



"CORSON COUSINS" is published four times a year - January, April, July and October. Copy deadline is 5th day of month of publication. Permission to quote is granted if credit is given. Subscriptions alone are \$5 per calendar year. Membership dues for the CORSON/COLSON FAMILY HISTORY ASSOCIATION (CCFHA) which include a subscription to "Corson Cousins," are \$10 per calendar year.

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The CCFHA is a not-for-profit association incorporated under the laws of Virginia.

Statement of Purpose (Articles of Incorporation, Article V)

The purpose of the CCFHA shall be:

- A. To encourage and carry out genealogical and historical research on the Corsons/Colsons, and their allied families;
- B. To bring families together into reunions and other gatherings which serve to enhance relationships among Corsons/Colsons and their allied families;
- C. To educate and promote the meaning and appreciation of the Corsons/Colsons' and their allied families' place in and contribution to their historical and cultural heritage;
- D. To otherwise support those efforts which further the aforementioned purposes of the CCFHA.

### **Editorial**

Some recent events have influenced me to "put my two cents in" on behalf of all of us.

There have been incidents or near tragedies in what I like to call our "CC Family" and news about them was very slow to reach us. In this season of spring and baseball, we hear of "Designated Hitters" and what I would like to propose are "Designated Heralds" whom we would assign as someone we could trust to let Gale, Bruce, or me know when we were not able to do so ourselves. Illness, an accident, or the death of someone near and dear can be a traumatic event and completely occupy our minds to the exclusion of "outsiders" and yet we do not feel like outsiders. Some family members do not share our enthusiasm for the Association and just consider it a hobby to be taken up or dropped at will. Each of you knows your own situation and you may have a family like

one who said, "They know not to throw away a single piece of paper that looks like genealogy!" But do they know who to notify if we must "drop out of sight" for awhile?

I hope it does not happen to you, but I, for one, have assigned my DH-won't you think about doing so, too? HAVE A HAPPY AND HEALTHY SPRING SEASON!!

**S** *pring is in the air!*

## The President Speaks Out: 300+

Gale C. Corson

Shortly after the January *Corson Cousins* reached CCFHA members, I conducted a little survey to see how folks feel about the "300+" project discussed in that newsletter: an organized effort to correct and expand Orville Corson's *Three Hundred Years with the Corson Families in America*."

I asked seven questions and asked for answers ranging from an opinion about how important the project is, to how much the responding member might support the project.

The survey was sent by e-mail to 50 of our members. I thank those who took the time to respond; several said they are raring to go. But I only got 6 replies. All spoke favorably of the project, and all would provide their own family histories, but a third gave reasons why they would not be able to help with research or other related activities.

Members have been saying for years they want to update Orville's book. Now we have new and better tools than ever before, including a member resources kit, electronic mailing lists, and a Web page. The long-promised index to *Corson Cousins* is actually being compiled and released. We seem to have a resurgence of interest and activity in the CCFHA. Is this not then the time to move ahead on The Project? And yet, is this all the support there is? I feel a little deflated.

We are at an interesting juncture. The CCFHA can continue to assist its members without ever taking another step closer to "300+". Or we can defer action until there is more interest. Or we can take a few more steps now to see what will happen.

We can guess at what is holding us back. Everyone is busy? Sure, that's always true. The project is too big? The longest journey begins with but a single step.

One starting point is for three small planning groups to address overall policy, standards, and content. Another would be to explore the topics in a half-dozen articles, in a "theme" issue of this newsletter.

What do you suggest? I want to hear from you.

## An Index for *Corsons Cousins*

Have you ever wanted to find information from past issues of *Corson Cousins* but didn't know where to look? Have you ever longed for an index?

For years there has been talk of an index, but no one to do the work. Christy Weber (M074) started work on an index for 1986 and adjacent years, but we never got her contributions all the way into print. In January 1994 we did publish a "Query Index" compiled by Kathy Wolfe (M180), but it was limited to queries in 1991-1993.

After nearly 19 years of such history, it may come as a surprise to find an index for 1995 (including *Colson's Corner*) enclosed with this issue, and another index there for 1998. Depending on how you file your newsletters, you may want to keep the indexes with them or as part of the resource materials in your membership kit.

A five-person team of "indexers" is making this progress possible: Kathy Wolfe, Christy Weber, Iveme Rinehart, Lianne Lovenstein, and Gale Corson. As soon as Christy gets some home improvement projects off her slate in June, she will be coordinating the efforts.

