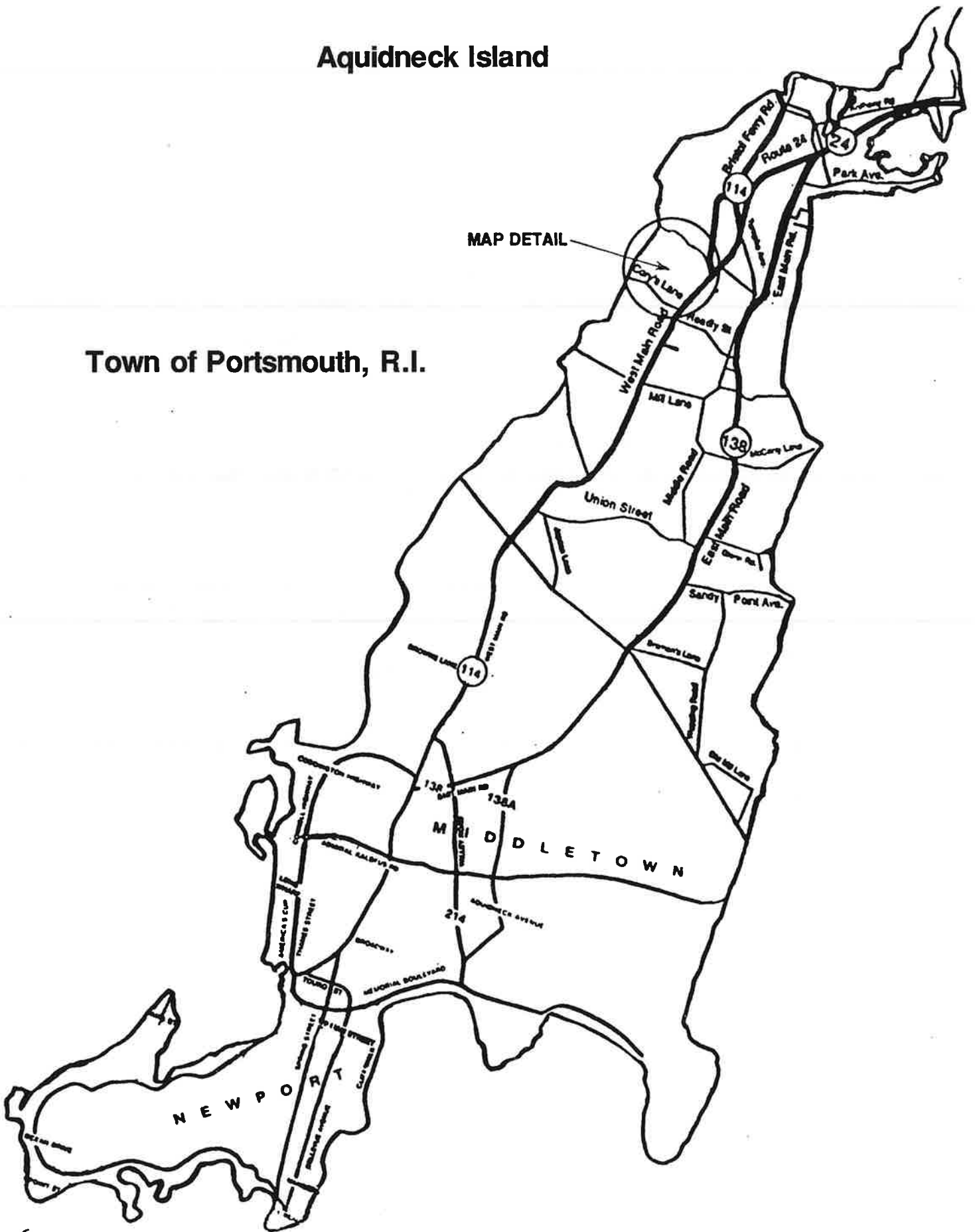
Editor's Note: The *Julian Calendar*, in use until 1752, had the new year beginning with March 25. Dates between January 1 and March 24 would be dated one year earlier. In old records the date that William's will was written would be 4 January 1681, but in our *Gregorian Calendar* the same date would be written as 4 January 1682. These dates are usually written as 4 January 1681/2.



RHODE ISLAND MAP
Current Town Divisions

Aquidneck Island

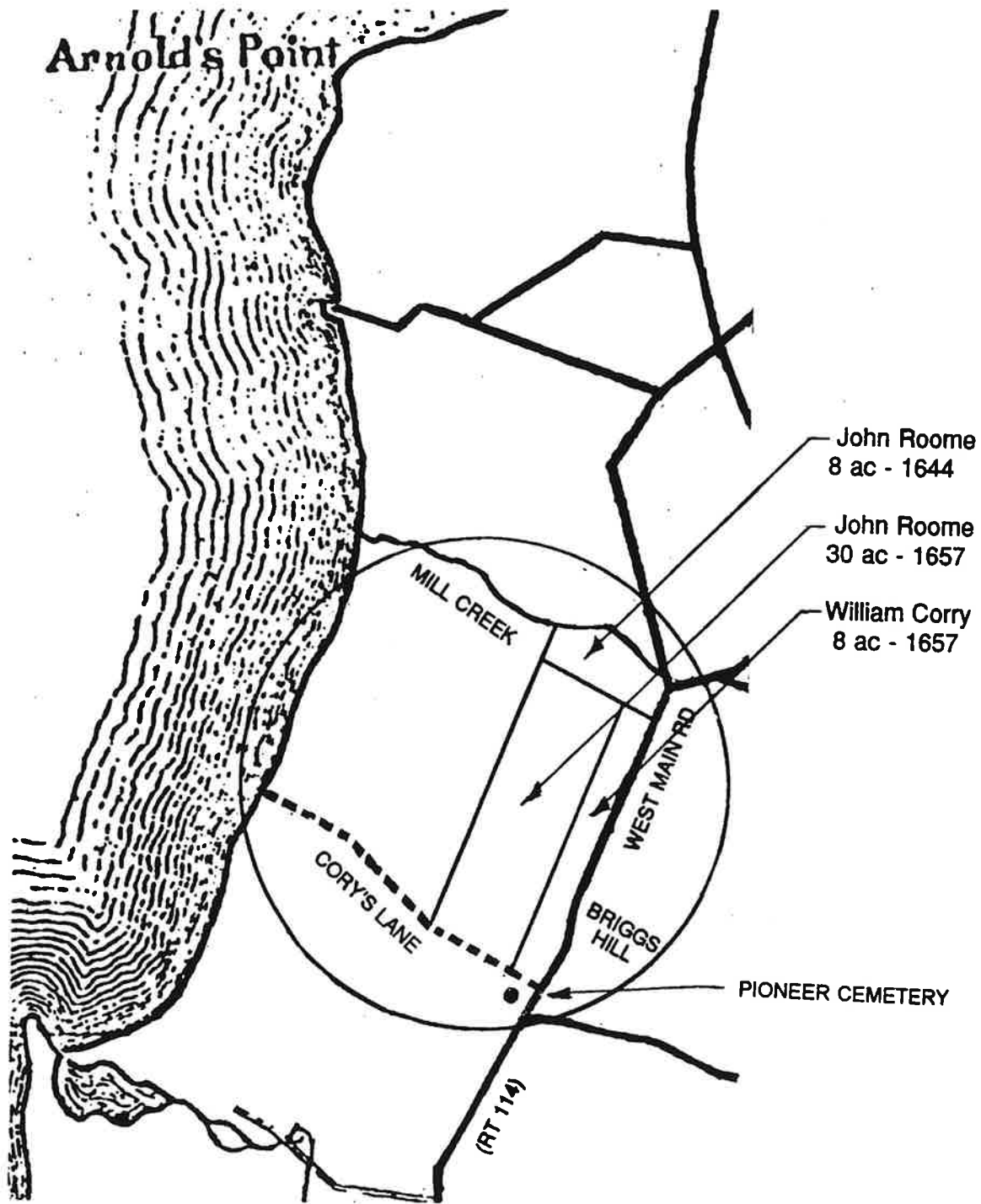
Town of Portsmouth, R.I.



Town of Portsmouth, R.I.

Roome and Corry Land Grants

MAP DETAIL



William Corry₁ of Portsmouth, R.I.

bp 11 April 1634, St James Parrish, Bristol, England,₂

died 8 Feb 1681/2, Portsmouth, Newport Co, R.I.

married Mary Earle c 1657, Portsmouth, R.I.

The first confirmed date that has been found for William Corry in Portsmouth, R.I. is 16 Apr 1657 when the Portsmouth Town Council acknowledged him as a "townsman amongst us."₃ William received a grant of eight acres on 16 Dec 1657 and on 18 May 1658 William was designated as a freeman. On 10 July 1658, John Roome, his step-grandfather (hereafter called grandfather), deeded his thirty acre farm to William, complete with dwelling, buildings and fencing. William then leased out this farm for nearly ten years. Ann Roome deeded to her grandson, William Corry, the remainder of the Roome property, the eight acre original land grant of John Roome's for eighty three pounds and ten shillings sterling.₄

William is referred to in records as a "house carpenter," no doubt having learned this trade from his grandfather, John Roome.

William along with his brother-in-law, William Earle, applied to the town council on 28 April 1668 for permission to build a windmill on Briggs Hill across the road from his residence. He traded two acres from his grant for the land on Briggs Hill. Sometime after his death, his widow, Mary Corry sold his share of the mill. It is not known if he actually operated the mill or if this was an investment for him.

William applied for and received a license to operate an ordinary or vitualing place in his home, paying ten shillings fee.₅ This was actually a very sensible idea as the town council held their meetings in his "great room" until his death after which his widow, Mary, and then his son, William₆, continued this practice. The records do not indicate how long his great room was used as an ordinary or vitualing house as the published town records end approximately 1697.

On 4 Dec 1669 William purchased a one third share in Dartmouth, Massachusetts (now Westport), land which he left to his son, Caleb, in his will and on 5 March 1679/80 he purchased a full one thirtieth share in the Pocassett Purchase (Tiverton). He left the northern one half to his son Thomas, and the southern one half to his son Roger in his will.

William Corry served his community in a variety of positions where mature responsible leadership and wisdom were prerequisites. He served as Lieutenant and then Captain of the local militia, having been elected to these positions by the militiamen themselves. He was elected to serve as a delegate to the Rhode Island General Assembly several times, served on Jury duty and was elected to town council.₇

So, just what kind of a man was he, this ancestor of ours? He was definitely hard working, as he left each son an estate of land. He was respected by his neighbors for his intelligence and leadership ability. He was a man of strong moral convictions (read the transcription of his will) and there is no telling how much more he would have accomplished had it not been for his death at the early age of forty seven.

At the time of his death only John² and William² had reached the legal age of twenty-one for males and of the girls only Mercy had reached the legal age of eighteen for women. His daughter Margaret had died by this time. William¹ died 8 Feb 1681/2 reportedly of smallpox., It is thought he might have been buried in the pioneer cemetery located south of Cory's Lane where the Revolutionary War hero, Samuel Cory, is buried.

William Cory is known to have had sixty nine (69) grandchildren.

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- 1 The spelling "Corry" is used here as it is the version most often found in existing records of R.I. The name is also found spelled 'Cory', 'Corrie', 'Corry'.
 - 2 New England Historical & Genealogical Register, Vol. 147, April 1993.
 - 3 Unusual expression, probably means acceptance of the individual having reached the legal age of majority or twenty one for males making William eligible to purchase or inherit property.
 - 4 Portsmouth Land Evidence Records, in the Portsmouth R.I. Town Clerk's office.
 - 5 Portsmouth Land Evidence Records, in the Portsmouth R.I. Town Clerk's office.
 - 6 Early Records of the Town of Portsmouth, R.I., edited by Perry & Brigham, 1901.
 - 7 New England Historical & Genealogical Register, Vol. 147, April 1993.
 - 8 Early Records of the Town of Portsmouth, R.I., edited by Perry & Brigham, 1901.
 - 9 Unpublished, handwritten William Cory genealogy thought to have been compiled by Edwin Francis Corey of New York City before 1920.

Mary Earle

b c1640, Portsmouth, Newport Co., R.I.
d 22 March 1718/9, Portsmouth, Newport Co., R.I.
m #1 William Corry c 1657
m #2 Joseph Timberlake c 1683

Mary Earle was the daughter of Ralph Earle and Joan Savage. Ralph Earle was a signer of the Portsmouth Compact in 1639. In the diary of Mr. Samuel Seward under the date of 15 Sep 1699, Friday is a very interesting item regarding Joan (Savage) Earle. "Mr. Newton and I rode to Newport to see aged Joan Savage... Her Husband, Ralph Earle, was born in 1606 and his wife was ten or eleven years older than he so she is estimated to be one hundred and five years old."¹

Mercy Cory², daughter of William Cory¹, signed a receipt for her legacy from her father's estate on 15 Jan 1682/3 and the following year Ann, wife of Robert Bennett received her legacy.²

On the tenth day of the first month 1684 Mary, widow of William Cory, exchanged two acres of land with the Town of Portsmouth, R.I. This appears to have been the site of the windmill built by William Cory and William Earle.³

Mary, widow of William Cory, was reported to have married Joseph Timberlake c1683 and had a daughter Sarah, who married Thomas Jeffries in Newport 13 Dec 1699. Thomas was born 11 April 1679 and died 1761. Sarah died 7 Oct 1769. Mr. Timberlake died in 1693.

Mary Cory signed a pre-nuptial agreement with Joseph Timberlake prior to her marriage to have full liberty to improve and dispose of all her first husband's estate. She gave full power to Edward Morey and George Brownell for the bringing up of her children reserving only to herself a mare, four neat cattle, four hogs and four sheep.⁴

When Mary wrote her will in 1717 her mind and her sharp wit were still intact despite being nearly eighty years old.

She reportedly died of smallpox on 22 Mar 1718/9 and was buried next to her first husband, William Cory.⁵

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- 1 Unpublished, handwritten William Cory Genealogy thought to have been compiled by Edwin Francis Corey of New York City before 1920.
 - 2 Portsmouth scrap book in Town Clerk's office.
 - 3 Portsmouth Land Evidence Records, in the Portsmouth R.I. Town Clerk's office.
 - 4 Portsmouth scrap book in Town Clerk's office.
 - 5 Unpublished, handwritten William Cory genealogy thought to have been compiled by Edwin Francis Corey of New York City before 1920.

Portsmouth Compact,

April 30 1639

We whose names ar underw[ritten to acknowledge] our
selves the Loyall sub[jects of his Majestie] King
Charles and in his na[me do herebind our]selves
into a Civill body Politicke:
unto his laws according [to]
matters of Justice

Richard Awards	Thomas Beddar	John Briggs
Nicholas Browns	Erasmus Bullocke	George Cleare
James Device	Ralph Earle	Samuell Gorton
Jobe Haukins	William Heanens	William Hutchinson
Samuell Hutchinson	George Lawton	Thomas Layton
Richarde Maggson	John More	Anthony Paine
Robert Potter	Nathanyell Potter	George Potter
William Richardson	John Roome	Samson Shotten
Robert Slainton	John Sloffe	Thomas Spiser
John Tripp	John Wickes	

1 Early Records of the town of Portsmouth, R.I., Edited by Perry & Brigham, 1901.

Portsmouth, R.I. Land Grants₁

Land Evidence Record - Book 1, pg. 532

December 10, 1657

At a meeting of the comittee viz William Baulston, John Porter, John Briggs, John Room and James Badcoks chosen by the town to dispose of 300 acres of Land accordingly have ordered as followeth

To John Anthony 15 acres of Land to be Layd out with his former grant of twenty acres
ordered that Francis Brayton whall have seven acres of Land Layd out with his former grant of 15 acres

ordered that Richard Peirce shall have five acres of Land Layd out with former granf of 15 acres

ordered that John Tripp shall have 5 acres of Lnd Layd out with his former grant of 15 acres

ordered that William Hall shall have 10 acres of Land Layd out with his former grant of 10 acres

ordered that John Teift shall have 5 acres of Land Layd out with his former grant of 10 acres

ordered that Joseph Lad shall have 5 acres of Land Layd out with his former grant of 10 acres

ordered that James Badcoke shall have eight acres of Land Layd out with his former grant of 12 acres

ordered that William Havens shall have eight acres of Land

ordered that Thomas Manchester shall have eight acres of Land

ordered that Thomas Fish shall have tenn acres of Land

ordered that John Archar shall have tenn acres of Land

ordered that Thaomas Cornell shall have twelve acres of Land

ordered that Thomas Cook snr shall have two acres of Land Layd out with his grant of

ordered that Thomas Cook jnr shall have six acres of Land

ordered that Gyles Slocum shall have six acres of Land

ordered that William Corry shall have eight acres of Land

ordered that William Cadman shall have eight acres of Land

ordered that Richard Sisson shall have tenn acres of Land

ordered that Philip Tabor shall have tenn acres of Land

ordered that Thomas Kent shall have eight acres of Land

ordered that William Wilbors shall have 8 acres of Land

ordered that Thomas Wood shave have eight acres of Land

ordered that William Foster shall have 8 acres of Land

ordered that John Lewis shall have six acres of Land

ordered that James Weeden shall have six acres of Land

ordered that Thomas Mumford shall have eight acres of Land

ordered that Gerard Bourns shall have tenn acres of Land

ordered that Nicholas Browne shall have six acres of Land

ordered that Robert Hazard shall have eight acres of Land

ordered that Peleg Shearmas shall have eight acres of Land

ordered that Anthony Locke shall have five acres of Land

ordered that Ecabod Sheffield shall have eight acres of Land

ordered that Stephen Wilcok shall have eight acres of Land

ordered that Righard Hart shall have eight acres of Land

ordered that Thomas Ginins shall have eight acres of Land

ordered that Thomas Henly shall have eight acres of Land
ordered that Mathew Greenell shall have eight acres of Land
ordered that Daniell Greenell shall have five acres of Land

It is ordered that all the land above said shall be Layd forth to the persons above mentioned (at the discession of the overseers mr William Baulston and mr John Porter with the Lotters) at the places hereafter mentioned vizth on the south side of the Land granted Thomas Ginings on the westside of the swamp Runing Down by Williams Cadmans and Nicholas Brownes also on the east side of the swamp Runing Down by mr Allmis (Almy's) near the line between Portsmouth and Newport, also of the swamp called Brattens swamp and at the hunting swamp, also on the Land lying between Hugh Parsons and the land Lately Layd out to George Lawton and at the swamp Runing down by Clement Weavers' also of the swamp called Brigses swamp.

Agreed on by us whose hands are under subscribed according to the Towns order the day and date abovesaid:

The above written is a true
copie of the original Enter-
ed and Recorded the 21st of
the 2nd month 1701 by me
John Anthony, Town Cleerke

William Baulston
John Brigs his mark
John Porter
John Roome his mark
James Badcok his mark

1 Recorded in the Portsmouth Newport Co., R.I. Town Clerk's office.

John Roome to William Corry

Portsmouth Land Evidence Record - Book 1 pg. 4

July 10, 1658

This present Deed of writing Bareinge Date the 10th day of July in the year of our Lord Christ one thousand six hundred fifty eight ... that John Roome of portsmouth on Road Island in the Collony of providence plantations in New England in consideration of full satisfaction in ... given and received unto doth there fore ... unto William Corry of portsmouth aforesaid A certain parcell of land containeinge thirty acres more or less lying within the Counte or proximity of the town of portsmouth a fore said beinge butted and bounded by the land of John Wood Deceast on the North by the land of Thomas Brownell on his East by the land of John Anthony on the South by the highway and common on the west and the said John Roome ... by these presents absolutely and Really give ... Sell and Confirme the said parcell of Land with all the priveleges and Apurtainances there ... belonginge unto and upon the a fore said William Corry to him and to his heirs Exutors Administrators or a freely and quietly to possess and enjoy forever without let or molestation of any person or persons what so ever ... shall lay claime there be it from or by ... any Rights or Title of the said John Roome, his heirs executors and Administrators for ever and in testamony to this ... here of the above said John Roome hath here ... set his hand ... the day and year above said further more the said William Corry hath a grant of eight acres of land be it more or less granted by the 50 acres of land within the township of portsmouth to him his heirs, Administrators and Assigns forever being butted and bounded as following ... on the West with highway that goes to Newport from the ... and on the North with the Common and on the East with the land of William Wood and on the South with the land of John Roome all which thirty eight Acres of land be it more or less is ... confirmed to the said William Corry his heirs or Assigns forEver.

In the presence of
John Guilford
Ralph Earle, surveyor
Robert Wallcott

Signed Sealed Delivered by

John Roome mark
by me Richard Bulgar
Town Clerk

Verbal Will of John Roome

died before 2 Feb 1663/4₂

William Hall of Portsmouth Aged fifty years or thereabouts being according to law Inged Testifieth that being at the house of Mr. John Roome now deceased Some few days before his death, this deponnant asked him how he had disposed of his Estate, the said Mr. Roome, after some other adietation, said to this Deponnant take this Answer for all, my will is that all the estate after my debts are payd, I do give and freely bequeath vnto my wife, and further this deponnant sayth that the said Mr. Roome was at the time he thus sayd in perfect Sence and memory..

Taken before me the
2nd day of february, 1663
William Balston assistant

William Baulston testified to the same words.