Technology almost caught up with us before the indexes were released. Before many more months we hope to have early issues of *Corson Cousins* available to members on the Internet. Once connected to a "search engine", it should be possible to located any desired information - name, place, date, event, and so forth. That opportunity helped us decide to limit the printed lists to name indexes.

We may eventually find that all printed indexes go the way of the library card catalog. That's a decision for the future, however. For now, we are delighted to have two years indexed and more to come in July. We thank all of those working on the indexing project for their much appreciated efforts.

## The Lily Corson Collection

Once there was a newsletter called "Corson Cousins", edited and published in California by Margaret Gardner (D013) (see obituary this issue). "Marge's" family history publication had a short lifespan, from November 1980 to late Winter 1982, but it was widely appreciated by subscribers while it lasted. Many referred to it as "Corson Cousins West" because it appeared in counterpoint with "Corson Cousins", produced in Virginia.

Among the early supporters of "Corson Cousins West" was Lily Corson in Saskatchewan, Canada. Before long Lily was not only a subscriber and correspondent, she also compiled the official index for the newsletter. In an era when home computers were only beginning to be known, Lily had to do her work the traditional way - manually, on index cards. To facilitate research, Lily subdivided her index into categories for Corson (and similar) surnames, related surnames, and unrelated surnames; and similarly kept parallel lists for male and female names. At the same time she indexed place names and source documentation mentioned in the newsletter. And once the index cards were sorted, she carefully retyped the alphabetized lists so they could be published.

When "Corson Cousins West" ceased publication, Lily (M048) became an equally enthusiastic supporter of the CCFHA, and she turned her attention to indexing the first years of "Corson Cousins". Her card files for Volumes I-V (1981 - 1985) contain over a thousand names, each one carefully annotated to show vital statistics, family relationships, and documentation sources. The scope of her effort, if extended, would carry into our "300+" project. Unfortunately, this work has never been published.

Today Lily has a computer and a modem and other capabilities that weren't available then. Now we use spreadsheets for indexing and search engines to find things. But hers was a labor of love at a time when there were few options, and through her extra effort she was able to make an important contribution.

With Margaret Gardner's passing, Lily decided it was time to get rid of her collection. Lily, now 82 years old, has been quite ill with an undiagnosed malady that mimics carbon monoxide poisoning, and

that contributed to her decision. All too often as we conduct family history research we learn from someone, "My grandfather [or whoever it was] told me about a large green book with our family history, but I don't know what happened to it." It is important that we pass our work along to someone who will be responsible for it. Fortunately for all of us with an interest in Corson family history, Lily packed up her collection in a large carton and sent it on to CCFHA President Gale Corson.

Lily is one of our Division X "Canadian Corsons" (Orville, v2, pg 285). Her files and other papers need a more permanent home - with which the society's librarian could help, if we had one. We are also thinking about ways to incorporate what Lily captured into the ongoing work of the CCFHA. The association appreciates this gift of the Lily Corson Papers and will strive to share the full benefit of them with all our members.

### A Tribute to Margaret Gardner

**In the previous article, I referred to an obituary; however, we never actually received one, so we wish simply to pay tribute to a deceased fellow researcher. As you saw from the "history" we included in the article about Lily, we were able to share information and correspondence with one another for several years, and it was quite a shock when I learned she had passed away.**

**To any of you "inherited" from Marge, thanks; we all benefited from her dedication and she has been missed; however, the collection now in Gale's hands can - we hope - mean that the work Marge began can still continue. If we can just find that librarian....See Page 6.**

### Election Results

**Many of you already know, but for any who are not sure, here are our 1999-2000 officers:**

**President, Gale Corson #M-139, a member for 9 years.**

**Vice President, Bruce Corson, #M-023, a Charter Member since 1988.**

**Secretary-Treasurer, Iverne (Corson) Rinehart, #M-002, a founding member.**

## Finding Your CCFHA Division (X)

The CGFHA is organized into "divisions" that help members concentrate on information of greatest interest to them - all members from a common family grouping are in a common division. From there, you are encouraged to communicate with your Division Coordinator, who frequently can offer advice or direct you to someone else for help.

We have a surprisingly large number of members in Division X - which means no one knows where they fit, or if they fit in any of the other divisions. Several members in the group have been identified as Canadian Corsons, for example, but they are looking for a "connection", too.