1 Early Records of the town of Portsmouth, R.I., Edited by Perry & Brigham, 1901.

Anne Roome to William Corry

Portsmouth Land Evidence Record - Book 1, pg. 76-77

Dec 27, 1666

This deed bearing date the twenty Seventh Day of December in ye Eighteenth yeare of ye Reigne of our Sovereigne Lord Charls ye Second Kinge of England, Scotland, France and Ireland etc. witnesseth that I anne Roome widdow now dwelling in Portsmouth Townshipp in the Collony of Rhod Island and providence plantations in the Narragansett Bay in New England and being late wife to John Roome of the town and Collony afore said, house Carpenter deceased, by which last will and testament I am proved to be sole executrix or inheritrix of all my said Deceased husbands Estate both lands and chattels ... and now for Sundery Good Causes me here unto ... and for and in Consideration of the Sum and payment Eighty-three £ tenn shillings sterlinge by William Corey of the a fore said towne and Collony, house Carpenter Unto Thomas Lawton of Said Towne, the said sum beinge ... from Debt from my aforesaid husband John Deceased unto the Said Thomas Lawton and not havinge a ... Estate in my Hands to pay the said debt I therefore ... by ... bargained ... and confirmed and so hereby firmly, Really and absolutely Bargaine, alliante (?) ... of sell, Ratifie and Confirme unto the aforesaid William Corry his heirs or Assigns to come into his or/there Reall possession (?) Emedeatly upor or after my Decease a certaine parcell (?) of land Lying and Cittuate within the bounds of the a fore said Towne of Portsmouth and lately belonging to my said Deceased husband John Roome Containinge Thirty five acres (?) be it more or less, is butted and bounded Northerly by the Land of William Hall Westerly Southerly and Easterly by the Common and Highway all which pearcell of Land with every pas (?) ... of butted and bounded as aforesaid together with all the house buildinge orchards fencienges limber (?) ... what so ever ... the appirtinances priviledges and ... to the said Land belonginge or to any part or pearcell there of There by These presents freely fully as aforeSaid sell made over and absotulely sells frome me my heires Executors and administrators unto him the said William Corry his heirs to have and to hould and peaceably and quietly as his or there own proper Right and ... for ever with out let hindrance or mollestation of any person or persons what so ever Claiminge any Right or title promises (?) or to any part or pearsell there of from by or through me the Said Anne Roome or any of my heirs Executors administrators or a ... Ratifinge and Confirminge this my article and Deede to be ... affirmed and sealed in and concearninge the promises and evry part and pearsell there of, only unto the said William Corry, his heirs Executors Administrators and Asignes for Ever in witness of this my Trew and lawful Deede there to sett my hand and seale this Day and yeare first above writen beinge ye twenty-Seventh day of December Anno Dom sixteen hundred sixty six 1666.

Sealed, Signed and
delivered in ye presence
of William Hall
William Earle

Anne Roome widow

Entered upon Record according
to ordnance

By me Richard Bulgar, Recorder
for ye Town of Portsmouth

Windmill Land Transfer,
Portsmouth, Newport Co. R.I.
Land Evidence Record, Book 1, pg.100

At a meetinge April y 28, 1668

Where as William Earle and William Corry have Sett(?) set by a windmill in this towne one the hill cauled Briggs hie hill: and they proposinge to have two ackres of land by way of E__thoings(?) for there accommodation, the towne doe agree and order that they layinge downe two ackres of land to the Common of this towne they have two ackres of land laid out to them on the said hill Nere to the windmill, Levinge out the place(?) the mill Now standeth and convenient way to y said mill to be common and the said two ackres of land Shall be to the said William Earle and William Corry and there heirs and assigns for Ever, and the former order of the grannt of an ackre and a quarter of land by the towne at a meetinge hilld y^e first of May 1665 by there consente is made Null and Repealed. Lefftenente John Albro and William Hall are here by authorized to lay out y^e said two ackres of Land and so Record in y^e towne behafe two ackres of there land to be laid to y^e Common.

Know all men whome this may Conceme that ___ who's name and ___ written have according to record of the towne of portsmoth bearinge date of April y^e 28 1668 Layd out to William Earle and William Corry two ackres of Land more or Less on the Eastward side of y^e windmill hill Boundeth at y^e ___ Comers wooded tree at each Comer, And also Layd out of y^e Lande of the Said Earle and Corry two ackres to y^e Common as followeth; Namely of Land of William Earle one ackre y^e ___ Comer of his land ___ ___ Robert ___ Land and to ___ a point next to John Tripps land, And also of y^e in y^e possession of William Corry one ackre at y^e uper end of y^e land of John Roome, late deceased, Namely one rod wide next to y^e land of William Hall and from thereto a pitched stake next to y^e highway at y^e other comer then a straight line. Wines ___ hand y^e 17 day of agust 1668.

Entered Upon Record
accordinge to order
by me Richard
Bulgar, Recorder
for y^e Towne of
Portsmouth

William Hall
surveyors
John Albro

Dartmouth Town Deed (Acushnett Ponagasett Acockesett),₁

From William Earll to William Correy¹

dated 4 Dec 1669

William Earll of Portsmouth, yeoman, ... for ... full satisfaction ... aid by William Correy of Portsmouth, house Carpenter ... Have ... sold ... One third part of a ... lott ... belonging to the lands formally called by the Names of Acustnett Ponagasett Acockesett & since ... Called ...the Towne of Dartmouth ... the first Division of the said lands to the ... Date hereof ... Called the Westernmost Arme within ... Dartmouth ... with all ... Medows belonging ... To be holden of his Majtie ... as of his Manner of East Greenwich ... fourth day of Dec ... 1669

Wit

Thomas Fish Sr
Joseph Holderbe
William Earll

2 Jan 1674 ... acknowledged
Before me Tho Hinkly Assista

* * * * *

Pocassett Town Deed,₂

From William Manchester to William Correy¹

Dated 5 March 1679/80

William Manchester of Punctatest ... Yeoman ... for ... forty six £3, 13s, 8p of sterling mony of New England ... paid by ... Captn William Correy of Portsmouth ... house Carpenter ... Have ... Sold ... one thirtieth part of all ... land, at Pocassett ... Bounded ... Northward and Westward by the freemans lotts neer the fall River, and westward by the Bay or Sound that runneth between the Said land and R.I., Southward partly by a line that is sett at a great rock on which is a seader bush marked near the way that leadith to Punctatest, Eastward to a Pond at Dartmouth Towne Bounds & Westward to Suppowett Creeks mouth, and partly by Dartmouth bounds, and Northward up into the Woods to Middleburrough Towne bounds and Quitquissitt Pond (alwaies Excepting out of this ... Sale Suppouitt Neck of Land, and the medows to Punctatest proprietors and the land granted by ... Plymoth to Captn Richard Morris, and soe much ... as shall ... be allotted for the use of the ministry) ... which ... land ... I ... with other lately purchased of ... Collony of Plymoth ... bearing date March 5 1679/80 ... Eleventh day of October 1681.

wit

John Sanford Thomas Man ____
James Green Matthew Greenell

William Manchester
Mary Manchester doe
concent .. Deed .. by
my Husband ...

1 Rhode Island Land Evidence Record, 1648-1696, Vol 1, #229.

2 Rhode Island Land Evidence Record, 1648-1696, Vol 1, #230.

Will of William Cory of Portsmouth

dated 4 January 1681/2

d 8 Feb 1681/2

Transcribed from the Portsmouth Register of Wills and Testaments

In the Name of God Amen, I William Cory of the Town of Portsmouth on Rhode Island being sick in body but of perfect memory and calling to Remembrance the uncertainty of this Transitory Life and being disirous to Settle that Estate which God hath been Pleased to lend me. In order to provide and for the Preventing future trouble and differences amongst those to whom it may belong do make and declare this my last will and testament Revoking and making Null all former Testaments or Wills by me made either by word or writing.

First and Principally I commend my Soul to Almighty God my Creator And my body to the Earth from whence it was taken to be buried in such decent manner as to my Executrix after named shall be thought meet. My will is that all the just Debts I owe to any Person or Persons be truly Paid and that all debts justly due to me from any, may be Received by my Executrix after named.

Item I give and bequeath unto my loving wife Mary Cory and to be freely and absolutely at her dispose as she shall see cause, All lands and hereditaments to me belonging with my windmill in the town of Portsmouth and all other my Movables or Personal Estate wheresoever and whatsoever excepting only what I have in this my Will hereafter Expressed and bequeathed unto my several children. And further I give and bequeath unto my loving wife during her natural life the use benefitt and Profitr of all my dwelling house in which I dwell at the time of the date of these Presents (two Rooms thereof only Excepted to my Son William ___ as is hereafter Exprest) and the one half of the orchard and the use and Benefit of one half of the Barn and of all that tract of land both upland and meadow land as the said land is scituate lying and being between the land lying and being between the land lately belonging to the deceased William Hall on the Northwesterly side and the lane or highway on the South Easterly side. And after her decease the said land and PREMISES to Return as is hereafter Exprest.

Item I give and bequeath unto my Eldest Son John to come into his Possession Immediately after my decease all that Tract or Parcel of land to me belonging Scituate lying and being between the land of George Sisson on the Northerly part and the land lately belonging to the deceased David Vaughan on the Southerly part and is within the aforesaid Township of Portsmouth together with the housings, fencings Rights Priviledges and Emoluments thereunto belonging and being The same to be and belong unto my Son John during his Natural life, and after his decease to such Child or Children of his body Lawfully begotten. As he my SON JOHN in his last Will and Testament in writing shall see cause to dispose the same unto land according to his such Will the same to be to Such Child or Children an Estate of Inheritance EITHER IN FEE-SIMPLE OR FEE-TAIL and for want of such disposal the said Inheritance is to come and descend to the heir of the body of my said Son John Lawfully begotten and the said Inheritance to be that lawful heir in FEE but in case my said Son John shall not have such lawful heir or heirs. Then the said Land and Inheritance shall be at the free disposing of my Son John Provided he bequeath and give the same amongst his brothers and sisters of the whole blood or to any one or more of them. And if no such Will be made by my Son John

at his decease, neither any such Lawful heir of his body. Then my Will is that the said Inheritance shall descend unto the next lawful heir of me the said William Cory.

Item I give and bequeath unto my Second Son William to come into his possession immediately after my decease the lower great Room of the Southerly part of the dwelling house where now at the time and date hereof I do Inhabit with the leantoo Room adjoining, commonly called Margaret's Room and also the one half of the orchard adjoining that is to say the Southerly part the whole orchard being to be Equally divided making quantity Equal with quality and also my said Son William to have the Profit and benefit of the one half of the uplands and Meadow lands of all that tract of my land lying Scituate and being between the lands lately belonging to the deceased William Hall Northwesterly and the Common highway Southeasterly and the use of the one half of the Barn on the said land and after the decease of my wife his mother all the rest of those housings the other half of the orchard and that whole tract of land with all the Rights and Priviledges thereunto belonging shall return and belong unto my said sobn William during his natural life and after his decease such child or children of his body lawfully begotten as my said Son William by his last Wiull and Testament shall see cause to give and bequeath the same unto and according to his said will the said Inheritance to be to Such Child or Children an Estate of Inheritance Either in FEE-SIMPLE OR FEE-TAIL and for want of such disposal the said Inheritance is to descend and come to the heir lawfully begotten of the body of my Son William and the said Inheritance to be to that lawful heir in fee. But in case my Son William shall not have such lawful heir or heirs then the said Inheritance may be disposed of by said Son William as is Exprest concerning my son John's Inheritance or else the same to descend as is mentioned of Johns.

Item I give and bequeath unto my third son Thomas to come into his possession at one and twenty years of age the true one half of all that my Right it being a whole Share or thirtieth Part by me Purchased in and of the Land at Pocassett and places in the Jurisdiction or Colony of New Plymouth both of that Part already divided and that Part undivided my said Son Thomas to have the Northerly part of that already divided and when by division that undivided is certainly known the same to be equally divided by Lott between him and his brother Roger. And the Inheritance by me given unto my Son Thomas is to him and his heirs of his body lawfully begotten forever. And if my said Son Thomas shall decease this life without Such Lawful heirs then my will is that the said Inheritance shall descend unto my Son Roger and to be to him and his Lawful heirs lawfully begotten forever.

Item I give and bequeath unto my fourth Son, Caleb to come into his possession at one and twenty years of age all that my Right it being one third part of a Share or Purchasers Right land into all the lands being and belonging to the Town of Dartmouth in the Colony of Plymouth aforesaid as well in the lands undivided as that Part already divided with all the Rights Profits Priviledges and Emoluments thereunto belonging. And the said Inheritance to be and belong to my said Son Caleb during his natural life. And after his decease to such child or children of his body lawfully begotten as he my said Son Caleb in his last Will and Testament in writing shall see Cause to give and bequeath the same unto. And according to his said Will the said Inheritance to be to Such Child or Children an Estate Either in fee simple or fee tail And so Successively the said Inheritance is to be Inherited disposed and descend in like manner is Expressed in this my Will to my Son John.

Item I give and bequeath to my fifth Son Roger to come into his possession at one and twenty years of age the true one half of all that my Right it being a whole Share or Thirtieth Part by me Purchased in and of the Land at Pocassett and places adjacent in the Jurisdiction or Colony of Plymouth both of that Part already divided and that part undivided my said Son Roger to have the Southerly Part of that already divided and that part undivided my said Son Roger to have the Southerly Part of that already divided and when division of that undivided is certainly known the Land to be divided by lott between him and his brother Thomas And the Inheritance by me givenn to my Son Roger is to him and the heirs of his body lawfully begotten for ever. And if my said Son Roger shall decease this life without such lawful heir then my Will is that the said Inheritance shall descend unto my aforementioned Son Thomas and to be to him and his heirs lawfully begotten forever. And further my Will is that if my said two sons Thomas and Roger both decease this life without such lawful heir or heirs as is afore Express. Then the Lands and Inheritance by me given and bequeathed to them the said Thomas and Roger shall descend and Return unto all my Children both males and females that shall then be living and Every of their heirs in fee the same to be equally divided amongst them.

Item I give and bequeath unto my eldest daughter Mercy to be paid unto her immediately after my decease the full and Just Sum of Ten £ in or as money.

Item I give and bequeath unto my Second daughter Ann to be paid unto her at the age of eighteen years or her marriage. If she marry sooner The sum of Ten £ in or as money.

Item I give and bequeath unto my third daughter Mary to be paid unto her at the age of eighteen years or her marriage If she marry Sooner the sum of ten £ in or as money.

Item I give and bequeath unto my fourth daughter Joan to be paid unto her at the age of eighteen years or her marriage If she marry sooner the sum of ten £ in or as money.
My will is that if any of my aforementioned daughters shall decease this life before the time of Receiving their Portions as aforesaid That then the Legacie of the deceased shall be equally divided amongst and unto the rest of my daughters surviving and truly paid unto them or their lawful heirs.

And for the True and faithful Performance and Execution of this my last Will and Testament I do by these Presents Constitute and appoint my Beloved wife Mary Cory my true and only Executrix for me and by virtue of this my will where I am Indebted to any Person or Persons to pay them and where any Person or Persons are oweing any debts to me to Receive them and at the times mentioned in this my Will to perform and Pay all such Legacies as I have bequeathed to all my children in this my last Will and Testament in manner and form as is afore Express. And in case my wife should see cause to change her condition from widow hood to an Estate of Marriage then my will is that the overseers here after named or as many as shall then be living shall before the day of her marriage Require and take good Caution and Security to Insure the Children's Portions with what so ever my loving wife shall add thereto after my decease.

And I do bequeath my children unto my next under God desiring they may be tenderly brought up and Educated till they come to the age of one and twenty years the males and the females at marriage Estate and then they are to provide for themselves as the Providence of

God shall direct them and if any of the aforesaid Legacies shall be unpaid at the day of my wife's death or before sufficient Caution and Security be given for the payment of them Then my Will is that such of my Children and their Portions shall be taken care for by the overseers or thos of them then living.

And for as much as my desire is that this my Last Will and Testament may be faithfully and truly Executed I do by these Presents Constitute and ordain my loving friends William Wodell, John Sanford and George Brownell all of the Town of Portsmouth as Overseers of the true Execution of this my last Will and Testament or so many of them as shall be living until the last Legacie by paid, entreating them that If at anytime there should be any difference or Strife between my Executrix and my children or any one of themn that the overseers would be Pleased to hear their grievances and reconcile in a way of Peace and love without delays that so Peace and Love may be continued.

And for Confirmation of this my last Will and Testament _____ Sett my hand and Seal the Fourth of January in the three and thirteenth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord Charles the Second King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland. Anno Domini one thousand six hundred eight one.

The Last Will and Testament of Mary Timberlake

Widow of William Cory¹ of Portsmouth, R.I.

Transcribed from Record of Wills from Portsmouth Town Records

To all Christian People to whom these presents shall come I Mary Timberlake in Portsmouth in the colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in New England widow woman being very weak and ill, but through the mercy and goodness of God of perfect mind, memory and understanding and for the preventing of future trouble and discord amongst my children and relations do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following. That is to say, first and principally I give and recommend my soul into the hand of God from whence I had my first being and my body to the Earth decently to be interred.

My mind and will is that all my just and lawful debts be well and truly, by my executor paid and lawful debts which are due unto me, that the same be in division amongst my estate dividable.

I give and bequeath to my grandson William Cory, the son of my son John Cory, one piece of Milled Money containing five or six shillings.

I give and bequeath unto my daughter Mercy Gonzales Moreno one piece of Milled Money about five or six shillings.

I give and bequeath to my son-in-law Charles Gonzales Moreno the five cords of wood that he owes me.

I give and bequeath unto my daughter Sarah Jeffries the term of years I have in my Indian girl Dina, she performing covenants according to Indenture.

I give and bequeath unto my grandson Michael Cory and to his brother William Cory to each a piece of Milled Money containing about five or six shillings in each piece.

I give and bequeath to my grandson Caleb Cory the son of my son Caleb Cory a piece of Milled Money containing about five or six shillings, but in case there be not so many pieces of Milled Money of that degree to answer the aforesaid bequests then the same to be made up in other silver money.

I give and bequeath unto my daughter Jane Taylor for the use and benefit of my great varnished cupboard and my wainscott chest during the term of her natural life and after her decease to return to my grandson Samuel Chapin.

To my mind and will that my wearing apparel whatsoever both linen and wollen be equally divided into four parts, one part thereof I give unto my daughter Mary Cook, a second part thereof I give unto my daughter Jane Taylor, a third part I give unto my daughter Sarah Jeffries and the fourth part thereof as I shall dispose of as in hereinafter expressed.

Whereas my son Thomas Cory has now of my money in his hands which I lent him the sum of twenty-nine pounds and nine shillings besides the six pounds which I have remitted unto him in behalf of my son-in-law Thomas Jeffries which said sum twenty-nine pounds nine shillings together

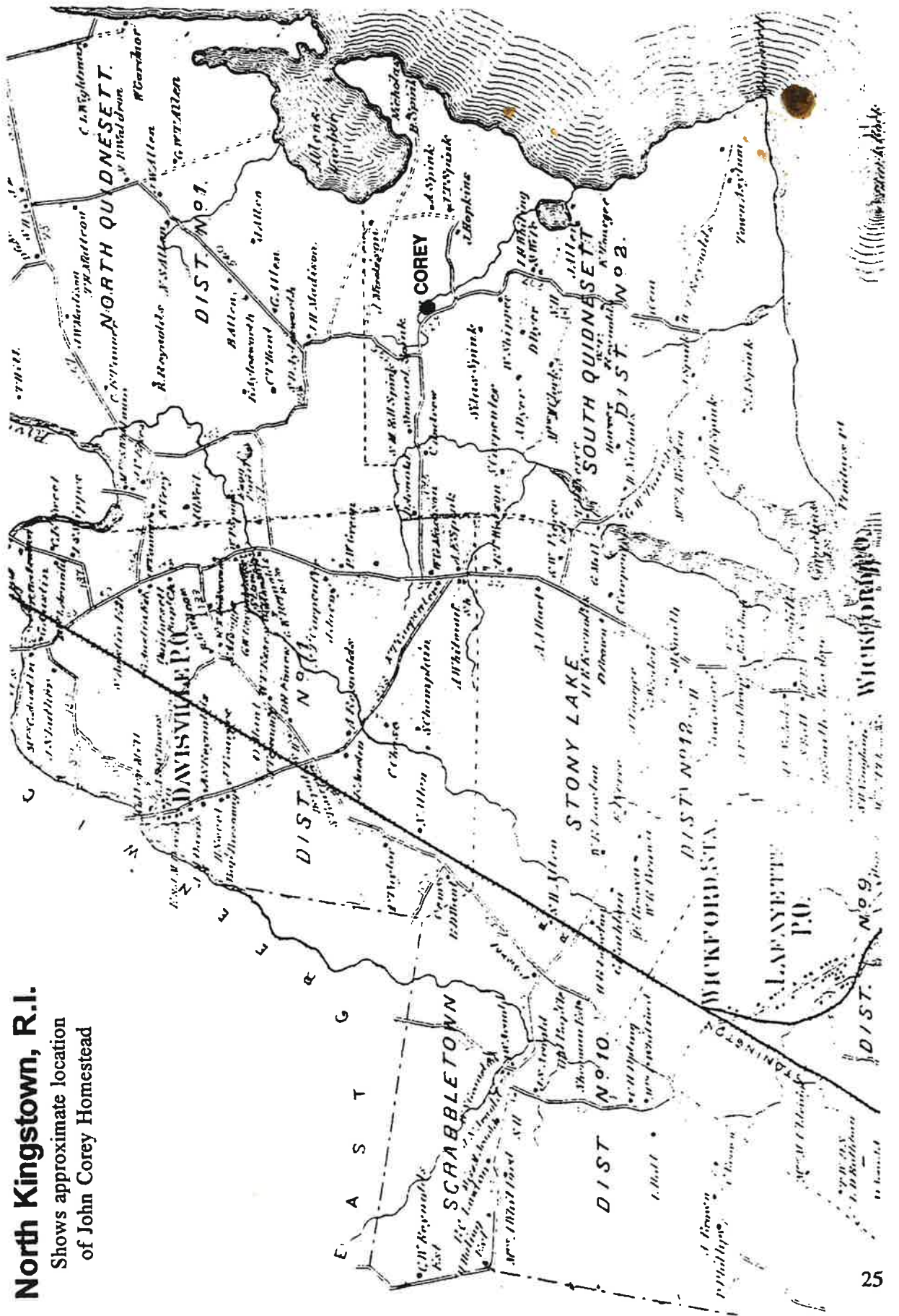
with the said sum of six pounds I lent to my son-in-law Thomas Cook. Together with the five pounds I lent to my son Roger Cory. My mind and will in the aforesaid sums of money lent by me to my two said sons Thomas Cory and Roger Cory and to my two said son-in-laws, Thomas Cook and Thomas Jeffries be included with the whole sum of all the rest and residue of my movable estate whatsoever and wheresoever it is to be found (which I have not otherwise disposed of) and my mind and will is that the same be equally divided into six parts. One part thereof with the fourth part of all my wearing apparel as above said I give to the children of my daughter Mercy equally to be divided amongst them all. A second part thereof I give to my daughter Mary Cook. A third part I give to my son Thomas Cory. A fourth part I give to my son Roger Cory. A fifth part I give to my daughter Jane Taylor and a sixth part I give to my daughter Sarah Jeffries.

Lastly I do nominate, appoint, constitute, make and ordain my well-beloved son Thomas Cory my only and sole Executor to this my last will and testament. Revoking and annulling all and every other testaments and wills whatsoever by me in any ways before this time made allowing only of what is written on the side of this sheet and no other to be my last Will and Testament and in confirmation whereof I the said Mary Timberlake have here unto set my hand and fixed my seal this twelfth day of August in the fourth year of his Majesty's reign George by the grace of God King of Great Britain Anno Domini one thousand seven hundred and seventeen.

Witnessed by: William Hall
Gideon Freebom, Jr.
William Sanford

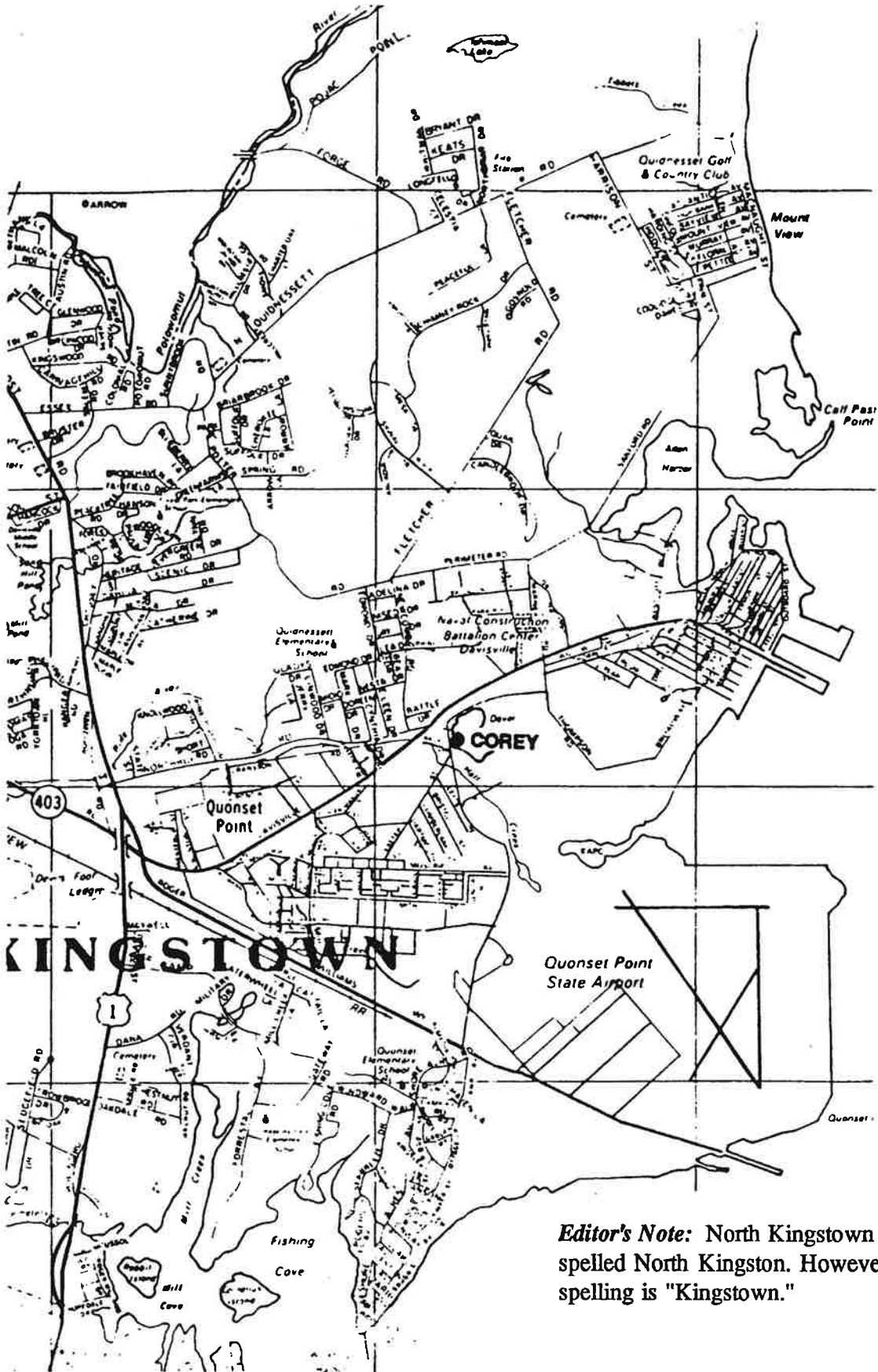
North Kingstown, R.I.

Shows approximate location
of John Corey Homestead



North Kingstown, R.I.

Recent Map



Editor's Note: North Kingstown is commonly spelled North Kingston. However, the correct spelling is "Kingstown."

John² Corey (Corry)₁

son of William Cory of Portsmouth, R.I.
born 1655/1658 - died June 1712

John Corey² was born before May 1658 in Portsmouth, R.I. as he received his first grant of 10 acres of land in East Greenwich on 6 May 1679. In order to legally own land it was necessary to be a minimum of twenty one years of age. He was admitted freeman in Portsmouth, R.I. on 19 Feb 1680/1. After Feb 1681/2 he inherited the thirty eight acre farm and buildings from his father, William. This was the same farm that his father, William,¹ had inherited and/or purchased from his grandparents John and Ann Roome. John probably sold this farm to his brother William² before William² died in 1704.

John Corey² deeded to his eldest son William³ ninety acres in East Greenwich on 4 Oct 1707 which he probably purchased from Daniel Thurston on 4 April 1705 for 40 £. In 1705 John purchased one hundred four acres in North Kingstown from James Greene bordered on the south side by the Aquidnesett harbor and on the east and west by Edward and Benjamin Greene. This land was to be known as the "Corey Homestead" and remained in the Corey family until 1901.

There remains an unsubstantiated mystery surrounding John's wife, Elizabeth, that she was an Indian princess named Gassoset, daughter of Minnetinka. This legend is mentioned in the handwritten William Cory genealogy of which the Cory Family Society has a copy. The author whose name is unknown but thought to be Edwin Francis Corey states,

"Upwards of sixty 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 (1) 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 John², 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 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. 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."₁

Whatever her heritage, it is obvious that Elizabeth was both intelligent and educated, as John trusted her abilities enough to make her sole executor of his estate.

On 6 April 1692 and again on 8 January 1695 John was elected constable of Portsmouth, R.I. 25 Feb 1707/8 he was a deputy from North Kingstown to the General Assembly that met in Newport. John² is reported to have had sons named William³, John³, Elisha³, Joseph³, Thomas³, and Anthony³. The will of his son, Anthony³, who died unmarried in 1714 mentions sisters Hopestill, Dinah, Ann, and Elizabeth. Hopestill married Joseph Card; Dinah married Edward Card (brother of Joseph); Ann

married Thomas Allen; and Elizabeth, for whom no marriage has yet been found. Hopestill and Dinah are thought to have lived in Newport and Ann remained in North Kingstown.²

It is thought that Elizabeth, widow of John Corey², moved to Newport soon after his death in 1712. On 15 December 1713 in Newport she signed papers with her son, Thomas³, to apprentice him to Christopher Lindsey, house carpenter, for a term of four years, eight months, seventeen days. In 1722 and again on 31 Jan 1727/8 Elizabeth deeded land to Thomas³ in East Greenwich. Elizabeth deeded land on 25 Jan 1735/6 to son, John³, in North Kingstown and to Joseph³ in East Greenwich. This is the last known date of her life but the date of her death is not known.

The will of John² was written 31 May 1712, proved 14 July 1712, and his estate was inventoried 30 June 1712. A partial list includes Chairs, Chests, Tables, Spinning wheels, Beds Bedsteads, furniture, coverlets, sheets and Blankets, Puter and other Waire, glass, books, Brass and iron waire, wooden waire, Chamber(?), Looms and Tacklin (?), Calf skin, sheeps Wool, looking glass, 2 combs, and worsted lambs _____, Wooden lumber, Calf skins and Iron bound bucket, plows, yoaks, and other utencils, (hus)bandry tackling (?). Note that he owned books which indicated a fair education at least.

The will and the inventory of John's estate, as were many other papers, burned in a 1870 fire at the North Kingston town offices; the outside edges were burned but the center portions have survived. There was a second fire in 1920.

1 This material from an unpublished, handwritten William Cory genealogy thought to have been written by Edwin Francis Corey of New York City before 1920, except for one paragraph marked "2".

2 New England Historical & Genealogical Register, Vol. 147, April, 1993.

'The John Corey² Homestead' of North Kingstown, R.I.

(Quidnessett, North Kingstown, R.I.)

- John² James Greene and wife Elizabeth for £200+ sold to John Corey of Portsmouth, yeoman, 104 ac of land in North Kingstown in two parts (date destroyed by fire).¹
- John² * 1709/10 Deeded to his son, John³, land described as "being my homestead", one hundred and forty-four acres and bounded Southerly in part by (Aquidnesett) Harbour and partly by land of Daniel Greene, Westerly in part by a highway and in part by land belonging to Henry Tibbets, Northwardly by a highway and Easterly by land in part belonging to George Whitman and partly by land belonging to Edward Greene with buildings, orchards, fencing, etc.
- John³ * Nov 10, 1733 conveys to his son, Joseph Corey⁴, 26 ac in North Kingstown that bounded north and west on his own land.
- John³ * Nov 21, 1744 conveys to his son, John Corey⁴ house and five ac of land on highway.
- John³ * Nov 21, 1744 conveys to his son, Joseph Corey⁴ house and five ac of land bordering on his own land.
- John⁴ Mar 11, 1765 Mary (Greene) Corey, widow of John Corey⁴ conveys homestead to his brother, Joseph Corey as per instructions in will.
- Joseph⁴ Mar 11, 1771 conveys to his nephew, William Corey⁵, (Wm¹, John², John³, Wm⁴) the Homestead in North Kingstown bordered by Joshua Pearce, ___ Spink, ___ Dyer.
- Wm⁵ Owned and lived in the Homestead until his death in 1821.
- Wm⁶ Owned and lived in the Homestead until his death in Aug 1870.
- Anna⁷ Daughter of Wm⁶ married Thaddeus Simmons and lived in the homestead until her death in 1901. It was then sold out of the Corey family.
- 1941 The "Corey Homestead" was purchased by the U.S. Government for the Quonset Point Navel Air Station where the famous WWII "Quonset Hut" was designed and first built.

* It is not clear whether these were part of the original John² Corey Homestead.

1 North Kingstown Land Evidence Records, Vol. 1, pg 83/84, 1686-1709

Editor's Note: The information from the second entry of John² through Anna was found in a handwritten William Corey genealogy, a copy of which is in the possession of the Cory Family Society. It is thought to be the work of Edwin Francis Corey of New York City and compiled before 1920.

'The John Corey² Homestead'

Quidnessett, North Kingstown, R.I.



reprinted courtesy of the Rhode Island Historical Society Library

John³ built the first lean-to section of this house in 1713, according to the date on the chimney. The middle section was added in 1733 by John³ and the last part was built in 1870.

Capt. William⁵ (Wm⁴ & Elizabeth [Drake] Corey, John³, John², Wm¹) is reported to have been born here and lived here all his life. He used this home as his headquarters during the Revolutionary War and Lt Job Corey (line uncertain) hid in the chimney while the British searched the house for him.

The death of Anna Simmons⁷ in 1901 ended the nearly 200 years this house was home to generations of descendants of John Corey².

The Corey Homestead Cemetery on the grounds was the final resting place for generations of the Corey family. The two oldest stones are the ones simply marked JC & EC, thought to be the stones for John Corey³ and his wife Elizabeth. Capt William⁵, his wife, Sarah and some of their children & grandchildren as well as Capt Oliver Corey⁵ (Caleb⁴, John³, John², Wm¹), his wife Rebecca, several children and grandchildren are buried here.

In 1941-42 these graves were moved to the Quidnessett Cemetery, section 29.

The Sir Francis Drake Capers

William Cory⁵ m Elizabeth Drake @ Sep 1722

d/o John & Esther (Joyce, widow) Drake

(William⁴, John³, John², William¹)

On at least two occasions during the twentieth century, unscrupulous individuals have solicited money from Cory-Corey's under the guise of filing a claim against the alleged unclaimed estate of Sir Francis Drake said to be worth an enormous amount of money. The following is an answer to a letter received by the American Embassy in England.

*American Embassy,
London*

Sep. 4, 1902

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 19 of August to the Ambassador inclosing a printed statement of Wm. R. Angell of Rhode Island in regard to the "Drake Family of America" I beg to enclose a printed circular from this Embassy in answer to the numerous applications in regard to imaginary estates in England. This circular is based upon a very exhaustive investigation made by the secretary of this Embassy some years ago and subsequently transmitted to the Department of State in Washington where it is now to be found in the archives.

Your attention is especially called to the statement in the circular already mentioned that there are no great unclaimed estates in England. The applications to the Embassy regarding this Drake Estate have been very numerous and I am informed by an American lawyer of integrity & ability now practicing in the courts in London in regard to this estate, that it is preposterous to even conceive that any claimant in America could take advantage at this time of a flaw in the title which occurred over a century ago. The Judges would not for a moment listen to such a proposition.... (The embassy official goes on to relate a similar story. The lawyer in this case was finally sentenced to hard labor in the Old Bailey (jail) for obtaining money under false pretenses).

...I think you would be justified in stating that there is no merit in the Drake claims.

I am Sir
Your obedient Servant
John Ridgely Carter
Secretary of Embassy

1 Handwritten genealogy of William Cory

Peleg Corey⁵, of North Kingstown, R.I.

(John⁴, John³, John², Wm¹)

Revolutionary War Pension Application₁

State of New York, County of Onondaga

On 14 Sep 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Honorable Samuel Mosely, Vice Chancellor of the 7th Circuit of the State of N.Y. At a Court of now sitting for the State of N.Y. Co. of Onondaga and State aforesaid. Peleg Corey, a resident of the town of Otisco who being first fully sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed Jun 7 1832. That he is 74 years of age, 14 Jul last. That when he entered the service he resided in Narragansett in the State of R.I. in the town called North Kingstown afterwards called North Washington. That when the British first invaded R.I. he enlisted for six months under Capt. Peter Wright and was called into immediate service guarding the shore along the ocean, attached to the Regiment commanded by Col. Clark Dyer during his six months service. He was sent into battle with the enemy when they made the first attempt to land. Col. Greene was there with a regiment of Nigroes. After the six months service was ended, he was drafted into service as follows. The Company of Militia took turns in the drawing on half service 20 days and then the other half 20 days. In this way he served one half of the time the greatest part of the war. Living as he did on the coast he was called out almost everyday to defend their house, their cattle and their lives until the enemy left R.I. When not serving his term under the draft, the enemy was constantly sending ashore parties of soldiers from their shipping, and whenever the enemy appeared on shore there was an alarm. All the inhabitants turned out immediately, this Peleg, aforesaid among them. A short squabble would ensue and the enemy would retire to their ships.

He (Peleg) assisted in taking a 36 gun frigate which ran aground at Point Juda, and took 1 Captain and 70 men as prisoners who were sent to Boston. Gen. Sullivan commanded part of the time Gen. Spencer and Gen. Narum (?) from Providence were on R.I. After the French Fleet left R.I. a British Fleet came in the Harbor and Gen. Sullivan had to retreat from the Island.

He (Peleg) was in actual service more than 1/2 of the time after the enemy first appeared off R.I. until peace was declared.

He never had any discharge from the service. He has no documentary claim of his service nor any record of his acts.

He lived in North Washington in R.I. until about 20 years time (ago) when he moved to Northampton in the Co. of Montromery (now Fulton) in the State of N.Y., resided there 24 yrs and then moved to Otisco in the Co. of Onondaga and state of N.Y. where he has since resided.

He was born in North Kingstown in R.I.

signed: Peleg Corey

1 reprinted with permission of Mrs Jane Robertson of Ann Arbor, MI.

Editor's Note: Peleg Corey was probably born in the "Corey Homestead" and may have lived there at the time of his war service. Revolutionary War Records indicate that Quonset Point was one of the areas fortified by troops during the occupation of Newport by the British. A patrol under Col. Dyer guarded the Point from midnight until dawn each day. There were many British ships anchored in the Narragansett Bay.

Gideon Corey⁵

(Anthony⁴, John³, John², William¹)

Served in the American Revolution 9th R.I. Regiment of Foot

*George Washington, Esq.
General and Commander in Chief of the Forces of the
United States of America
These are to Certify that the Bearer hereof
Gideon Corey, Soldier*

*in the Rhode Island Regiment having faithfully served the United
States Six years, seven months and nineteen days and being enlisted
for the war only, is hereby Discharged from the American Army*

*Given at Headquarters the
15th June 1783*

George Washington

*By His Excellency^s
Command
J. Trumbull, Jun^r Secy.
Registered in the Books
of the Regiment, Rhode Island
J. Greenmann, Adjutant*

*The above Gideon Corey
has been honored with the Badge of Merit for Three years faithful services.*

*Jer^h Olney, Lieu Col^o Cornel
Rhode Island Regent*

From unpublished William Cory genealogy thought to have been compiled by Edwin Francis Corey of New York City.

William Cory² of Portsmouth R.I.

s/o William & Mary (Earle) Cory

b c1659/60 - d 14 May 1704

m Martha Cook

William Cory² inherited the 8 acre land grant and home from his father in 1682. He also apparently purchased the thirty-eight acre farm from his brother John probably in 1693/4 before John moved to North Kingstown.

In 1682 William enlisted in the English Army for nine months and served at Fort Ticonderoga, N.Y.₁

On the 4th day of the 11th month, 1683/4 (4 Feb, 1683) William was admitted freeman of Portsmouth and on 6 May 1684 he was admitted as a freeman of the Colony of R.I.

In his father's will William was given use of the great room and the lean-to room called Margaret's room for as long as his mother had use of the home but after her marriage to Joseph Timberlake in 1683 William had the use of the whole house. The Portsmouth Town Council₂ continued to use the Cory great room for their meetings but it is not known if William continued the ordinary or vitualling house (tavern or dining room).

When it came to community service, William followed in his father's footsteps. He served on the Grand Jury in 1687 and served as a delegate to the General Assembly for the years 1694, 1695, and 1696. He also was responsible for setting the tax rates for the Colony in 1690, 1693, and 1694. In 1697 he was in charge of collecting delinquent taxes for Portsmouth₃.

In his will, William² mentions legacy to son, Thomas³, (Wm², Wm¹) the "5 acres bounded ... on the East by the highway, on the south by the highway." This would suggest that Cory's Lane was in existence before 1704.

William died 14 May 1704, supposedly of smallpox⁴, at the age of forty-five or younger in Portsmouth, R.I. Martha is thought to have died before him as she is not mentioned in his will. He designated his mother, Mary Timberlake, his brother-in-law Joseph Cook and Benjamin Hall as executers of his will. He left three sons and four daughters all under the age of majority.

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- 1 From a handwritten William Cory genealogy, a copy of which is in the possession of the Cor(e)y Family Society. It is thought to have been compiled by Edwin Francis Corey of New York City before 1920.
 - 2 Early Records of the town of Portsmouth, edited by Perry & Brigham, 1901
 - 3 Early Records of the town of Portsmouth, edited by Perry & Brigham, 1901
 - 4 From inventory of William Cory² estate.

Last Will & Testament of William Cory²

son/of William Cory of Portsmouth R.I.