One of the goals of the CCFHA is to help everyone get in touch with their own roots. It makes sense to move people out of Division X as rapidly as possible. If you are in Division X (noted in the 1999 membership directory or on your mailing label), or if you think you've been assigned to the wrong division, let's work together to make that move. I am serving as Coordinator for Division X so this may take a little effort on my part as well as yours, but I'm willing to try.

Here are *Four Steps to Success*. Of course, no one can guarantee success, but that should be our mutual goal. If at any point you figure out where you belong, drop me a line and tell me which division you claim (so we can update the association's records). But don't stop there. Enclose copies of your family group sheets and/or the documentation that helped you reach your conclusion. That way everyone can build a better record.

1. Examine the division definitions in the 1999 membership directory. Try to fit yourself into them using the information you already have.
2. Use the *Corson Cousins* newsletter and/or the CORSON-L mailing list on RootsWeb to ask for help (queries). Be specific and support your questions with brief information about your own family line/s.
3. Conduct additional research into your family history, so you will have more information to "connect".
4. Contact me and ask for help. I may be able to suggest other CCFHA members with similar

questions, or other sources that may be helpful to you.

If, after careful investigation, you decide you have identified a "new" line of Corsons / Colsons, send the supporting information to me (including data about the progenitor of the line). The Board of Directors may opt to establish a new "division" if one is needed.

Happy hunting!

- Gale Corson  
Division Coordinator, Division X

## The Face behind the Place

Have you been somewhere named "Corson" or "Colson"? Perhaps you have been in Corson, SD or at Corson's Inlet, NJ. A few such places have been featured in the pages of *Corson Cousins*.

We already have a short list of "Corson" place names but would like to add to it. Perhaps you know one or two you are willing to share. Likewise, we invite members to submit "Colson" place names.

Even more important, we would like to know the "face behind the place": Who is it that the place name honors, and what was the contribution that led to the honor? For example, there is a Corson Street on the south side of Seattle, WA and another one in Pasadena, CA. Who were the people in those communities who contributed so much that their names have been honored?

CCFHA members are encouraged to send Corson and Colson place names to Secretary Iverne Rinehart, accompanied preferably by biographies for the people for whom the places have been named. We will share the results in a later issue of *Corson Cousins*.

## Will There Be a "Cursonwhit III"?

*The Descendants of Cornelius Cursonwhit of Dover, New Hampshire, Volume I* was published in 1991 by TAL Publications, Leesburg, VA. Volume II followed in 1995. Both Corson/Colson books were compiled by Douglas Herman Colson and Stanton Dambrook Colson, and edited by the latter.

Both books were released as limited editions and suitably copyrighted. Both are now out of print. TAL Publications (owned by Stan Colson) is no longer in business.

As many of our readers know, Stan Colson wrote a third volume (let's call it "Cursonwhit III"). He solicited \$ 15 advance deposits against an announced publication price of \$30. An unknown number of CCFHA members (and others) subscribed to his book. For whatever reasons, however, publication was delayed. We are told it got as far as the bindery, and there stopped for lack of funds. Colson filed for bankruptcy last fall. An agent of the court tells us it does not appear "that there were assets available that would result in any significant distribution to creditors." Apparently we have lost our deposits.

If "Cursonwhit III" is never published, the loss is far greater than \$15. Can anything be done about that? CCFHA has never been a participant in the book (other than to provide family history information available to any member). We don't have the manuscript or access to it. We aren't in that kind of publication business, anyway. So independent action by the CCFHA does not seem possible. We have tried (and tried again) to communicate with Stan Colson, to no avail.

How important is this to CCFHA members? Should we continue to seek contacts and a way to encourage publication of "Cursonwhit III"? What suggestions and other contributions can CCFHA members offer that might help correct the present situation? Comments and suggestions may be directed to the Editor at the address shown in the masthead.

## Looking for a Librarian

Every time someone volunteers, the CCFHA takes another step forward. We sure could use "librarian" support to keep moving right now.

We don't compete with the Library of Congress, but we do have concerns for special materials about Corson/Colson family history. Most of those materials will never be held in a CCFHA "library", but the few we have need attention and we like to keep tabs on the rest so you, our members, will know where to look when the time comes.

Wanted: Librarian, to identify relevant materials, present reviews, prepare bibliographies and lists of sources, collect/organize/store, lend and/or copy resources. In short, a librarian would keep track of resources and help members get copies of publications when requested.