April 14, 1704

Portsmouth Register of Wills and Testaments, Book 2, pg. 258

In the name of God Amen I William Cory of Portsmouth on Rhode Island in New England being Sick of Body but ... and of Sound and perfect memory and calling to mind man's mortality I do hereby ... Preventing of future trouble which may otherwise arise make this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following: ... I Resign my Soul into the hand of Almighty God that gave it and my body to the ... to be intemed by my executors herein after named ... which God hath given me I do hereby Dispose there of in manner and form following:

- Item* I give and bequeath unto my ... son Michael Cory all that my twelve acres of Land lying within the Township of Portsmouth ... as sold by the Town in the year of 1693 or 1693/4 ... had to be the Grant of said Land being upon ... Town will more at Large appear itt being bounded as followeth on the South by the land ... William Cory late deceased bounded on the East by the highway on the North ... common or undivided land. The above twelve acres of Land with the fencing and other Appurtainances ... unto belonging I do hereby give to my sd son Michael Cory his heirs and assigns forever to be possessed by him when he comes to the age of one and twenty allway provided and my mind and Will is given my son Michael shall Deceas without Lawfull Issue or before he shall attain to Twenty one years of age that then the above named Twelve acres of land shall be and Remain to my Son Thomas Corey his heirs and assigns forever.
- Item* I give and bequeath unto my second son William Corey and to his heirs and assigns forever ... of my Land housing fencing, orchard and other Appurtainances there unto belonging. Excepting fifteen acres of Land at the ... or upper end of the Land I am now possessed of being given me by my father William Cory deceased the ... fifteen acres of Land I dispose of as followith.
- Item* I give and bequeath unto my third son Thomas Cory and to his heirs and assigns forever. That is to say five acres of Land being bounded as followeth on the East by the highway on the South by a highway or undivided Land on the the West by the land of Benjamin Hall and on the north by the remaining part of said fifteen acres.
- Item* I give to my son Michael Corey ten acres of land to his heirs and assigns forever being Bounded os followeth on his East by the afore sd highway on the South by the aforesaid five acres hereby given to my sd son Thomas Corey on the West by the land of Benjamin Hall and on the North by the Remaining part of my Land all of the above Land is lying within the Township of Portsmouth above that Allway provided And my mind and Will is that if Either of my sons shall dye before they shall attain to Twenty one years of Age or without Lawfull Issue then his part shall be Equally divided between my surviving sons and further my mind and will is that my said sons shall posses the sd Land hereby to them given when they shall attain to Twenty one of age and further my mind and will is and I do hereby order that my son William Cory pay or cause to be paid unto his sister Patience Corey five £ in current silver money of New England when he shall come to Twenty one years of age.

- Item* I give and bequeath unto my daughter Patience one cow and one bed and bedding to be paid unto her by my Executors hereafter named, the bed and bedding which I hereby give to my Daughter Patience is that which I now Ly in Standing in the west Room of my dwelling house.
- Item* I give and bequeath to my daughter Mary Corey one cow.
- Item* I give to my daughter Amy Corey the bed and bedding which standeth in the Roon called Margarets Room and also one cow.
- Item* I give and bequeath unto my daughter Sarah Corey five £ in money one bed and bedding which standeth in the west chamber of my dwelling house and further my mind and will is and I hereby order that the aforesaid Leagasies shall be payd to my said Daughters and Each one of them by my Executors hereafter named when they come to Eighteen years of age or at the day of there marriage whith shall first happen And as for the Remaining part of my movable Estate I doe hereby order itt to be devided Equally Among my four Daughters.
- Item* I hereby ordain constitute and Appoint my honnorred mother with my Brother in Law Joseph Cook and my trusty friend Benjamin Hall to be my Executrix and Executors to see this my Last Will and Testament performed Justified ... according to the true Intent and meaning Thereof hereby giving and granting to my sd Executors full power and authority to dispose of the Rents and profits of all housing and Land during the minority of my sons to whith is given for the use and benefit and bringing up of my children and Likewise to have the full oversight disposition of Land for the use above allways provided and my mind and will is and I doe hereby order that if my son Micheall shall be dispossessed of the afore sd ten acres of land hereby given to him that then and in that case all the rest of the of my Removable Estate after the Leagasies Expressly given to my four daughters are payd shall be and hereby is given to my son Micheall Corey, his aforesd ten acres of Land to return to my son William Corey, his heirs and assigns forever and in confirmation of all the above written primeses I have here unto set my hand affixed my seal this fourteenth day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and four. Sealed and Acknowledged to be his Last Will and Testament of the above named William Corey.

Subscribed to the above written Will in presence off

Thomas Cory
Thomas Jeffries
Joseph Sheffield

William Cory

1839 Interview with Judge Thomas Cory⁶ b 23 May 1768

Thomas⁵, John⁴, Thomas³, Wm², Wm¹

"I was," said the venerable judge, "but seven years old when the British first entered Newport (RI) yet I distinctly recollect the state of alarm and constant excitement during that period. My father occupied a small house built on his own land, about three miles from Bristol and Howlands ferries. I have but little recollection of what took place, particularly, until one day when the Americans under Sullivan were retreating from Rhode Island. I recollect on this last day but one of the fight, the continued firing which gradually grew nearer the house as the American army continued their retreat in that direction. Presently four soldiers passed, having a young man on a blanket, which they held by the four corners. He was badly wounded, and afterwards died at Providence Hospital where he was sent. I recollect we were much shocked as they stopped at our well for water; but still more so when a flying party avowed they had left a wounded comrade on the fields whom they feared the enemy would kill when they came up with him, and we afterwards learned that they did.

The English and Hessians continued to advance and the firing came so near my father judged it prudent to retreat to the cellar. While there, a party of Hessians came into the yard and house and finding we were in the cellar came around to the outside entrance, and pointed their guns down. A number of glistening bayonets were visible sticking into the cellar, when instantly a most horrible yell was heard: a party of Americans from behind the wall, had sprung over and surprised and made prisoners of them. They passed off closely guarded, and the firing seemed to pass off in another direction. It was the close of the day, and an American soldier rushed into the house, and threw himself on the floor completely exhausted saying he could go no farther. By degrees he became restored and he

them told us of what he had just witnessed. A party of enemy came up to the house of an aged man and commanded him to draw water for them, and while the venerable man tottered to the well they barbarously shot him in the back.

Nothing seemed to give my parents so much alarm as this, and my father said it was time to fly, and bundling up a few things of absolute necessity and driving the cow before us we set out, eight children of us, the youngest a babe of three weeks old in my mothers arms. Favored by darkness for it was now evening and acquainted with every step of the ground, we succeeded in getting to Howlands ferry and with our cow on board a boat, we got safely over and my father and eldest brother, and one or two others went over the same night and brought over the beds. In the meantime the American soldier left in full possession had taken his leave, and all he could carry with him, probably thinking the enemy would get all he left. The next day they ventured over again and brought off furniture, etc. and that was the last day of the retreat."

The old gentleman went on to tell us, "that procuring a sorry tenement at Tiverton, they commenced a life of extreme hardship and privation; that for about a year he could say in truth they went hungry. The mother used to divide their food at each meal and allowance them. They used to milk their cow three times a day and after baking a Johnny-cake, mark it out in so many lots and give to each one with their allowance of milk: and the patient mother took her portion with the rest although one of them drew its nourishment from her bosom.

By degrees this Source of Sustenance failed them; the cow stopped giving milk and then was pinching times. I recollect" said the venerable narrator, "and I remember it

distinctly (for it was the only time I was tempted to take what did not belong to me) going to a neighbors to get some milk and while the woman went out to get it, I observed a dish of cold indian dumplings, probably intended for the hog pail; I watched my chance and grasping a handful, pocketed them safely before the old lady's return; and from that time to this I have no remembrance of anything half so good as those dumplings.

This family continued to linger in the neighborhood, the boys working at anything they could do, and the father devising every honest method to keep his family from starving. Some of the boys were among those set to watch the enemy and notwithstanding our hardships we grew as rugged as colts" said the narrator "until the evacuation of Rhode Island."

Upon the very first news the family packed up and proceeded on their return; upon passing the ferry they let the cow loose and she went straight to her old place. But alas; when the family arrived there stood the cow ruminating but there was no house; the cellar was left and that was all. Capt. Brady of the Royal Artillery had taken a fancy to it and not liking its situation exactly had removed it about half a mile off. The family learning its location, once more took their line of march and went on, and for that winter (the memorable hard winter) resided in it where it stood. The next spring they moved it back to its former place."

"It does not appear that through the whole scene of hardship there was anything like murmuring; the family considered their sufferings as the fate of war and confidently relying on Providence looked trustingly forward to a happy termination of our national trials."

Thomas Cory⁶ (son of Thomas Cory⁵ and Hannah Lake, John⁴, Thomas³, Wm², Wm¹) was a nephew of Pardon Cory and Samuel Cory who took part in the capture of the

English General Prescott north of Newport, R.I. He married Mary Wilcox d/o Lt. John Wilcox and was the father of eight children - he served as Justice of Peace at Portsmouth 1802-05, 08, 1810, 1813-1818, Justice of the Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions of Peace of Newport Co. 1818-1827. He was active in the Democratic party.¹

1 From handwritten genealogy of William Cory.

Samuel Cory⁵

b 18 Jan 1758 - d 21 Aug 1841
(John⁴, Thomas³, Wm², Wm¹)

In Sep 1776 Samuel Cory of Portsmouth, R.I. was a corporal in Capt Carr's Co, Col Christopher Lippetts Regiment.

Following the capture of the British General Prescott in Jul 1777, Samuel and his brother, Pardon were both offered army commissions which both declined.

During the Sullivan Expedition (at the Battle of R.I.), Samuel stood out for his bravery and daring actions. Sam's great grandson told a story of Sam having the heels of his boots shot off as he ran down Lawton's Hill in Portsmouth, R.I. Later he fought in the Battles of Trenton, Princeton and Monmouth in N.J. with the Rhode Island Regiment.

Towards the end of the war he sailed on the privateer "General Arnold", aggressively attacking the British ships until their capture in Long Island Sound. The surviving crew, including Samuel Cory, took advantage of a dark night to escape to the Connecticut shore and made their way home to R.I.¹

1 Biography of Revolutionary Heroes by Williams, New York, Wiley & Putnam, 1839.



Samuel Cory⁵, Patriot

John⁴, Thomas³, Wm², Wm¹
b 18 January, 1758, Portsmouth, R.I.
d 21 August, 1841



Samuel Cory⁶, Jr.

b 22 June, 1797, Portsmouth, R.I.
d 6 August, 1885

*pictures courtesy of Barbara, Barclay &
Ernest Briggs*

Independence Day Celebration

July 4, 1777

The Rhode Island Militia Regiment encamped around Tiverton spent their holiday racing five whale boats up and down the Sakonet River under the watching eyes of local residents and possible spies. By the end of the day, their officers selected crews of six oarsmen and one steersman for each of the five whale boats. Among those selected were brothers Pardon and Samuel Cory⁵ of Portsmouth (John⁴, Thomas³, William², William¹). Lt. Col. William Barton reported to his superior officer Col. Stanton and received his orders to "proceed to the Island of Newport, attack the Enemy where you think proper and report to me your proceeding."

A refugee from Newport had come to see Col. Barton to report that the British Major General Robert Prescott was not quartered in Newport but five miles north and about a mile inland from Coddington's Cove in the comfortable home of John Overing, a well-to-do Tory. A troop of Dragoons and a company of Infantry were camped nearby, but only one sentry patrolled at night. Lt. Col. Parton proposed to lead a small band of men to capture General Prescott.

On July 5, 1777 the five boats whose crews included Col. Barton, two lieutenants, two non-commissioned officers and thirty-three privates secretly left on a dark moonless night. A severe thunderstorm developed and they spent the next twenty-six hours battling the storm to row the ten miles to Bristol.

The storm continued for four days and the men continued on south along the western shore of Prudence Island. Thru the British fleet of eleven ships of war and many transports, the silent men rowed single file with their oars muffled. Arriving at Coddington's Cove, they pulled their boats onto the beach leaving one man in charge of each boat while the remainder set off overland through a blackberry patch, a field of rye and up a shallow dry creek bed until they were close to their target. Climbing out of the creek bed they found the dragoons camped about a hundred yards on one side and the infantry camped on the other. Silently they made their way to the house capturing a surprised Redcoat sentry, then entering the house they quickly captured the sleepy General Prescott in his night shirt. Allowing the General time to pull on his pants and grab his jacket they hurried him barefoot back the same way they had come. By daybreak they had succeeded in rowing to Warwick. The prisoner asked for some shoes as his feet were sore and swollen. Barton obtained a pair and gave them to Samuel Cory to put on the General's feet. Samuel Cory, having many friends and neighbors who had suffered from Prescott's harsh treatment, wasted no sympathy on him as he crammed his feet into the ill-fitting shoes. When General Prescott complained, Samuel replied "he had been ordered to put on the shoes not to see if they fit, and that's what he intended to do."

Gen. Prescott was taken to General Washington's headquarters where he was exchanged the following year. As the story was repeated throughout the colonies, the men involved became regarded as heroes and provided a much needed lift to the spirits of the weary Patriots. This daring exploit came to a successful conclusion with no bullets fired and no injuries to Col. Barton's men.

Patchwork History of Tiverton, R.I., 1976 Bicentennial Edition.

Handwritten, unpublished William Cory genealogy thought to have been compiled by Edwin Corey of New York City.

Cory Cousins We Would Like You to Meet



Lester W. Cory

of Tiverton, R.I.

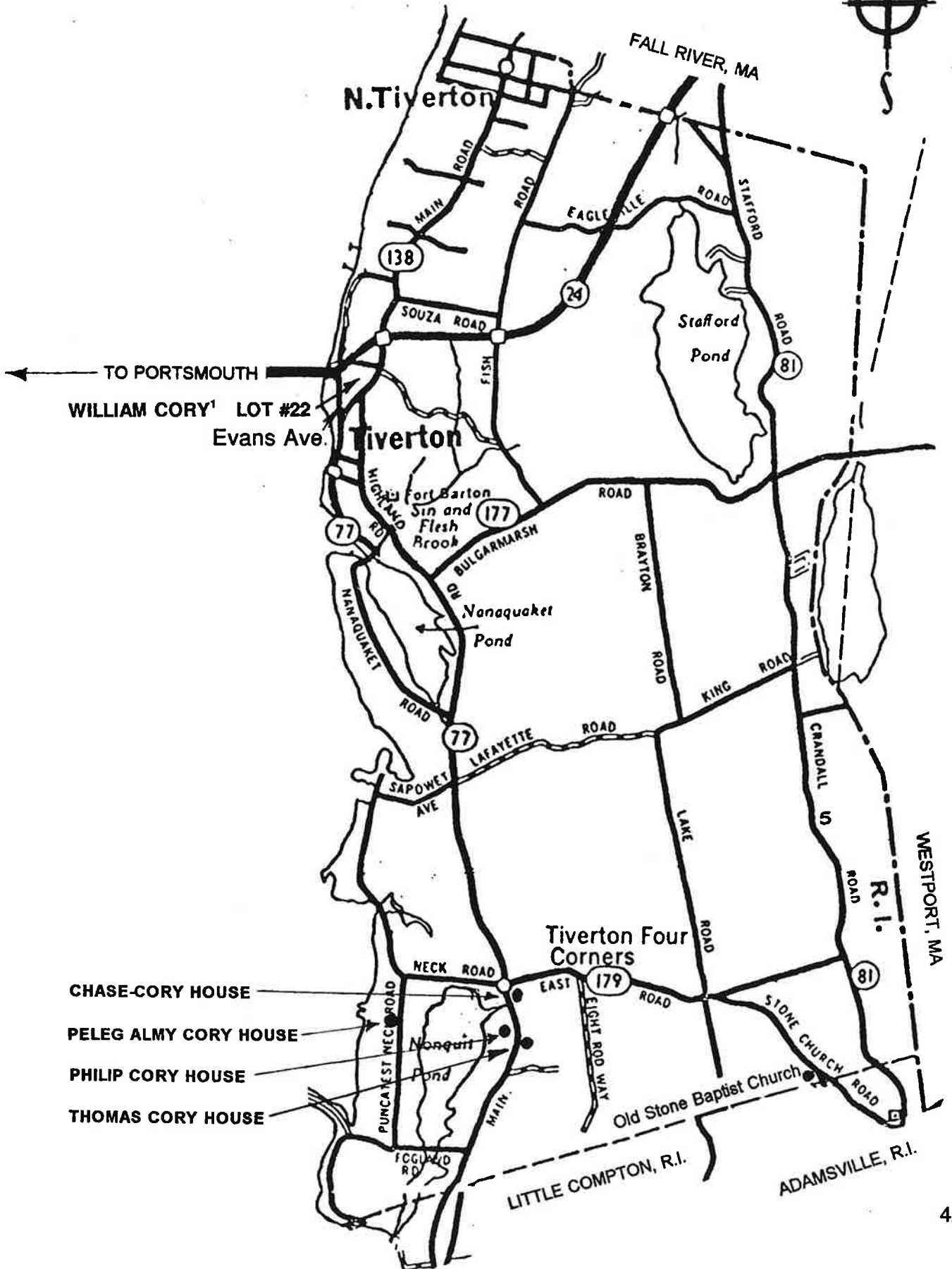
Lester Cory is the president of "SHARE," the Society for Human Advancement Through Rehabilitation Engineering Foundation, Inc. with the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Center for Rehabilitation Engineering. SHARE designs and builds individualized, computerized equipment for the severely handicapped, enabling them to communicate independently.

In 1985 Mr. Cory received the President's Volunteer Action Award presented by President Reagan at a White House Ceremony. Other honors include citations from the Governors of Rhode Island and Massachusetts, citations from the legislatures of Rhode Island and Massachusetts, Massachusetts Distinguished Citizen Award, Southeastern Massachusetts University Professional Achievement Award, Johns Hopkins Meritorious Achievement Award, National Salvation Army Others Award, and the SMU Teacher of the Year Award.

Col. Lester Cory, USAF, retired in 1993 as commander of the USAF 281st Combat Communications Group of the R.I. Air National Guard. His military awards include the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Armed Forces Medal with R.I. Star, and the Rhode Island Service Medal.

Mr. Cory is descended from Samuel⁷, Benjamin⁶, Samuel⁵, John⁴, Thomas³, Wm², Wm¹ of Portsmouth, R.I. He and his wife Pat live in Tiverton, R.I. He has four children and three grandchildren.

Tiverton, R.I.

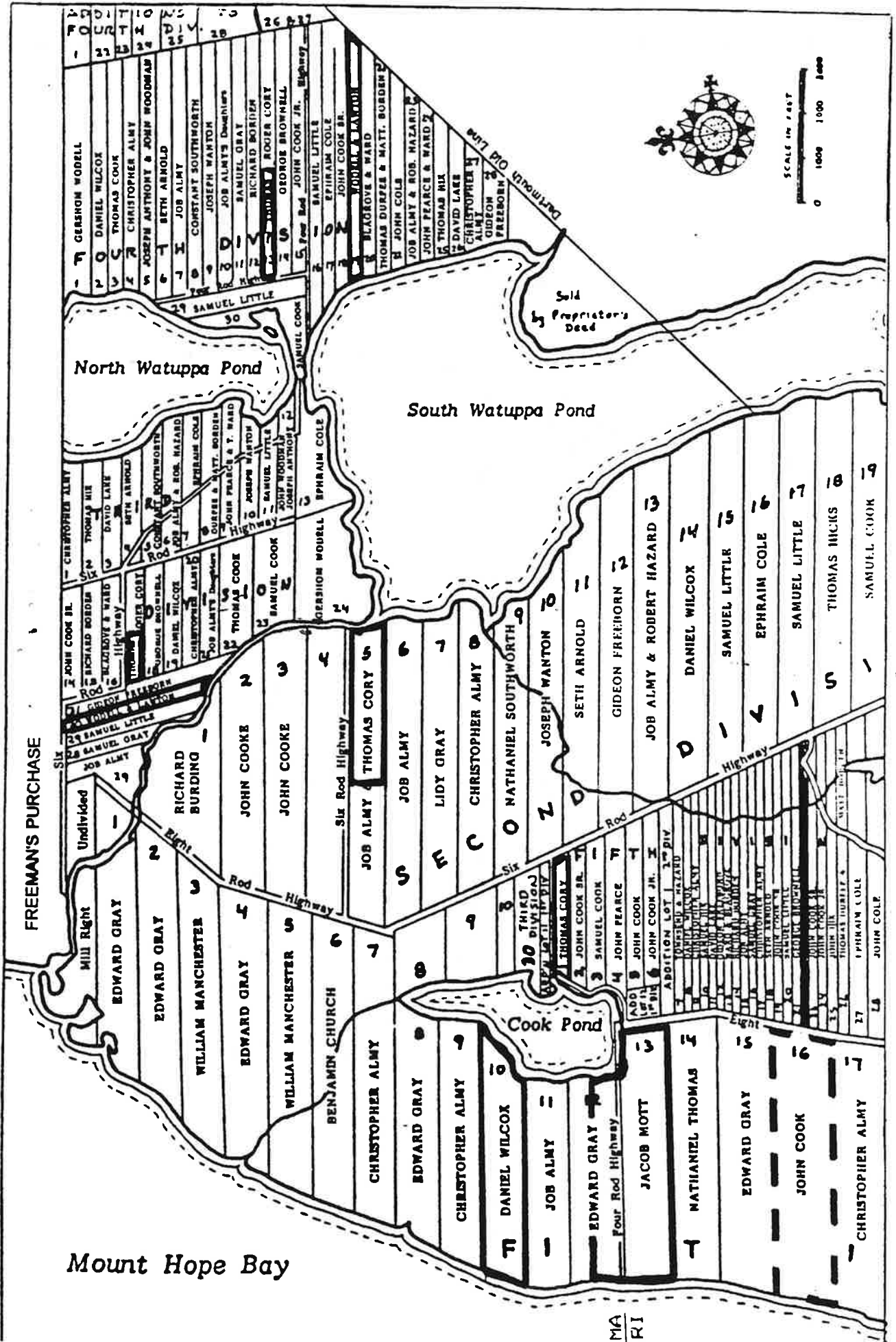


TO PORTSMOUTH
WILLIAM CORY¹ LOT #22
Evans Ave.

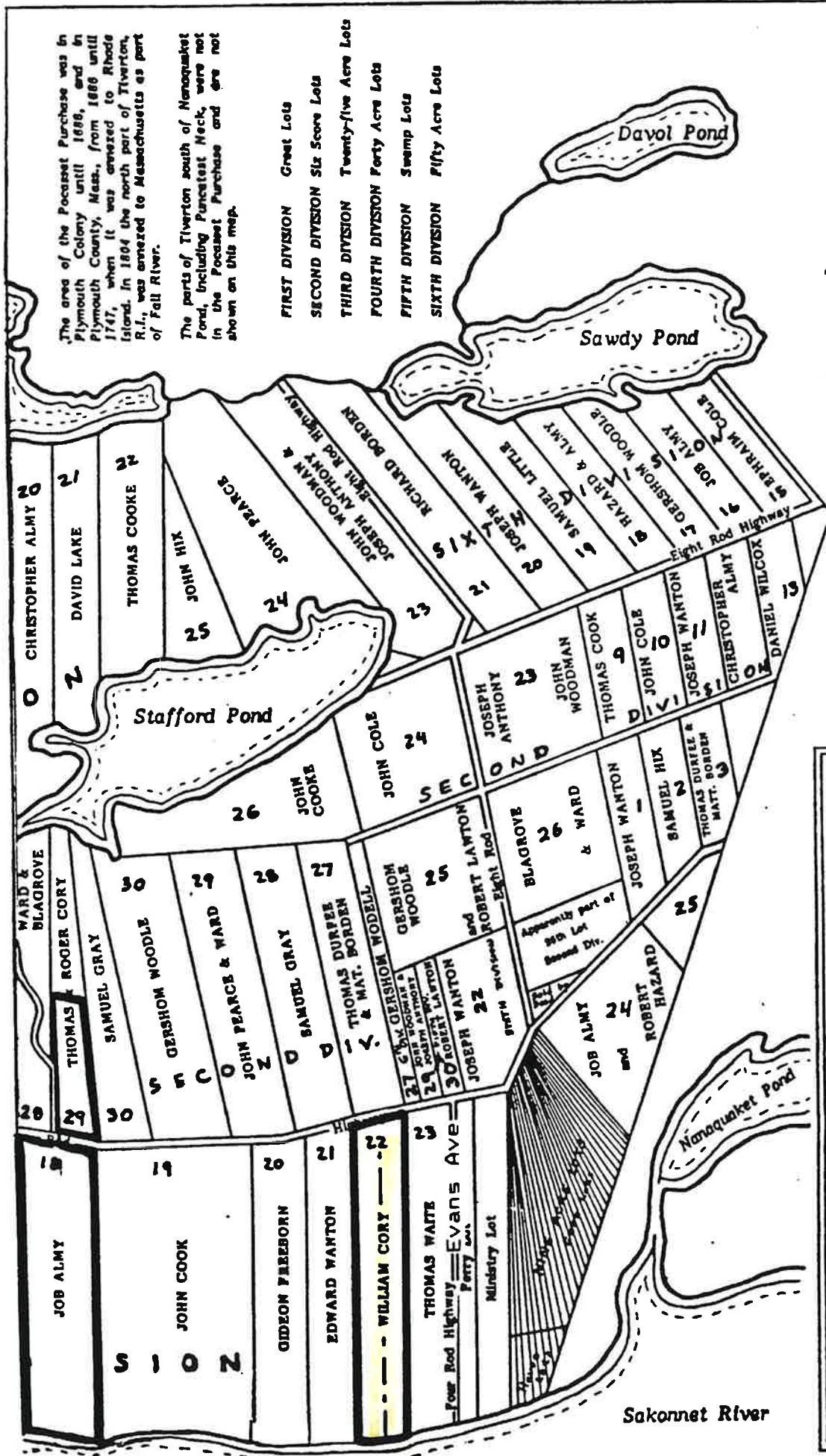
- CHASE-CORY HOUSE
- PELEG ALMY CORY HOUSE
- PHILIP CORY HOUSE
- THOMAS CORY HOUSE

POCASSET PURCHASE (TIVERTON)

Mount Hope Bay



MA
RI



Thomas Cory² purchased
 Lots #10, S1/2 of #12, #13, #18
 between 1701 and 1720

ORIGINAL LANDOWNERS
 IN THE POCASSET PURCHASE (TIVERTON)
 (from map made by the City Engineer's Department,
 Fall River, Mass., in 1908)

Reprinted with permission from Thomas Cooke of R.I., by Jane Fletcher Fluke, Vol. 1, pp. 48-49.

Thomas Cory²

son of William Cory¹ of Portsmouth, R.I.
b before 1671 - d before 21 Mar 1737/8, Tiverton, R.I.
m #1 Sarah Tabor - m #2 Susannah (Manchester) Tabor

Very little research has been done into the early records of Tiverton so little is known of Thomas Cory. However it is known that he was a landowner when the town was incorporated on 2 March 1692/3. In later years he purchased additional lots until he owned nearly eight hundred acres of the Pocasset Purchase.

Thomas² inherited the north half of lot #22 and one half of the nine acre house lot #22 of the first division as well as one half of all the undivided lands, totalling probably one hundred ninety acres in all from his father, William Cory¹ of Portsmouth.

In April 1701 Thomas² purchased lot #18 of the Pocasset Purchase from the heirs of Job Almy for 200 £. The deed does not mention the house lot #18 or the land making up the other divisions so it must be assumed that they were not included. A Caleb Cory purchased the house lot #18 around the time of the Revolutionary War.

On 8 April 1707 Thomas² purchased from John Cook, Jr for 250 £, one whole share, divided and undivided, lot #10 of the Pocasset Purchase.

On 17 April 1720 Thomas² purchased the south half of lot #12 and all of lot #13 of the Pocasset Purchase from Gershom Wordell.

On 12 Feb 1716/7 Thomas² paid 550 £ for the one third part of one whole share of land in Dartmouth, MA that William Cory¹ of Portsmouth had given to his son, Caleb², in his will. This is the 240 acre farm that Thomas² gave to his son, Thomas³, and also to his grandson, Thomas⁴. A Benjamin Corey signed the deed as grantor but his relationship to the Cory family is not known.

On 31 May 1720 Thomas² bought another farm at Tiverton Four Corners of 190 acres from the heirs of Joseph Rogers.

When the will of Thomas Cory² was transcribed it was discovered to be an earlier will dated 12 Jan 1731/2 written after the death of his first wife, Sarah Tabor, and before his second marriage to Susannah (Manchester) Tabor. He mentions a heretofore unknown daughter, Rebecca. In his final will written on 23 Sep 1734, Thomas² mentions, in addition to the others, a grandson named John, not otherwise identified.

At the time his estate was inventoried, it was valued at 4,862 £.

(Early) Will and Testament of Thomas Cory²

dated 12 January 1731/32
son of William Cory and Mary Earle

The Last Will and Testament of Thomas Cory of Tiverton in the County of Bristol in his Majesty's province of the Massachuset Bay in New England yeoman is as follows To all people to whom these proceeds shall or may on my Consem know you that I the said Thomas Cory being something indosposed in body yet of perfect mind and memory thanks be given unto God y A Calling to mind the mortality of my body and that it is Appointed unto men once to dye do therefore make and ordain this my Last Will and Testament in following manner and form

Imprimis my will is that first all my just debts be paid in convenient time after my decease by my Executors here after named.

Item I give and bequeath unto my Eldest Son William Cory the one half of the fourth six score acre Lott in pocaset purchase and the one half of the twenty ninth fifty acre Lott in said purchase and the one half of the five Swamp Lott in said purchase and the fifth twenty five acre swamp Lott all which is Supposed to be Given him by his grandfathers Entale the which I confirm unto him in manner and form as above Exprest. Also I give unto my said Son William the farm which he hath leased to Benjamin Durfee which I purchased of John Talman being all that part of the Eleventh Great Lott or Share in pocaset purchase below the pond and also I give him my said Son William all that part of the great Lott or Share in said purchase which I purchased of Gorsham Woodle lying on the Northward Side and adjoining to Richard Borden homestead and my twenty five acre Lott with my _____ of the pond. _____ lying on the Eastward side of the pond which I purchase joyning to Cook land. _____ all of which I give to my said Son William Cory his heirs and Assigns for Ever he my said Son William performing what is here-after Specified that is to say he paying that five Hundred pounds due by Bond from me when expired to John Talman youngest Brother when he comes of age or in case of his decease then to John Talman _____ to pay _____ that he my said Son Wiliam pay _____ Bond when it shall become due also he my said son William Cory in consideration of the lands given him Shall pay to his sister Mary Durfee wife of Thomas Durfee of Free town the Sum of fifty pounds in good and passable Bills of Credit and fifty pounds more to his sister Sarah Brown wife of Abraham Brown in good and passable Bills of Credit the money to be paid in six months after my decease.

Item I give and bequeath to my Grand Son Thomas Cory Son of my Son Thomas Cory of Dartmouth Deceased all that part of land and housing in Dartmouth aforesaid where _____ he my said Son Thomas lived: that is I give unto him my said grandson all that part of said farm with the Haying thereon which is bounded and _____ing South Easterly on Thomas Brightman Land or Homestead North westerly on Phillip Tabor Land and Homestead South westerly on the westernmost _____ of including all my Salt meadow at the foot thereof and to extend on the whole Breadth from said River North Easterly untill it makes two hundred acres of land by measure also I give unto my said grandson forty acres of land being a part of my tract of Land Lying _____ George Woods Land and Land belonging to

Phillip land Northward on the whole breadth of said _____ tract until it makes forty acres by _____ all which I give unto him my said grandson Thomas his heirs and assigns for Ever and to come into his possession at the age of Twenty one years. But if in case he shall Decease before he comes to the age of twenty one years or becomes _____ then my will is that all the lands above given to my said Grandson shall be equally divided amongst all my Children and those that may represent them if any of them should be _____ either male or female to them their heirs and Assigns for ever.

Item I give and bequeath to my said Son Phillip Cory all my homestead farm, Haying and Land where I now live in Tiverton aforesaid and also all the remaining of that farm in Dartmouth which I herein before have given to my sd Grand Son Thomas Cory aforesaid it being all the remaining _____ of that two hundred acres whereon the house now standeth lying and _____ North Easterly with all my sedge flats or meadow Lying of in the rivers in Dartmouth aforesaid which I give to my sd Son Phillip his heirs and Assigns for Ever. Further my will is that in consideration of the Lands given to my said Son Phillip that he my said Son shall pay to his Sister Rebeckah Cory fifty pounds money or good and passable Bill of Credit and fifty pounds more to his sister Patience in money or good and passable Bills of Credit both to be paid in six months after my decease and further my will is that my son Phillip shall have the whole _____ and profit of the house and land in Dartmouth until my Grand Son comes of age: That is if given to my said Grandson and further I give to my said Son Phillip one feather bed bolster, two blankets and a coverlett and further I give my said Son Phillip two working cattle, four cows, six yearling cattle and three calves and thirty sheep and further I give my Son Phillip all my outdoors movable and implements for farming of every sort and kind.

Item I give and bequeath to my four daughters viz: Mary Durfee, Sarah Brown, Rebeckah Cory and Patience Cory three hundred and ten £ apiece to each of them to be paid by my executor hereafter named in manner as follows: That is to Say three hundred and ten £ to be paid unto my daughter Mary Durfee wife of Thomas Durfee of Free Town and three hundred and ten pounds to be paid unto my Second Daughter Sarah Brown wife of Abraham Brown of Tiverton and three hundred and ten £ to be paid to my third Daughter Rebeckah Cory and three hundred and ten £ to be paid unto my fourth Daughter Patience Cory all which Severall sums of money is to be paid out of Bonds due to me in Bills of Credit to be paid by my Executors here after named. Further I give and bequeath to my said four daughters viz: Mary Durfee, Sarah Brown, Rebeckah Cory and Patience Cory all my Lands both divided and undivided in Tiverton and also in Dartmouth to them and each of them their Heirs and Assigns for Ever. That is not before given away in this my will and further I give unto my son Phillip Cory and his four sisters above named all my live Stock and in loose _____ movables of every sort and kind and to be Equally Divided amongst them immediately after my decease _____ that is to Say all that is not before given away in this my will further my will is that my said two youngest Daughters viz Rebeckah and Patience shall have convenient house room in my now dwelling House in Tiverton aforesaid as a good and Equitable Right until my said Daughters marry: that is with _____ and firewood cut and carted to the door and also the keeping of one cow and a riding beast both Summer and winter and also Apples Sufficient for their eating booth Summer and winter. And further my will is that my Son Phillip take special care of my Grand Son Thomas Cory Son of my Son Thomas Cory that is to bring him up to good learning in the English Tongue that is to read and wright and Sifer well and to keep him untill he is fit to put out to a trade

as by the Consent of his and decision of his mother Mary shall think fitt and further my will is that if Either of my daughters before named shall depart this life before marriage or without Issue then her or their parts to be Equally divided amongst the Sisters surviving further my will is that my daughter Rebeckah shall have my Indian boy Sam otherwise called Sacem until he comes to the age of twnty one years old and my will is that my daughter Patience shall have my Indian girl called Dinah till she comes to the age of Eighteen years old and I hereby make Null and Void all former will and wills _____ and confirming this to be my Last Will and Testament and that it may be Executed fulfilled and performed Do hereby Constitute and Appoint my Loving Sons William Cory and Phillip Cory to be my whole and Sole Executors to this my Last Will and Testament to see it fulfilled and kept according to the true Intent and meaning thereof in witness whereof I the said

Thomas Cory have here unto Subscribed and set to my hand and seal the twelvth day of January in _____ year of our Lord one thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty one alius Anno 1731/2

Signed, Sealed Published
pronounced and Declared
by the said Thomas Cory
to be his last Will and Testament
in the presence of
William Taber
Jonathan Soule
Philip Taber

Editor's Note: This will (dated 12 January 1731/32) was probably written after the death of Sarah Tabor, the first wife of Thomas Cory, and before his marriage to Susannah (Manchester) Tabor. Also named in this will is a previously unknown daughter named Rebeccah, who probably died before September 1734. This will was superseded by one written 23 September 1734. The original will is in the possession of Edna Snell of Tiverton, R.I.

Will Extract¹ of Thomas Cory²

son of William Cory of Portsmouth, R.I.

bom 1661/1671

Will written 23 September 1734, Will proved 21 March 1738

Executors - sons, William and Philip Cory

To my eldest son, William, half of 120 acres in Pocasset, half of swamp lot and half of 60 acre lot supposed to have his by his grandfather's entail, which I confirm, also other land. To grandson Thomas Corey, son of Thomas of Dartmouth, deceased, 200 acres and housing, being homestead farm where my son Thomas lived, in Dartmouth, also 40 acres adjoining my brother-in-law Philip Tabor's all to be his at age. To son Philip, homestead farm where I now live, in Tiverton, 120 acres and housing, two cows and all young cattle already in his hands, and half the sheep and profit of house given grandson John, till grandson is of age and Philip to bring up John to learning till sixteen and then put him to trade.

To my daughter Patience Cory - 250 £ in household goods, in consideration of what my other two daughters have already had and of her present weakness, and also Indian Boy Sam, and Indian Girl Dinah till their time is out. To my daughter Mary Durfee, wife of Thomas - 600 £. To my daughter Patience Cory - 600 £. To daughter Sarah Brown, wife of Abraham - 600 £. To wife Susanna - 100 £. If she happen to have a child or children he or they to have lands in Tiverton and Dartmouth not given.

To all children rest of Personal

Inventory 4,862 £, 15s, 2d

397 acres land in sundry places - 1,165 £, 10 s ..

1 Genealogical Dictionary of R.I. - Austin, pg. 57

Cory, Hicks, Borden House



*4100 Main Street, Tiverton Four Corners, R.I.
The rear section built c. 1730*

Thomas Cory² (William¹) bought 190 acres on 31 May 1720 from the estate of Joseph Rogers lying on both sides of Main St, south of Tiverton Four Corners.

Philip Cory³ (Thomas², William¹) inherited the 120 acre homestead farm from his father.

Thomas Cory⁴ (Philip³, Thomas², William¹) inherited the southern half including the homestead home from his father, Philip³.

Elizabeth Cory⁵ (Philip⁴, Philip³, Thomas², William¹) married Capt. Gabriel Hicks, who purchased the house. Comfort Hicks⁶, daughter of Gabriel and Elizabeth (Cory) Hicks married John Borden and moved to Ohio leaving behind their son, Thomas Hicks Borden⁷.

Thomas Hicks Borden⁷ inherited the homestead from his grandfather, Capt. Gabriel Hicks. It was owned by descendants of this family until 1990 when the front section suffered severe damage in a fire. The home was sold and the new owners removed the remains of the front section, transported and rebuilt another old home at the front.

Capt. Philip Cory House



*Main Street, Tiverton Four Corners, R.I.
Built c 1770*

Thomas Cory² (William¹) bought 190 acres on 31 May 1720 from the heirs of Joseph Rogers lying on both sides of Main Street, south of Tiverton Four Corners.

Philip Cory³, (Thomas², William¹) inherited the 120 acre homestead farm from his father, Thomas Cory².

Philip Cory⁴, (Philip³, Thomas², William¹) a Revolutionary War Captain, inherited the northern half of the land from his father, Philip Cory³ and built the above pictured home.

William Cory⁵ (Philip⁴, Philip³, Thomas², William¹) inherited the home and farm of sixty acres from his father, Philip.

Comfort Cory⁶ (William⁵, Philip⁴, Philip³, Thomas², William¹) married Loring Manchester and lived here. It is not known who the next owners were.

Revolutionary War Orders For Lieutenant Philip Cory

(Philip³, Thomas², Wm¹)

Tiverton June 28 1778 --
Lieut Philip Cory in the name of the Governor & Company
of the State of Rhode Island you are
hereby commanded to warn all the militia & alarm men
within your District that is not on duty to
appear by ten o'clock at the four corners all
acutred fit for action with all the spades &
shovels and pick axes that can be found you are also
to give them notice that in case they do not appear
they may expect to be delt with according to law
whether they have guns or not they are not to
be excused but to come forward and in case
any person is absent you are to return such
delinquent without fail Given under my
hand the day & date ^{first} above written --
Pardon Gray Lt Col

Tiverton, June 28, 1778

Lieu. Philip Cory - In the name of the Governor, & Company of the State of Rhode Island you are hereby commanded to warn all the militia & alarm men within your District that is not on duty to appear by ten o'clock at the Four Corners - all acutred, fit for action, with all the spades & shovels & pick axes that can be found. You are also to give them notice that in case they do not appear they may expect to be delt with according to law. Whether they have guns or not, they are not to be excused but to come forward and in case any person is absent, you are to return such delinquent without fail. Given under my hand the day and date first above ritten.

Pardon Gray, Lieut Colonel

Revolutionary War - Pay Record

4 *of* Pay Roll of Capt. Isaac Cook's
Service of the United States, from the 26th 10 A

NAMES	Rank	Time of Service	Time of Service	Wages and Subsistence Money Due		NAMES
Isaac Cook	Capt.	July 26	1862	5	12	Amount Paid for...
Philip Gory	Lieut.	D.	1862	3	15 2	Thos. Gory Junr.
Philip Manchester	Ensign	D.	1862	3	4	Nathl. Chandal
Russel Cook	Sergt.	D.	1862		12 7 1/2	Nathl. Briggs
Philip Seabury	D.	D.	1862		12 7 1/2	Joseph Abby
Obadiah Dennis	D.	D.	1862		12 7 1/2	Samuel
Beley Cook	D.	D.	1862		12 7 1/2	Thos. Gory
Godfree King	Capt.	D.	1862		11 8 1/2	James Lake
Philip Taber	D.	D.	1862		11 8 1/2	David Lake
Wm. Sanford	D.	D.	1862		11 8 1/2	Isaac Manchester
Isaac Manchester	D.	D.	1862		11 8 1/2	Breas. Peckham
David Rounds	Drummer	D.	1862		11 3 1/2	Amten Hart
Amos Taber	Private	D.	1862		10 0	Noah Peckham
Isaac Taber	D.	D.	1862		10 8	Isaac Brown
Oliver Bailey Junr.	D.	D.	1862		10 8	Godfree King
Samuel Sanby	D.	D.	1862		10 0	William Abby
Thos. Simmons	D.	D.	1862		10 0	Jacob Taber
Thos. Dennis	D.	D.	1862		10 0	Oliver Bailey
Jos. Davenport	D.	D.	1862		10 0	John Briden
Fobes Little	D.	D.	1862		10 0	Lemuel Taber
Ezekiel Chandal	D.	D.	1862		10 0	Moses Taber
John Bennet	D.	D.	1862		10 0	Paden Davenport
Phillip Lake	D.	D.	1862		10 0	Thos. Manchester
William Faulkner	D.	D.	1862		10 0	Asph. Manchester
Ephraim Macomber	D.	D.	1862		10 0	Earl Taber
Ephraim Chamberlain	D.	D.	1862		10 0	Oliver Hart
Thos. Brightman	D.	D.	1862		10 0	Job King
Job Manchester	D.	D.	1862		10 0	Levford Hart
Thomas Hart	D.	D.	1862		10 0	Daniel Brown
Saml. Wilkey	D.	D.	1862		10 0	Job Gray
Benj. Brown	D.	D.	1862		10 0	Geo. Wilkey
Job Weaver	D.	D.	1862		10 0	Bory. Fish
Phillip Briggs	D.	D.	1862		10 0	Ephraim Davenport
John Rounds	D.	D.	1862		10 0	Thos. Lawton
Josh. Lake	D.	D.	1862		10 0	Joseph Bailey
Wm. Sanford	D.	D.	1862		10 0	Saml. Simmons
Amos Taber	Private	D.	1862		10 0	Amount (over)

amp^{ly} in Col. John Cook's Reg^t of Militia, in the
 23rd of July 1778. For Wages & Subsistence Money.