If you might be able to help this way, please explore the possibility with Gale Corson (see CCFHA directory of members).

## CCFHA Tax Status

When the CCFHA was incorporated in 1987, its Articles of Incorporation required that we operate as a 501(c)(3) organization under the U.S. Tax Code - in other words, as a nonprofit, charitable organization. The CCFHA has no formal letter of determination from the IRS confirming this because we are too small to require it, and because the IRS would charge \$500 to process a request if we were to file it.

Recently your officers decided to review this status. If there were any problems, we would want to correct them. We therefore reviewed the pertinent IRS regulations carefully and consulted other family history societies about their practices. In that context we can now say that the CCFHA continues to operate as a nonprofit organization. Those who have questions about contributions to the CCFHA are advised "Your donation may be tax deductible."

The Electronic Genealogist**Wondering about Computers**

In today's world, PC has two meanings. Some will tell me it means "personal computer." Others will say it means "politically correct." Both meanings come home to a few of us - my wife Jeanne for example.

My wife is an intelligent, adaptable person, a retired school teacher, active in community theater and social causes. However, when it come to the computer PC, she claims in the terminology of the other PC that she is "technologically challenged". It's not that she can't learn to use a computer, it's just that she isn't interested enough to bother. Besides, when she occasionally does want e-mail or something on the word processor, let Gale do it.

I suspect there are many people interested in family histories who have not yet had an introduction to computers. Computers and genealogy are separate topics, after all. But in today's world the two topics are converging rapidly. If you've been wondering about computers, read on.

In the United States today, about a third of the adult population uses computers and accesses the Internet. That number isn't precise, but it doesn't make much difference because the growth of the Internet is so rapid it will be out of date in a few months anyway.

We've collected e-mail addresses for about a third of CCFHA's members, and every month we add a few more. (Have you told us yours yet?)

You've heard about the Internet. One of the "hot spots" on the Internet is genealogy. The CCFHA has signed on with RootsWeb, perhaps the largest of the genealogy cooperatives. RootsWeb tracks thousands of surnames. In January of this year RootsWeb processed more than 150 million messages about family histories, and recorded another 85 million "hits" for genealogy Web pages it supports. Now the CCFHA has a Web page, too.

Genealogy on the Internet is growing by leaps and bounds because it's working. In February I found people through the Internet who were willing to share information about two of my almost "unknown" great-great grandmothers - big-time information. Reference materials that once were so

remote or obscure that you never would access them are now available for free on your own computer at home. Huge networks of people are communicating - rapidly - in ways never possible before, both within and outside of organizations like the CCFHA. Vast projects are under way to detail all ship sailings to the New World, all cemetery inscriptions, and all census records, and to make them available on-line, free of charge. Indeed, the role of organizations like the CCFHA is being redefined by the Internet.

If you have been wondering about computers and the Internet, wonder no more. For family history researchers, these are the new tools - not the tools of tomorrow, but the tools of today.

If you have been wondering about getting a computer, wonder no more. Get one. Computers are cheaper than ever. Internet access and e-mail are available even on inexpensive devices you can hook up to your television. If you still can't afford it, talk to a friend, neighbor, or relative willing to share. If you are serious about your family history and want to take advantage of wonderful new opportunities, you will be glad you did.

Gale Corson  
[galechap@aol.com](mailto:galechap@aol.com)

Phillip Robinson, writing in the *San Jose Mercury News* points out three ways a PC is useful in studying your family history -

- 1) It stores family data
  - 2) It organizes the information
  - 3) With a modem and the Internet, it reaches many sources of genealogical data and assistance
- (quoted in *Santa Rosa Press Democrat*, February 8, 1999)

Here are a few Universal Resource Locator (URL) sites of interest on the Internet:

Corson / Colson Family History Association:  
<http://home.epix.net/~owensj/>

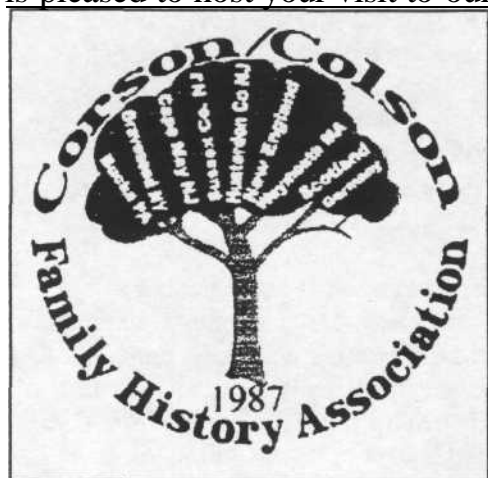
RootsWeb Global Surname Search:  
<http://cgi.rootsweb.com/~genbbs/genbbs.cgi?search>

Cindi's list of Genealogical Sites on the Internet:  
<http://www.cyndislist.com/>

# WELCOME !

## THE CORSON / COLSON FAMILY HISTORY ASSOCIATION

is pleased to host your visit to our web site.