Rank	Time of Service	Time of Service	Wages and Subsistence Money Due		NAME	Rank	Time of Service	Time of Service	Wages and Subsistence Money Due	
			£	s					£	s
			30	17	Uncont ^d Bro ^r Forward				40	19
				8	W ^m Cook	Rivale	July 24			10
				8	Jehabad Williston	2 ^d	9 ^o			10
				8	John Walt	2 ^d	9 ^o			10
				8	Abrer Durfee	2 ^d	9 ^o			10
				8	J ^r Tompkins	2 ^d	9 ^o			10
				8	Brownel Hart	2 ^d	9 ^o			10
				8	W ^m Willcox son of J ^r ias.	2 ^d	9 ^o			10
				8	Gideon Army	2 ^d	9 ^o			10
				8	George Bailey	2 ^d	9 ^o			10
				8	Job Sanford	2 ^d	9 ^o			10
				8	Ephraim Sanford	2 ^d	9 ^o			10
				8	John Tripp	2 ^d	9 ^o			10
				8	Philip Bennet	2 ^d	9 ^o			10
				8	William Willcox	2 ^d	9 ^o			10
				8	Jeremiah Cook	2 ^d	9 ^o			10
				8	Samuel Taber	2 ^d	9 ^o			10
				8	William Gray	2 ^d	9 ^o			10
				8	Job Cook	2 ^d	9 ^o			10
				8	Jeremiah Taber	2 ^d	9 ^o			10
				8	Presford Dennis	2 ^d	9 ^o			10
				8	George Cook	2 ^d	9 ^o			10
				8	Jehabad Taber	2 ^d	9 ^o			10
				8	Abrer Sowle	2 ^d	9 ^o			10
				8	William Gray	2 ^d	9 ^o			10
				8	Robert Whaley	2 ^d	9 ^o			10
				8	Abrer Brown	2 ^d	9 ^o			10
				8	Aaron Hart	2 ^d	9 ^o			10
				8	Abrer Manchester	2 ^d	9 ^o			10
				8	Peleg Army	2 ^d	9 ^o			10
				8	George Sanford	2 ^d	9 ^o			10
				8	W ^m Cook son of Walter	2 ^d	9 ^o			10
				8	Philip Gray	2 ^d	9 ^o			10
				8	Walter Taber	2 ^d	9 ^o			10
				8	George Archer	2 ^d	9 ^o			10
				8	George Richardson	2 ^d	9 ^o			10
			40	19					67	

Nathaniel Cory⁵

(Philip⁴, Philip³, Thomas², Wm¹)

b 4 May 1782, Tiverton - d 28 Mar 1846, New Bedford, Ma
m Maribah Gardner

Nathaniel Cory

Panny Cory

Chas B Cory

Charles B Cory

Charles Barney Cory⁷

b 31 Jan 1857, Boston, Ma - d 29 Jul 1921, Ashland, Wi
m 29 May 1883, Harriet W. Peterson, Boston, Ma
(Barney⁶, Nathaniel B⁵, Philip⁴, Philip³, Thomas², Wm¹)



Charles B. Cory, a famous American ornithologist, was educated in Boston schools and attended Lawrence Scientific School (Harvard). Having been born into wealth, he was able to devote most of his life to world-wide travel in the study of ornithology. He established the first bird sanctuary in the United States and discovered a new bird, later named the Cory shearwater. He published many books on birds but his most important work was the first two volumes of "Birds of the Americas" published in 1918 & 1919. Subsequent volumes were completed by others after his death. He was honorary curator at the Boston Society of Natural History. After he lost his fortune in 1906 he became professor and honorary curator at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, IL.

In his early years he wrote many short stories, light-opera librettos, and various choral pieces. He also enjoyed singing in choral groups.

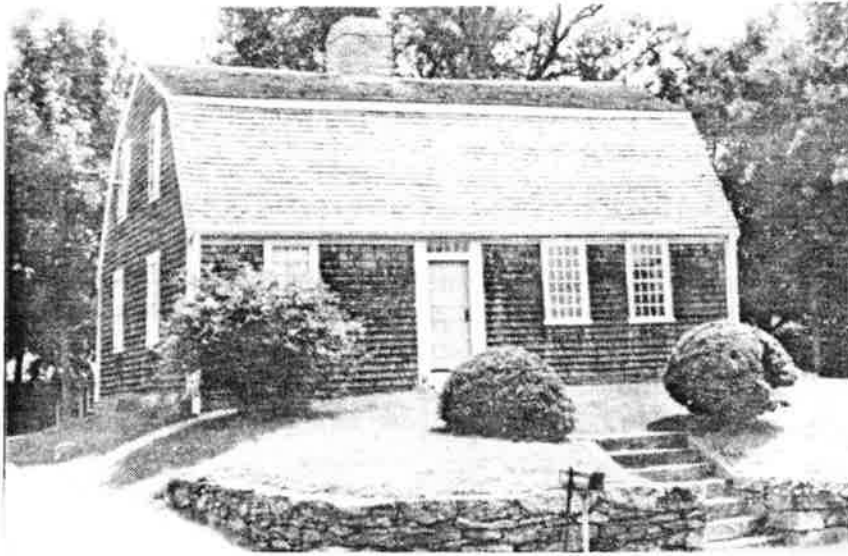
Barney Cory⁶

Barney was apprenticed at the age of thirteen to the firm of J D & M Williams in Boston, MA importers and commission merchants. At the time of his death Barney Cory owned this company and large properties in Boston and elsewhere.

Nathaniel Barney Cory⁵

Captain Nathaniel began his career with the firm of his uncle, Isaac Cory and his father, Philip Cory. On one of his early voyages he sailed under his brother, Captain Joseph Cory on the whaling ship "Rhoda" in 1801. His Seaman's Papers list him as 5' 5 7/8" tall, light hair, brown eyes. He was Captain of the "Industry" out of Westport 1821 thru 1823.

The Chase - Cory House



3908 Main St, Tiverton Four Corners, R.I.

The Chase Cory house is located in Tiverton just south of the intersection of Main Road (Rt. 77) and East Road (Rt. 179). It was purchased for the Tiverton Historical Society by Mr. J. William Middendorf, ex Secretary of the Navy of Greenwich, CT and Little Compton, R.I. in 1966.

This old home with its simple style and graceful proportions was built c. 1730, possibly before, by a member of the Chase family. The house featured a gambrel roof, five rooms on the first floor and a chimney in the center of the house. Mr. Carlton Brownell of Little Compton, R.I. directed the restoration, including that of the eighteenth century wash house out in back. A com crib from the Philip Cory⁴ (Philip³, Thomas², Wm¹) property was moved and reassembled on the grounds of the Chase-Cory House. An old "necessary" (outhouse) has also survived, willing to be of service to anyone with an adventurous spirit.

Andrew Cory⁵ (Philip⁴, Philip³, Thomas², Wm¹) bought this home in 1816 and lived there with his wife, Jane (Seabury) Cory until his death in 1866.

Edward Gray Cory⁶ owned this home next having inherited it from his father.

Edward Joseph Cory⁷ became the next owner following the death of his father. Edna (Cory) Snell⁸ and her brother Edward Joseph Cory Jr.⁸ lived and grew up here.

Edward Joseph Cory Jr.⁸, the last Cory to own the Chase-Cory home, inherited it after the death of his father and lived here until his own death in 1965 when it was sold to Mr. Middendorf.



Andrew Cory⁵
(Philip⁴, Philip³, Thomas², Wm¹)
b 19 Mar 1790, Tiverton
d 16 Mar 1866
m 25 June 1815 Jane Gray Seabury

Jane Gray Seabury
d/o Cornelius & Mary (Gray) Seabury
b 7 Oct 1797, Schoharie, N.Y.
d 30 Apr 1874, Middletown, R.I.



Andrew Cory⁵

b 19 Mar 1790, Tiverton - d 16 Mar 1866, Tiverton, R.I.

m Jane Gray Seabury, 23 June 1815

(s/o Philip⁴, Philip³, Thomas², Wm¹)

Andrew Cory kept a journal for many years that he called his "Memorandum Book." Included are some excerpts, mostly concerning his family, or his nephews.

Andrew Cory had his Daguerrotype
taken at Philip Kings by J. W. Williams
August 16th, 1855 at the age of
65 years 4 months and 23 days

Cincinnati Weekly Times
The latter part of December 1855 handed
Arnold Smith P.M. one dollar to send for
the Cincinnati ^{dollar} weekly Times which
no receipt has been received for the same
first paper came to hand dated Jan 7 10. 1856.
Ats Jan 7. 19. 1856. P. Arnold Smith for one
years Postage 26 cents -

(Ats since the above was written have received a Receipt
for the dollar time for one year ending Jan 7 10. 1857
also Arnold Smiths Receipt of 26 for the postage on the same.)

Andrew Cory Left off Smoking
and Chewing Tobacco Sunday
morning May 30th 1858

Andrew J. Cory finally moved to
Newport Wednesday August 22 1855
to No 46 Farewell Street.

Edward G. Cory left home February
the 19th for Newbedford and February
the 20th 1856 left Newbedford for
New York to take passage from there
to Bremen and there to enter on
board of the Sloop Goeth of 560 Tons
as Chief Mate - Austin W. Warden, on a
whaling voyage Indian Ocean &c
Sailed from New York Feb 23 1856 on the St Washington

Edward G. Cory's wife had a daughter
born Thursday April 24 1856, @ 11 AM

1861 April 18 Philip D. Cory started for A. J. Cory
Every Cory started for home Tuesday
morning Sept. 17th 1861 - by the way of
Newbedford &c

Cornelius S. Greene took from home
Sunday Dec. 8. 1861 for Jane C. Field
the Cornary bird called Charley

Berney Cory lives in Boston No 1025
Washington Street.

Abner Cory & his daughter
Hannah Ann Gold left Liverton
for home Monday October
22nd 1860

Abner Cory & his daughter Julia started for
home Monday June 9th 1862 -

My Nephew Joseph Cory left my
house Saturday morning November 7 1857
for Galesburgh State of Michigan
for home I think him to be a very
fine man of many good Qualities &
in parting with me I think we shook
hands for the last time so it seems
to me

Directions to Christopher Cory in Itterly County
of Yates St. NY you take rail road from Albany
to Geneva and thence to Peryan then Stage
to Itterly -

Andrew Jackson Cory⁶
(Andrew⁵, Philip⁴, Philip³, Thomas², Wm¹)

SEAMAN'S PROTECTION. PAPER



No. 750.

United States of America

STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS. DISTRICT OF NEW-BEDFORD.

I Samuel Williams Collector of the District aforesaid,
do hereby certify, That Andrew J. Cory
an AMERICAN SEAMAN, aged Sixteen years or thereabouts, of the height of
5 feet 2 3/4 inches light complexion, brown hair, blue eyes,
born at Dorchester

Rhode Island

has this day produced to me proof in the manner directed in the Act, entitled "An Act
for the relief and protection of American Seamen" and pursuant to the said Act,
I DO HEREBY CERTIFY, that the said Andrew J. Cory
is a Citizen of the United States of America.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my Hand and
Seal of Office this 17th day of August
in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and
thirty three

Samuel Williams Collector.

Evelyn Mills Cory⁸

105 Years of Age

b 10 Jan 1889, Savannah, Georgia

d/o Philip Davenport Cory⁷

(Edward⁶, Andrew⁵, Philip⁴, Philip³, Thomas², Wm¹)



Artist, teacher and oldest known living descendant of William Cory¹ of Portsmouth, R.I., Miss Evelyn Mills Cory was born in Georgia on January 10, 1889. After completing courses at her State Normal School she taught school in Savannah, GA until 1922, when she accepted a teaching position at Wheeler School, a private school in Providence, R.I. She remained there for 24 years and then went to teach in a private school in Geneva, N.Y. where she taught for 12 more years.

In 1958, her sister Ida's husband, Reverend Henry Rankin, Minister of the Summerton Presbyterian Church, died and Miss Cory went to Summerton, S.C. to live with her. She joined the Summerton Presbyterian Church, teaching Sunday School for many years. After her sister's death she moved to the Presbyterian Home in Sommerville, S.C., where she now lives.

When she was a child, an older brother gave her a box of watercolors and she has been painting ever since. Miss Cory is well known for her still life paintings, but has done many portraits, including those of the ministers of her church, and has given many classes in painting.

On her one hundredth birthday, over fifty relatives from all over the country honored her at a luncheon, and later that afternoon she was driven sixty miles to the Summerton Presbyterian Church's birthday celebration for her. Also honoring her with letters of congratulations were the (then) President Reagan and South Carolina Lt. Gov. Nick Theodore. The South Carolina State House of Representatives made January 10, 1989 *Evelyn Mills Cory Day*.

Miss Cory has been described by her many friends as "amazing," and is truly loved and respected by all who know her.

Edna (Cory) Snell⁸

still young at 93

d/o of Edward Joseph Cory

b 1 Oct 1899, Middletown, R.I.

(Edward G ⁷, Andrew⁶, Philip⁵, Philip⁴, Philip³, Thomas², Wm¹)

m Frank Henry Snell

Edna (Cory) Snell was born in the Middletown home of her grandmother but grew up in the home now known as the Chasc-Cory House in Tiverton, R.I. until her marriage to Frank H. Snell. She is the mother of two children, Barbara, deceased, and Frank Weston Snell, now a retired sea captain.

At a time when few young men and fewer young women had the opportunity to receive a college education, Edna decided to go to college. With hard work and determination, she set out to complete her goal.

Tiverton did not have a public high school at that time, so Edna lived with an aunt in Middletown during the week while she attended high school in Newport, R.I., often walking or riding a bicycle the four miles each way. Following high school, she graduated from Rhode Island College of Education, and in 1923 she returned home to Tiverton to teach in the Neck School with a beginning salary of \$18.00 per week. Later, she taught at the Nonquit School and the North Tiverton School. After her marriage, she served as a substitute teacher until her retirement in 1959.



Edna devoted many years to the Union Library in Tiverton Four Corners, working there from 1942 until 1960 and from 1964 until she retired from this position in 1979.

Her knowledge of local history is legendary and she has worked tirelessly to preserve the historic sites and homes in the Tiverton Four Corners area, as well as working to preserve the integrity of the environment. She belongs to the DAR, the Mayflower Association, the Rhode Island Audubon Society, and the Nature Conservancy.

Painting is another of her hobbies.

Cory descendants as well as other families seeking their roots have always found a gracious welcome and assistance with their genealogy when they knocked on her door.

Roger Cory²

b after 1671, Portsmouth, RI

d before 3 June 1754, Richmond, RI

son of William Cory¹

m #1 unknown - m #2 Rememberance (Potter) Dye

Roger Cory² inherited the southern half of lot #22 of the Pocasset Purchase from his father, William Cory. Roger was not listed as a land owner at the incorporation of Tiverton on 2 March 1692 although his brother, Thomas, was named. The first date found so far with a signature of Roger Cory was on 28 December 1697 when both Thomas and Roger signed a deed of sale for a parcel of land. It can be assumed that Roger was born between 2 March 1671 and 28 December 1676.¹

Few vital records were recorded on Roger's children or grandchildren and very little research has been published on this branch of the Cory family.

Roger's youngest son, Samuel, moved to Richmond, R.I. and is thought to have lived there the remainder of his life. His other sons, William, Caleb, Roger and Thomas, remained in Tiverton, R.I.

1 From the records of the Pocasset Purchase proprietors, a copy of which is in the Tiverton Town Clerk's office.

Last Will and Testament of Roger Cory²

dated 6 Jan 1753/4

son of William Cory of Portsmouth, R.I.

b after 1671 - d before 3 June 1754

Richmond Record of Wills & Testaments

In the name of God Amen this sixth day of January in the Twenty Sixth year of his Majesties Reign George the Second King of Great Brittain and in the year of our Lord Ano Domini one Thousand Seven Hundred and fifty three I Roger Cory of Richmond in Kings County in the Colony of Rhode Island in New England Yeoman. Being Weak in Body but of Perfect mind and memory thanks be given to Almighty God for the Same therefore Calling to mind the Uncertainty of this Life and knowing it is Appointed Once for all men to die Do make and ... this my Last Will and Testament. First I recommend my Soul to the Hands of God that gave it and my body to the Earth to be Decently buried at the Descretion of my Executers hereafter named. First I Will that all my Debts I do owe in Right ... Person be Well and Truly Content and paid in a Convenient Manner after my Decease by my Executers here after Named.

Item I give and Bequeath to my Eldest Son William Cory of Tiverton in the Colony of Rhode Island five shillings in Lawfull money of New England in Bills of the Old Tenor to be paid by my Executers here after Named.

Item I give and Bequeath to my said son William Cory all my Lands lying in said Tiverton during his natural Life and after his life my will is that it shall be Divided amongst my Daughters, Namely Patience, Deliverance, Sarah, Rosannah, and Content in the following manner So that Content shall have a Double Share and the Rest of my Daughters Each a Single Share in Said Land and after my Son William's Decease and Further my Will is that my Daughter Content Live with my Son William During his Life.

Item I give and Bequeath to my Second Son Caleb Cory of said Tiverton five shillings in Lawfull money of the Old Tenor to be paid by my Executers Here after named.

Item I give and Bequeath to my third son Roger Cory of said Tiverton five shillings of Lawfull money of the Colony of Rhode Island Old Tenor to be paid by my Executers hereafter named.

Item I give and Bequeath to my fourth Son Thomas Cory of said Tiverton five shillings of Lawfull money of the Colony of Rhode Island of the Old Tenor to be paid by my Executers here after named.

Item I give and Bequeath to my fifth Son Samuel Cory of Richmond five shillings of Lawfull money of the Colony of New England of the Old Tenor to be paid by my Executers here after named.

Item I give and Bequeath to my Beloved wife Remembrance Cory all my Movable Estate after my Just Debts and Funeral Charges and the before Legacies be Satisfied and paid to her my wife to be at her own disposal. She to have Performance and Execution of this my last will and testament. I do by these Presents Constitute and Appoint my Beloved Wife Remembrance and my Beloved son Thomas Cory to be my whole and Sole Executors jointly of this my Last Will and Testament Disallowing all Other Wills by me made in Witness and Conformation Whereof I have hereunto put my hand and Seal the day and year whereof written.

Signed Sealed Published Pronounced and Declared
by the Said Roger Cory
the Testator as his Last his
Will and Testament in the
Presence of

Roger Cory
mark

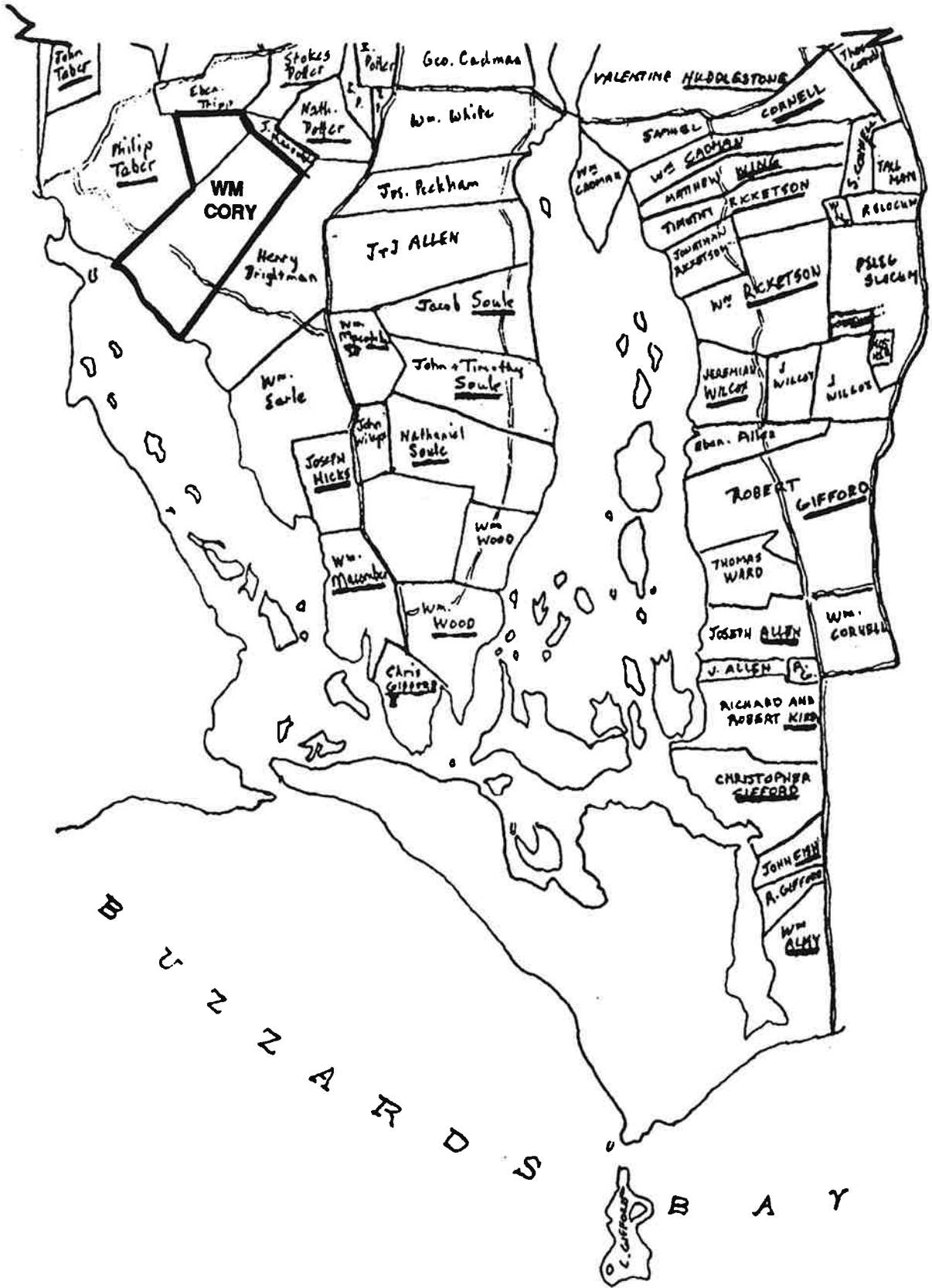
Thomas Kenyon
William Watson
Simon Perry

proved 2 June 1754

Town of Westport, MA

(formally Dartmouth, MA)

Original Landowners



Dartmouth Town Deed

(Acushnett Ponagasett Acockesett),
From William Earll to William Correy
dated 4 Dec 1669

William Earll of Portsmouth, yeoman,...for...full satisfaction ...paid by William Correy of Portsmouth, house Carpenter...Have ...sold...One third part of a...lott...belonging to the lands formally called by the Names of Acustnett Ponagasett Acockesett & since...Called...the Towne of Dartmouth...the first Division of the said lands to the...Date hereof...Called the Westermost Arme within...Dartmouth...with all... Medows belonging...To be holden of his Majtie...as of his Manner of East Greenwich...fourth day of Dec...1669

Wit

Thomas Fish Sr
Joseph Holderbe

2 Jan 1674 ... acknowledged

William Earll

Before me Tho Hinkly Assista

1 Rhode Island Land Evidence Record, 1648-1696, Vol. 1, # 229.

* * * * *

Caleb Cory²

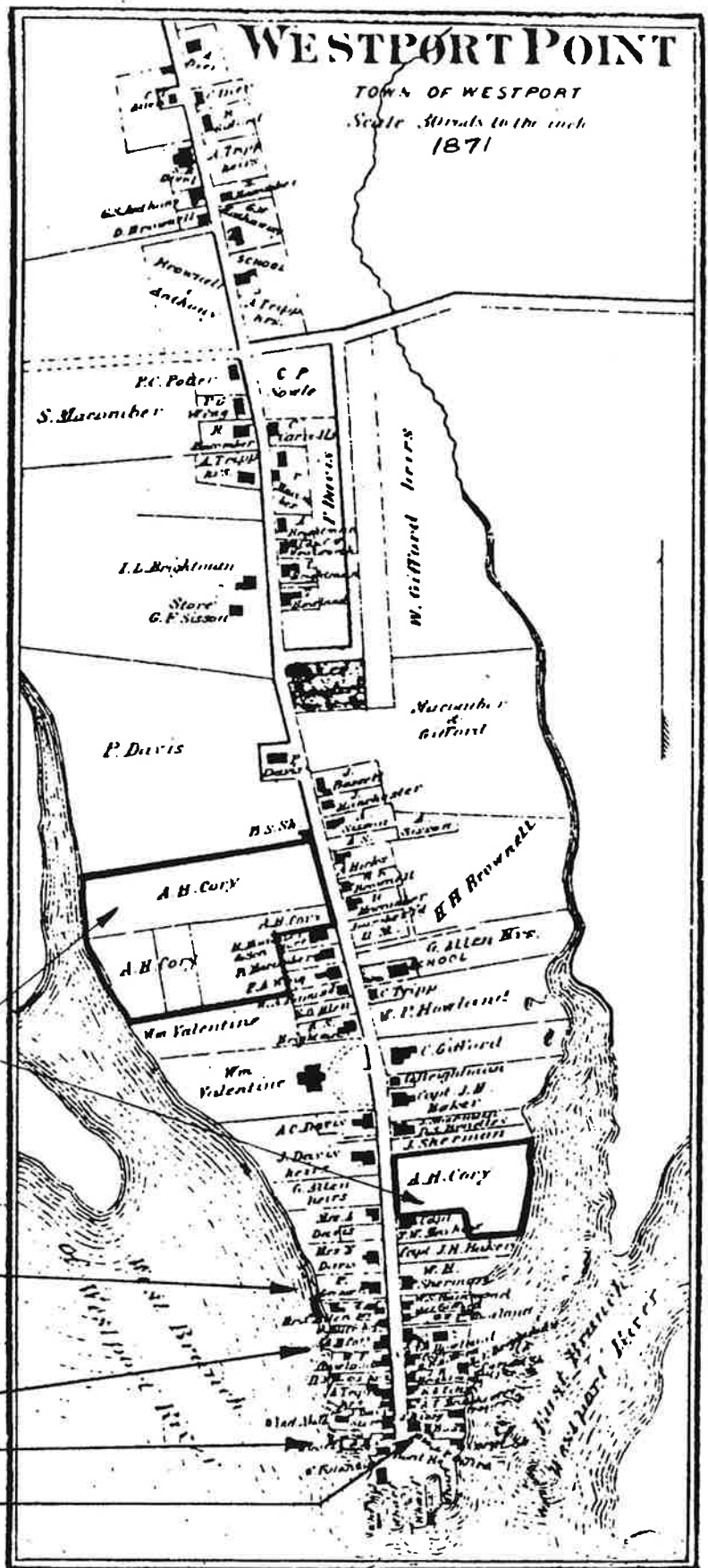
b c 1668/70 Portsmouth, RI - d before Apr 1704
son of William Cory of Portsmouth, RI

Almost nothing is known of Caleb or his wife except that her name was Sarah. He inherited the land in Dartmouth, name later changed to Westport, at the age of majority. He lived in Dartmouth and had at least three children, twins James and Rachel and a son, Caleb. James and Rachel both married people named Lamphere and lived in Westerly R.I. Caleb apparently lived on his father's land in Dartmouth.

Caleb² died intestate and his widow, Sarah was appointed administratrix of his estate.

It appears from the New Bedford Record of Deeds of Bristol County, Massachusetts that Thomas² of Tiverton purchased a sizable portion of Caleb's land in 1720. This is the land on the Westport Map marked as belonging to Wm Cory. Thomas gave this 240 acres to his son Thomas³ (Thomas², Wm¹) as mentioned in the will of Thomas Cory² dated 23 Sep 1734.

Westport Point, MA



- ALEXANDER H. CORY
- KATE (CORY) GRINNELL HOME
- ISAAC CORY HOME
- CORY WHARF
- CORY STORE

Captain Isaac Cory⁴, Master Mariner

(Philip³, Thomas², Wm¹)

b 13 Nov 1746, Tiverton, R.I. - d 20 Nov 1830, Westport Point, MA

m #1 Mary Cadman - m #2 Ruth Mayhew

Isaac Cory⁴ inherited land in Westport, mentioned in the will of his father, Philip Cory³ in 1750 and his descendants are still living in Westport Point today. Starting with his store at the tip of the point before the Revolutionary War the Cory firm was active in business until 1915.

Isaac Cory had several partners, among them his brother Philip⁴ of Tiverton, R.I. This partnership began in 1796 and was dissolved in 1811 (Philip died in 1802). Most of Philip's sons went to sea in the Cory ships. Joseph⁵ and his brother Nathaniel⁵ became Master Mariners (Captains). Wm⁵ and Andrew⁵ both apparently made a few voyages but appear to have remained ashore after their marriages. Edward⁵ and Philip Jr.⁵ died at sea reportedly from yellow fever, and Elizabeth⁵, Philip's⁴ daughter married Capt. Gabriel Hicks. Capt. Micah Dean and Capt. Asa Bly married daughters of Capt. Isaac. Capt. Anthony⁶, grandson of Capt. Isaac's other brother, Thomas⁴, also sailed under the Cory flag as did Anthony's two sons, Capt. Andrew Cory⁷, and Capt. Joseph A Cory⁷.

Over a span of one hundred and seventy-five years, Corys owned thirty-seven ships. These consisted of ships engaged in whaling, coastal trading or fishing. Some of these ships were jointly owned with others, and many of them were Isaac's son-in-laws or nephews. The Cory family built seven of their ships in their shipyards on the Point.

* * * * *

Isaac Cory⁵

b 22 October 1775, Tiverton, R.I.

d 11 Sep 1855, Westport Pt, MA

The only surviving son of Capt. Isaac⁴ Isaac succeeded his father in the store and shipping business. It was as a shipwright (ship builder) that Isaac is best known.

Alexander Hamilton Cory⁶

b 5 September 1815, Westport Point, MA

d 13 October 1897, Westport Point, MA

m Mary Ann Prince

Third generation of the Cory family business, Alexander H. directed the business during the period of its greatest growth and into the period when forces beyond his control changed the world. He built a new store with a second story that was used as the sail loft on the same spot where the original had stood. This building is still standing and in good condition.

Alexander built the last large ship constructed in Westport and the largest of the Cory fleet, the *Kate Cory*, which he named for his daughter, Kate. Whaling ships increased in size as it was necessary to travel further and stay away longer from home to hunt whales. The ships also became too large to navigate the narrow entrance to the harbor at Westport and were forced to move operations to New Bedford. The stands of white oak became depleted so the shipbuilding moved elsewhere. The advent of the railroads put coastal trading into a decline. After petroleum was discovered, the need for whale oil gradually disappeared, and the once busy little seaport was quiet.

* * * * *

The *Kate Cory*

The *Kate Cory*, named after the daughter of Alexander H. Cory and built in 1856, was the last large ship built in Westport Point, MA and was the largest ship owned by the Cory family. In April of 1865 the *Kate Cory* was anchored near a small island off the coast of Brazil with a full load of whale oil. The Captain rowed ashore to trade oil for supplies for the voyage home only to discover the Confederate gun boat *Alabama*. He hurried back to his ship, but was unable to get underway before the *Alabama* caught up with him. The *Kate Cory* was captured and burned.

Jupiter and Glasco Cory

The first mention of Jupiter Cory is found in the will of Philip Cory³, (Thomas², Wm¹), dated 24 September 1750 when he left his youngest son, Isaac "my Negro boy, Jupiter". Jupiter and Glasco are mentioned in the census of 1772 in Tiverton, R.I. It is not known whether Jupiter and Glasco were brothers or father and son. Their names are to be found in the records of the Old Stone Baptist Church in Tiverton, where Capt. Philip Cory and his family were members. Jupiter also sailed for Capt. Isaac on a whaling voyage in 1789 on the "Reliance." Glasco's son John is listed in the New Bedford, MA City Directories in 1838/52 as a shoemaker. His death is recorded there as 19 October 1856, age 75.

* * * * *

The Devil's Pocket

The entrance to the Westport Point East and West Rivers is very narrow and extremely difficult to navigate for any captain unfamiliar with the area. This proved quite an asset during the Revolutionary War. The British ships of war chasing Westport ships would suddenly realize that their intended victims had disappeared. The frustrated enemy called the harbor the "Devil's Pocket" but the British never found the entrance.

ISAAC & PHILIP CORY⁴ AGREEMENT

(s/o Philip³, Thomas², Wm¹)

Article of an Agree-
ment twixt Isaac
& Phillip Cory too
Enter into Partner-
ship in a Store
of goods wee both
agree to Procure
a Store Equal
betwixt us & iff
Ither of us Should
furnish more than
his half of the Stock
the other to allow
Lawfull Interest
the Said Isaac Cory
is to tend the Store
with the Asistance
of Phillip Cory
the Said Phillip
Paying Isaac
the Sum of Ninety
Six Dollars per year
for one year. May
the Ninth 1796

Article of an Agree-
ment twixt Isaac
& Phillip Cory too
Enter into Partner-
ship in a Store
of goods wee both
agree to Procure
a Store Equal
betwixt us & iff
Ither of us should
furnish more than
his half of the Stock
the other to allow
Lawfull Interest
the Said Isaac Cory
is to tend the Store
with the Asistance
of Phillip Cory
the Said Phillip
Paying Isaac
the Sum of Ninety
Six Dollars per year
for one year. May
the Ninth 1796
I. Cory
P. Cory

A List of all Dwelling-Houses, which, with the Out-Houses appurtenant thereto, and the Lots, on which dwelling two Acres in any Case, were owned, possessed or occupied on the 1st day of October 1798, with their Value in the State - Division of the State of Massachusetts, exceeding in Value the Sum of one hundred Dollars.

Name of Owner or Proprietor	Where of or appurtenant Owners	In what County, Township, Parish, Town or City, in the Massachusetts District situated.	Number of Dwelling-Houses, &c. exempted from Valuation.			Number of Dwelling-Houses, &c. (subject to and included in the Valuation).			Value per Centum
			Dwelling-Houses.	Out-Houses.	Quantity of Land in Lods. Acres. Perches. Square feet.	Dwelling-Houses.	Out-Houses.	Quantity of Land in the Lots. Acres. Perches. Square feet.	
Thomas Cory	Cory Isaac	Westport				1	1	40	640
Thomas Bellman	Cory Isaac & Benjamin					1	1	20	400
Thomas Cory	Cory Philip					1	1	20	300
Thomas Cory	Cory Thomas					1	1	20	140
Thomas Cory	Cory Benjamin					1	1	20	620
Thomas Cory	Cory Benjamin					1	1	30	200
Thomas Cory	Cory Benjamin					1	1	20	300
Thomas Cory	Cory Benjamin					1	1	20	400

1798 Massachusetts TAX ROLLS excerpt from pages 3 & 39

A List of Lands, Lots, Buildings, and Out-Houses, owned, possessed or occupied on the first day of October 1798, in the State of Massachusetts, of the State of Massachusetts, excepting only such Dwelling-Houses appurtenant thereto, and the Lots on which they are erected, not exceeding two acres in any case, the hundred Dollars.

Name of Owner or Proprietor	Where of or appurtenant Owners	In what County, Township, Parish, Town or City, in the Massachusetts District situated.	Number of Dwelling-Houses and Out-Houses of a Value not exceeding five hundred Dollars.			Number of Dwelling-Houses.			QUANTITIES OF LANDS, LOTS, &c. EXEMPTED FROM VALUATION.			QUANTITIES OF LANDS, LOTS, &c. SUBJECT TO AND INCLUDED IN THE VALUATION.			Value per Centum prescribed by the Principal Act, &c. not exceeding One hundred Dollars in Value.
			Dwelling-Houses.	Out-Houses.	Value. Dollars. Cents.	Number of Dwelling-Houses.	Value. Dollars. Cents.	Exempted from Valuation. Acres. Perches. Square feet.	Subject to and included in the Valuation. Acres. Perches. Square feet.	Valuations as determined by the Principal Act, &c. not exceeding One hundred Dollars in Value. Dollars. Cents.					
Thomas Cory	Cory Isaac	Westport	1	0	60	1	0	20	1	0	20	1	0	350	60
Thomas Cory	Cory Isaac		1	0	20	1	0	12	1	0	12	1	0	260	20
Thomas Cory	Cory Isaac		1	0	300	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	100	300
Thomas Cory	Cory Isaac		1	0	20	1	0	2	2	0	2	2	0	80	20
Thomas Cory	Cory Isaac		1	0	20	1	0	50	50	0	50	50	0	39	50
Thomas Cory	Cory Isaac		2	0	50	2	0	20	20	10	20	20	10	90	50
Thomas Cory	Cory Isaac		2	0	50	2	0	206	206	10	206	206	10	24	2100

Richard Cory Kugler

*Notes from a Talk at the Cory/Corey Family Reunion
Held in Portsmouth, R. I. on August 8, 1993.*

My remarks this afternoon will focus on certain Corys who settled successively in the towns of Portsmouth, Tiverton and Westport. They include my own ancestors, and although I am not familiar with all the ins and outs of their geneology, I do know a good deal about the communities in which they lived. So, if I may, I would like to discuss these coastal Corys with particular reference to the larger context in which they lived their lives.

Surprisingly to me, I count six Cory generations living in these towns before we became an independent nation. My own children represent the twelfth generation of my Cory line, so those of you who are about my age may also count six generations before the Revolution and six afterwards -- a symmetry which, if nothing else, will remind us how much of our history as Corys in America occurred while we were under British colonial rule.

The story of the first six generations begins with a woman, thereby confirming a remark attributed to Bing Crosby, who responded to a question about his ancestors by replying: "The usual stock -- half male, half female!" The discovery of our original female half we owe to a geneologist, Jane Fletcher Fiske, and to the confirming and expanding research of Wayne Wilcox, both of whose papers Charlotte Muller kindly shared with me.

She -- our ancestress -- was named Anne Wauker, born and baptized in Bristol, England, in 1582. In 1606 -- the year before the establishment at Jamestown of Britain's first permanent settlement in North America -- Anne Waulker married John Cory, also of Bristol and a mariner by trade. Anne and John had four children, two of whom lived to maturity. In 1621 -- the year after the founding of the Plymouth Colony -- John Cory died. His survivors included Anne, now 40, a 13-year-old daughter and a 10-year-old son, also named John.

In 1622, the year after John's death, Anne married a rising Bristol merchant by the name of John Roome. A dozen or so years later, perhaps in 1635, the Roomes emigrated to Massachusetts, probably accompanied by Anne's son, John, now in his early twenties and married with at least one child named William. Settling in Boston, the Roomes met there another Anne, who had come to the city a year earlier, in 1634.

This other Anne was Anne Hutchinson, a religious reformer who soon challenged the theological doctrines of the established Puritan Church. Attracting a zealous following, she was considered a threat to the established order, and in 1638, the General Court expelled her from the Massachusetts Bay Colony for heresy. She and her followers, who included a number of prominent Boston merchants, made their way to Rhode Island, where three years earlier another refugee from Puritan intolerance, Roger Williams, had established a settlement at Providence.

With Williams' advice and assistance, Anne Hutchinson and her followers obtained a grant of land from the Wampanoag Indians to the northern half of Aquidneck Island, a place first called Pocasset, then Portsmouth. Among those who settled there were John and Anne Roome,

presumably having come with the Hutchinson exodus from Boston. Was her son, John Cory, with them, too? He was 27 at the time, and he had his four-year-old son, William, who would be raised in part by his grandmother Roome and her husband in Portsmouth. The only other evidence yet discovered for John's presence in the town is an indictment at the Newport court of a John Cory on suspicion of felony in 1643. No further record appears, so we are left to wonder whether, facing such a charge, he returned to England, or perhaps set off for another jurisdiction.

That other jurisdiction may have been the Dutch colony of New York, where a John Cory appears in 1644 on the town of Southampton's list of whale wardens. Having been a whale warden of sorts for 26 years at the Whaling Museum, I feel a certain affinity for this man, but given our present state of knowledge, it would be premature to claim that John of Southampton was indeed the son of Anne and father of William.

Before taking leave of Anne and John Roome, we might pause to consider how little we know about the religious affiliations of the early Corys. Even though they appear to have made the pilgrimage to Portsmouth with Anne Hutchinson, they left no record of their attitudes towards doctrine and theology, even towards church membership. Perhaps in Rhode Island, concerns of conscience were so calmly tolerated that no need was felt to mention them. Yet even so, one wonders whether they became Baptists, as Roger Williams' adherents did, or Quakers, as did many of Anne Hutchinson's.

Although a religious impulse brought the first settlers to Portsmouth, once they arrived the more pressing matter was to create a sustainable community in a land inhabited only by Indians. Portsmouth lay on the frontier, and like each successive frontier in the settlement of North America, forests had to be cut, underbrush cleared, swamps drained, rocks removed, pastures fenced, roads built and wolves driven off. During the early stages of the process, shelter was found in rude log houses, while sustenance was derived from subsistence agriculture. In time, marketable commodities would have to be found to sell or trade for the manufactured goods that Portsmouth could not produce or do without.

How laborious the clearing process was can be seen in an early lease entered into in 1662 by Anne Roome's grandson, William Cory, now grown and a yeoman of the town. The land William leased was his homestead farm on Cory's Land and the tenant he secured was Peter Foulger, a native of Martha's Vineyard. In return for the use of Cory's dwelling house and surrounding land, Foulger agreed to clear two acres of swamp each year, lay the timber and brush in heaps, sow three pounds of hay seed upon every two acres and split 250 fence rails before each spring. Other than that, he might use the land as he wished for his own profit! Not surprisingly, Foulger quitted the Cory place within two years and departed for Nantucket, where he became a miller, a public figure, and in time, the grandfather of Benjamin Franklin.

The work was hard, but in truth, the settlers on Aquidneck Island were fortunate when compared to those who were attempting to settle along the mainland coast, where the soil was thinner, the rocks more thickly strewn, the swamps much larger. In Portsmouth, the key to prosperity was soon found in raising livestock, first the transition beasts that could forage for themselves -- the hogs and goats -- then the cattle, horses and, above all, sheep. Wool or meat or the very animals themselves provided just the commodities needed for trade with the larger

world. By concentrating on them, Portsmouth and its sister town of Newport grew rich and proud, the envy of New Englanders. The only drawback was that livestock farming required large amounts of pasturage, and this in turn meant that the farms themselves were large. Before long, the Island's land was taken up, thus confronting the younger sons of large families with the prospects of looking elsewhere for land or work. If land was not available, then there was a more perilous alternative, the sea.

But perils could be found on land as well, as the Corys were soon to learn. Few Indians lived on Aquidneck Island, yet they outnumbered the settlers on the mainland shore, Narragansetts in the west, Wampanoags to the north and east. Roger Williams had set the policy for dealing with them, and as in religious matters, it was a less aggressive stance than that adopted in the neighboring colonies of Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay. Williams viewed the Indians as equals in the eyes of God and treated them respectfully. Yet despite his efforts, amicable relations began to crumble when the Plymouth Colony acquired two large tracts of land, one known as Dartmouth, the other as Rehoboth, which soon brought settlers into the heartland of the Wampanoag. The Dartmouth tract, important to our story, embraced what now includes the towns of Tiverton and Little Compton in Rhode Island and Westport, Dartmouth, New Bedford, Fairhaven and Acushnet in Massachusetts.

As settlers began to filter into these frontier tracts in the 1660s, the Wampanoags became restive. Their grievances grew, fueled by such minor incidents as Portsmouth's demand in 1669 that Metacomet, or Philip, as the settlers called the Wampanoag sachem, remove some swine he had put on Hog Island, thereby intruding on the rights of Portsmouth. If he did not, the town threatened to defend what it called its legal rights, a concept that must have puzzled, if not angered, Philip. By 1675, relations between Indians and settlers had become so strained that Philip in desperation began the conflict we know as King Philip's War.

On Aquidneck Island, Portsmouth was defensible, but all around her, the mainland towns were overrun, with virtually every house and barn put to the torch. The settlers fled to Plymouth and Taunton, completely abandoning both Dartmouth and Rehoboth. The war spread into western New England, but the Indians were too few and weakly armed to oppose the military forces now being raised against them. By the end of the summer of 1676, they faced complete defeat. Philip was killed, most of his warriors were dead or captured, and for all intents and purposes, the Wampanoags were wiped out, except for a few remnant groups of converted "praying" Indians.

With the postwar resettlement of Dartmouth, the lands earlier acquired by William Cory took on greater and greater significance. In his will, his land in Portsmouth was left to his two eldest sons, John and William, Jr., while his large holdings in Tiverton were left in equal halves to his third and fifth sons, Thomas and Roger. To the fourth son, Caleb, he left his land in Westport, which was also substantial.

When Thomas Cory moved to Tiverton in 1692 to take up his inheritance, he took the first small step towards launching some of his descendants on careers at sea. Himself a farmer, he enlarged his holdings in Tiverton as well as Westport, where he purchased brother Caleb's inheritance, a 240-acre farm on Cornell Road. It was to take some time, however, to get the husbandman out of the Corys, and it was not until we reach Thomas's grandson, Isaac, in the

sixth generation of descent from Anne Cory Roome, that we can actually document a Cory taking to the water in a serious way.

The place where this occurred was a point of land at the end of the road called Fogland in Tiverton, just south of the Four Corners. From this point, Isaac Cory and his in-laws, the Cadmans, ran what was known as Howland's ferry to Aquidneck Island. In conjunction with the ferry, Isaac kept a store that dealt in sundries, foodstuffs, meals and mostly, if we can judge from fragmentary accounts, brandy, wine, punch, and rum, surely a comfort of those passing to and from the Island. We meet him there in another dangerous time, a century after King Philip's War. On December 8, 1776, a force of 8,000 British regulars and Hessians invaded and took possession of Newport and Aquidneck Island.

The entry for that day in Isaac's account book is succinct: "Left Howland's Ferry. Moved to George Lawton's of Dartmouth. Colonel John Cook took possession of my boat and Mother Cadman's." Cook was the commander of a patriot regiment consisting of one company of militia from Little Compton and one company from Tiverton. The lieutenant of the latter was Isaac's brother, Philip, who later became Captain of the Company and served through most of the War. George Lawton was related to Isaac's wife and lived near Sawdy Pond in the northwest part of Westport, not yet separated from Dartmouth.

When spring came, Isaac moved his family, his possessions, and stock for a store on land he had inherited from his father at Pakichuck Point, later known as Westport Point. There he established a store, more modest in size than the building now standing on the site, and began to build boats suitable for modest privateering ventures. Known as shaving mills, they were about 40 feet in length, carried sails and when fitted with a small cannon and manned by a crew of 10 or 12 men, armed with pistol and cutlass, they could well take on the Tory merchantmen who carried goods and foodstuffs to the British forces. The names of two of Isaac's boats, the *Hornet* and *Prudence*, appear in Admiralty Court records, where their captures were condemned. One such prize, the sloop *Fame*, bound for Halifax from Antigua, carried a lucrative cargo of rum and molasses.

The presence of the Westport shaving mills and the larger privateers from New Bedford were a constant irritant to the British in Newport. So, too, were the Continental and militia troops that began to assemble in Tiverton in the spring of 1778 with the intent of combining with an approaching French fleet to drive the British off Aquidneck Island. For various reasons, the operation failed, and in its aftermath, the British struck back hard, sending a force of 3,000 troops to sack New Bedford. In Westport, the Corys found protection in their harbor, which was difficult to enter without local knowledge. Yet even so, they must have been relieved when the British decided to depart from Newport as the center of military action moved towards the southern colonies.

After the war, Isaac set about organizing a number of shore-based enterprises designed to enable Westport to develop as a port. A shipyard, a sail loft, a cooper's shop, a blacksmith's shop, a salt works (needed both for preserving fish for export and pork and beef for shipboard consumption) and, last but not least, a distillery to supply the rum then thought to grease the wheels of industry. All these sprang up adjacent to or near the store that served the village as a merchandizing center.

To develop a port, more than just facilities were needed. So, too, were commodities to carry elsewhere. The answer to that problem proved more elusive than Isaac's forebears had found in Portsmouth. The soil was too lean for staple crops, except for corn and peas, and few other exports could be drawn from the sparsely-settled backcountry of the town. The answer, as it emerged, was twofold: first to engage in the coasting trade, carrying whatever local goods or produce was offered, but relying more on freights picked up at other places, such as flour in the Chesapeake Bay or molasses in the West Indies, and secondly, to pursue whales and dispose of their oil in the nearby market at New Bedford.

Isaac's first venture into the whaling trade occurred in 1782, when he outfitted the sloop *Industry* for a 4 to 6 week summer cruise "to the southward," that is, towards Bermuda, where sperm whales could be found. Two were taken, probably filling the sloop to capacity. The oil tried out from their blubber sold for \$594, or about \$26,000 in current dollars, a sum handsome enough to encourage Cory to expand this aspect of his operations.

Both the coasting trade and whaling depended, of course, on vessels, so we should hardly be surprised at the flurry of shipbuilding activity that took place at the Cory yard at Westport Point. In the early years the records are fragmentary, but in 1787, the newly-established federal government inaugurated a national system of ship registrations. Thereafter, the documentation of ship building is more or less complete, and we can track the vessels built by Isaac and his son Isaac, Jr., and in time by his grandson, Alexander Hamilton Cory, whose first names incidentally honored the architect of the ship registration system and first Secretary of the Treasury in the new national government.

The first of the Cory vessels to appear on the registers was the Sloop *Reliance* in 1789. She was employed at first as a whaler, and on her maiden voyage, her crew included Thomas Cory, son of Isaac's brother, Philip. Then came the Brig *Polly* in 1790, built for Isaac and his son, Isaac, Jr., and entered in the coasting trade under the command of Isaac's son-in-law, Captain Micah Dean. In 1801 came the schooner *Rhoda*, built for Isaac, his nephew Thomas, and Philip, who had entered into partnership with Isaac.

Also in 1801, the two Isaacs, father and son, joined in a shipbuilding venture with a rising Westport merchant by the name of Paul Cuffe, whose father was a slave, his mother a Wampanoag Indian. The fourth investor was Cuffe's brother-in-law, Thomas Wainer, who would also serve as master of the vessel they were to build. Isaac, Jr., by this time a master shipwright, oversaw construction of the 75-foot brig, which was completed at a cost of \$6,592 (about \$180,000 today).

Launched with the name of *Hero*, the brig was employed initially in the merchant trade, making voyages to the West Indies and Europe with cargos from ports such as Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Wilmington, North Carolina. On one voyage to the West Indies, three of her owners were on board -- Isaac Cory as captain, Paul Cuffe as sailing master and Thomas Wainer as mate --and the crew of eight was equally divided between whites and blacks.

In 1804, the *Hero* was re-rigged as a bark and converted to whaling. Her first two voyages, each lasting for about two years, took her to the Indian Ocean. For her third, the

customary orders from owner to master have survived, together with several other documents that give some feel for the procedures and risks that attended such ventures. Here are the owners' orders, written on September 8, 1810, by Paul Cuffe, whose Quaker affiliation is evident in the personal pronouns he uses:

"The *Bark Hero* being ready to sail on a whaling voyage to the westward of Cape Horn, we appoint thee, William Bearns, master (and) recommend that thee proceed to sea on the first wind that the pilot may think safe. Thou will make the best of they way round Cape Horn in order to obtain a cargo of sperm oil, not refusing to take said cargo in whatever part of the sea thou are favored with the opportunity.

"Thou are fitted for a two years voyage and should return home so as not to overreach that time, oil or no oil. When at the westward of the Cape we advise thee to make the first of they cruise to the windward from latitude 40 to 36 degrees south (i.e., off the central coast of Chile) but this we leave to thy judgment.

"On thy return, when approaching America, thou will endeavor to keep clear of Nantucket Shoals, sailing in with Long Island and making towards the Vineyard. Endeavor to make harbor at Newport or on Tarpaulin Cove and give us notice, or get into New Bedford. If it should be moderate, heave to at the mouth of the Bay and send a boat in and we will send a pilot out.

"Wishing you a quick passage, successful voyage and safe return."

Isaac Cory and Paul Cuffe

The orders are not very specific, nor could they be, given the difficulties of communicating with ships at sea. Once the *Hero* took her departure, everything would depend upon the abilities and judgment of the master until she returned in two years time -- if all went well. In this cae, it did not, as Captain Bearns relates in a letter from Coquimbo, Chile, on June 30, 1812:

"Capts. Cuffe and Cory--

"I will inform you that I have got Better than I was when Capt. Joy left this port for thine. I was Blind & my eye was attended with a very hard pain & Capt. Joy said he would write every particular to you Concerning the *Bark Hero*.

"The *Bark* was so bad I could not Cruise on the weather Coast. I got my last Whale the 13th of February at the Galapagos Islands, which filled the *Bark*. My men was some scurvied, & I tried to get to Tombes & had light airs & calms & a very strong NW current & Rain, which carried me in the Latitude of 5 and 30' North. I found it impossible to get into Tombes, then I tried for Coquimbo. I was 73 days in North Latitude and my men getting very Bad with the Scurvy. When I reached this Port, there was but Four men that could come on deck, which was my Mate and Charles G. Head and they was sick.

"I had been confined to my Cabin 12 days before I got to this Port. When I was coming in I was becalmed with a very High swell heaving on the Rocks & thick with fog. I let go both Anchors & brought her up. Previous to this I got the Sick men all in the boat, one died getting him in the boat, which was a Spanish man. I carried all on shore & sent off 18 men to tow the *Bark*. The Spaniards kept us all out of Doors one Day & one Night in the fog and cold which was very bad for us. Isaac Harte departed this Life in four hours after he got on Shore, but the Rest have got well & I am much better.

"The *Bark* is very rotten, the tops leaving the Bottom, it was impossible to get her Home or get her Repaired. There was a Survey of five Captains & some Spaniards and they

condemned her. I shipped by Capt. Fitch, Ship Mars, 219 bbls of oil and by Capt Pinkham, Ship Alliance, 480 bbls. I have lost oil by Leaking & turned up 750 bbls & now I have but 699. I sold the Bark for 4,000 dollars, but there is Duties & a number of charges more to be paid out of that. . . .

"The American Consul is a Spanish man and he is trying to take advantage of me & the Rest of the Captains. I have had much trouble with him concerning the Bark & settlement but I have bound him by Writing.

"It is very hurtful to my eye to Write or I Should Write more particulars. I cannot see with one eye & the other is very weak & in much Pain in my eye & temple."

Yours, etc.

Wm. Bearns

Surviving correspondence and accounts seemed to indicate that although Cuffe, Wainer and the Corys had lost the *Hero*, they were able to cover the costs of voyage from the sale of oil shipped home, while proceeds from sale of the vessel could be applied to the cost of a replacement.

In all, Isaac and his son were to build 3 sloops, 3 schooners and a brig. They also purchased from elsewhere a handful of other vessels, some for use as whalers, others as coasting traders. Just as their ancestors in Portsmouth had found a way to prosper in a new land, so, too, in a different way did their descendants, the two Isaacs, father and son, and the next of the line, Alexander H., of the eighth generation of this Cory line. Other Corys were to join them in their seafaring ventures, some as investors in the ships, some as members of their crews. At least nine of Captain Isaac's nephews and great nephews found employment or investment opportunities in these ships and five of them were to become master mariners in their own right.

The Cory involvement in the whaling trade reached its climax under Alexander H., who served as managing owner of five Westport whalers between 1841 and 1864: the brigs *Mexico* and *Kate Cory*, the barks *Barclay* and *Sacramento* and the full-rigged ship *Harbinger*. His story, however, falls outside the chronological limits of my remarks and will have to wait for another occasion.

As a final word, let me introduce several other early Corys whose roots are not to be found in Bristol, England, or Portsmouth, Rhode Island, but in Africa. Jupiter Cory, for example, came to Westport Point in 1779 with Isaac Cory, who had received him at the age of six as a bequest from his father, Philip Cory, who died in 1751. Jupiter's age may not have been much different from Isaac's, as Philip's will, written in 1750, refers to him as "my Negro boy." Jupiter's own father or grandfather was probably brought to Newport by one of the merchants of the town who played a major role in the slave trade.

The holding of slaves in Rhode Island was not uncommon. When Isaac arrived in Westport with Jupiter, the situation was different. Slavery was not illegal, but for those families that came from Rhode Island to Westport and Dartmouth bringing slaves with them, they faced outspoken opposition from the foremost abolitionists of the day, the Quakers. Political sentiment was against them, too, and the Courts in the early 1780s, began to hold that slavery violated the provisions of the newly-adopted Massachusetts' Constitution. From the following document, we know that Jupiter became free in 1780, but we know little more about him than can be read in the draft of a letter written to the Selectmen of Westport by those of Dartmouth:

"From under your honors hand, in writing on the 20th day of January 1810 we receive notice that there was a woman by the name of Mary Cory who had been for three months past chargeable to your town. Likewise you requested us to remove the said Mary Cory or support her some other way & pay the cost which has & may accrue until such removal takes place.

"You have stated diverse reasons whereby you notify us that said Mary was brought up by one Slocum in the Neck (probably Slocum's Neck) & after being old enough cohabited with one Ned Almy (a slave of the Almy family) -- and at the time & previous to the incorporation of Westport (1787) she lived in the bounds of our town. Furthermore you state to us (which we Humbly thank you for) that in the year 1789 she the said Mary was married to Jupiter Cory. Likewise you inform us that in the year 1777 Capt. Isaac Cory removed into what is now Westport with said Jupiter his slave but in the year 1780 Jupiter became free and has not since gained an inhabitancy in any town in this Commonwealth.

"Most respected Gentlemen, fellow citizens and neighbor townsmen of the town of Westport, we for & in behalf of the town of Dartmouth do object and refuse taking care, providing, supporting or receiving said Mary Cory as an inhabitant of the town of Dartmouth, for which we are generous enough to give you some reasons, that is Capt. Cory became a legal inhabitant of your town and so remained with Jupiter his slave, which by the Decrees of the Supreme Court of this Commonwealth makes said Jupiter and inhabitant of the same town with his master (if afterward being freed). So said Jupiter being an inhabitant of your town, which he gained by his master and two years after the incorporation of Westport, being lawfully married to the said Mary Cory, which by the laws of the Commonwealth makes her a legal inhabitant of the town of Westport."

When the letter was written, Jupiter had died, leaving Mary to depend on public assistance, most likely from Westport, given the grudging, if not saucy, attitude of the other town. Jupiter had a son, probably by an earlier marriage, whose name was John, reminding us of the elusive John, the second of our line in America and perhaps the fugitive felon. There were also three generations of Glasgo Corys, one of them perhaps being a brother of Jupiter. That they all bear the Cory name means that their lines began with ancestors held in servitude by ours. If not by blood, they were Corys by bondage, and the fact that they shared in the lives of our forebears reminds us that we, too, are part of that great unresolved problem of our society, the relationship of whites and blacks.

If our interest in family history has meaning beyond the strictly genealogical, perhaps we can find encouragement in the example of Isaac Cory. In early life, he held a slave; in later life, he became a business partner and friend of a leading spokesman for the rights of his people. That friend, whom we have met, was Paul Cuffe, the son of Cuffe Slocum, a Dartmouth slave, and Ruth Moses, a Wampanoag Indian.

Born on Cuttyhunk Island in 1759, Paul Cuffe was raised in Russells Mills in Dartmouth, then settled in Westport on the East Branch of the River, a little below Hicks Bridge. Through ability and the support of New Bedford's foremost Quaker whaling merchant, he rose through the ranks of mariner to become a ship master, ship builder and ship owner. His connection with Isaac Cory may have originated in the marriage of a relative, Mary Slocum Almy, to Jupiter Cory. Or it may have emerged from the building of the Bark *Hero*, as well as other transactions

that testify to the confidence and trust that existed between the two.

During the first decade of the 19th century and until his death in 1817, Paul Cuffee became known throughout the young Republic for his efforts to secure the rights and dignities of his people. His achievements demonstrate that there were opportunities, just as Jupiter's lack of them reminds us there were barriers on the long road to a just society, then as well as now. Members of the Cory clan will take from this meeting, I hope, not only the satisfaction offered by the example of Paul and Isaac but also the challenge posed by Jupiter and Mary as we work towards realizing the ideals of our nation for all of its people.

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About the speaker:

Mr. Richard Kugler is a descendant of Capt. Isaac Cory⁴, of Westport Point, MA. He recently retired as "Director Emeritus" of the Old Dartmouth Historical Society's Whaling Museum located in New Bedford, MA. Mr. Kugler was with the museum for 26 years, and served as director for the past 21 years. He is highly acclaimed as a historian and writer.

The papers from the Westport Point Cory family business covering years 1769 to 1915 have been donated to the Old Dartmouth Historical Society's Whaling Museum Library and have been cataloged.



William Cory (Corey) of Portsmouth, R.I. Genealogists

AUSTIN, John Osborne, 1847-?, Genealogical Dictionary of R.I. printed by J. Munsell's Sons, 1887. Arranged alphabetically according to surname. Detailed information on first two generations, names of third generation not complete for William Cory of Portsmouth, R.I.

ARNOLD, James Newell, 1844-?, Vital Records of R.I., Vol. 1-5. Vol. 1 published in 1891 by Narragansett Historical Publication. Arranged by county, town, surname alphabetically and then more or less chronologically. Births usually listed under the names of parents. A few errors, but considering the immense scope of this work it remains the best resource to date for early R.I. genealogical research.

CORY, James Enos - 1840 - 1923, Descendant of John Cory of Southold, N.Y. Compiled Cory genealogy, manuscript unpublished. The Salt Lake City Mormon Church Family History Center has a copy. Regarded as one of the most respected Cory genealogists. Contains records from other lines including William Cory of Portsmouth, R.I.*

CORY, Charles Estabrook - 1853 - 1933, Descendant of John Cory of Southold, N.Y. Compiled "The American Family of Cory", never published. Contains genealogies from other lines including Wm Cory of Portsmouth, R.I. The Mormon Family History Center in Salt Lake City, Utah has a copy. His work is highly respected among descendants of the John Cory family. Revisions and indices by Stanley Corey and Helen Cory Mercier.*

BOSTON TRANSCRIPT (newspaper) in 1904/5 published a genealogy of William Cory of Portsmouth, R.I., compiler unknown. The first and until recently the only authoritative work published on William Cory of Portsmouth, R.I. Micro-card reproductions available in historical and genealogical sections of many large libraries, as well as the Salt Lake City Mormon Library.*

WILLIAM CORY of Portsmouth, R.I., Handwritten and unpublished manuscript thought to be the work of Edwin Francis Corey of New York City. Latest date found is 1919. The data on many families is identical to that published in the Boston Transcript but also contains corrections and additional family lines. The research is excellent on John² and William², sons of William of Portsmouth. There are many errors in the material on Thomas Cory of Tiverton and very little data for Roger and Caleb. This compiler has spelled the surname "COREY" throughout his manuscript regardless of the fact that many families still retained the spelling of "CORY." Approximately one third of this manuscript is devoted to historical notes showing extensive research on John² and William².*

ROBINSON, William M. of Grand Rapids, MI, genealogist from the early 1900's, did not publish but gave his entire collection to Charles Estabrook Cory, who combined some of Mr. Robinson's material with his own. In 1979 Mr. Robinson's records were donated to Wisconsin State Historical Society in Madison, WI.

GOODSPEED, Raymond Winslow - 1895-1956, s/o Franklin R. & Mattie A. Cory (d/o of Harvey & Margaret Cory) Goodspeed, b Wells, VT. Contains mainly data on William Cory of Portsmouth possibly copied from the Boston Transcript. Includes data on a John Cory of Roxbury, MA; Isaac Cory of Plainfield, CT, John Cory of Southold, N.Y. and Thomas of Chelmsford, MA. Following the death of Mr. Goodspeed the Ann Story Chapter of the Vermont DAR transcribed his notes. Copies of these records have been placed in the DAR Library in Washington, D.C. The Mormon Library in Salt Lake City, Utah has a copy. *

CORY, Harry Harmon - 1890-1980. Descendant of John Cory of Southold, N.Y. Published two editions of The Cory Family by Argus Publishing Company, Minneapolis, MN, 1941 and 1966. He included a few lines from correspondents of William Cory of Portsmouth, R.I.

COREY, Dorothy M. & Francis D. - Descendants of William Corey, published in 1991. 448 pgs of genealogy and family data, excellent documentation. Mr. Corey is descended from Wm¹ John² Joseph³ Jonathon⁴ Benjamin⁵ and his descendants. Looseleaf three ring binder.*

CORY, Al B. - compiler of the Cory's of America. Ancestors and Descendants, 1st Edition published in 1990. Modern home computers have made possible this massive work containing over 20,000 names and is divided into five separately indexed books or sections. Book #1 is the genealogy of John Cory of Southold, N.Y. Book #2 contains William Cory of Portsmouth, R.I. Book #3 is Thomas of Chelmsford, MA. Book #4 contains lines that have not been connected to any of the first three families and Book #5 gives the genealogy of Mr. Cory's mother. Mr. Cory has incorporated material from all the above genealogists with the exception of Wm. M. Robinson and the Boston Transcript data into his records in addition to new information as it is received.*

* The Cory-Corey Family Society has copies of these documents in the library maintained by the Society's Historian-Genealogist.