### SITE MAP

<a href="#"><u>KNOWN LINES</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>RESEARCH HELP</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>MEMBERSHIP INFO</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>ORGANIZATIONAL INFO</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>CCFHA ON ROOTWEB</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>REUNIONS</u></a>

### THE CORSON and COLSON LINES OF INTEREST

The CCFHA organizes **known lines**\* into 'Membership Divisions' which are listed below:  
For *more information* click here

#### MORE INFO

or on the Roman numeral designating each division.

Div.	Primary Location	Progenitors)	Notes
I.	New England	Cornelius Corsen & Son Samuel Corson	Seven branches recognized, one for each 3rd generation child
II.	Sussex Co., NJ	Jan Corszen of New Amsterdam	Nine children surnamed "Corsen"; succeeding generations used surname "Corson"
III.	Staten Island, NY	Cors Pietersen of New Amsterdam	Children surnamed "Corsen"; succeeding generations used surname "Corson" (meaning 'the son of Cors')
IV.	Cape May, NJ	Carsten Jansen	Sons John & Peter Carstensen became "Corson" in Cape May
V.	Scotland>US	Corsani / Corsini Corsane / Corson	From Dumfree(shire), Scotland originally; later Marr, England
VI.	Southern US	to be determined	Undefined Southern lines, may overlap with Scottish and other lines
VII.	Hunterdon Co., NJ	Jacob & Mary(Hoppock) Corson	Children: Peter, John, Jacob, Catherine, and Anna Corson
VIII.	??	Colson	Inactive

## RootsWeb: Two Mailing Lists

The RootsWeb mailing list inaugurated at the beginning of the year has since been improved by splitting correspondence into two parts - one for "Corson" interests and one for "Colson" interests.

The RootsWeb Genealogical cooperative maintains e-mail "mailing lists" for about 4000 surnames, including ours. Those who "subscribe" to any of the no-charge mailing services are able to post information and queries, and receive messages from others who are using the electronic communications.

If you have e-mail service and have not already subscribed to either the Corson or Colson mailing list, ask Jeff Owens <[owensj@epix.net](mailto:owensj@epix.net)> for instructions to get started.

## CCFHA on the Internet

Your society has taken another step forward in the electronic world by establishing a CCFHA "Web site" on the Internet. By all means take a look at it, at <http://home.epix.net/~owensj/>

If you aren't currently equipped to surf the "Net, we've reproduced part of the first page here so you can see it.

Among the features the Web site provides are information about the Corson/Colson family divisions (and their histories), how to subscribe to the Corson and Colson mailing lists on RootsWeb, a brief history of the CCFHA, how to join, and electronic links to a few other important "sites".

The CCFHA page is a good way to start family research on Corson/Colson lines, and also to get an introduction into participating in the CCFHA. If you know someone who may be interested, invite them to take a look.

Jeff Owens (M260) deserves our thanks for this one. He is still developing the site, so you may want to check it periodically to see what's new.

In fact, Jeff will welcome your suggestions for further improvements. You may reach him at [owensj@epix.net](mailto:owensj@epix.net)

## Beyond 300

In January the CCFHA asked the Copyright Office to conduct a search for the status of Orville Corson's *Three Hundred Years with the Corson Families in America*. We knew the books were copyrighted in 1939, but didn't know if the copyright had been renewed.

The official answer is that the copyright was not renewed. Therefore the books are now in the public domain, and the CCFHA is free to incorporate those materials into the "300+" Project without restraint.

An offer from Deby Justice provides another important step forward in the "300+" Project. She has volunteered to gather and collate inputs for "additions" to Orville's book. If you want to submit information for the Project about a person who was not in Orville's book, that's an "addition." Carol Young Reese is already collecting "corrections," so between the two, we should have good coverage.

Deby writes, "We want this to be a comprehensive project including as many Corson descendants as we can locate. Because documentation is the pivotal point of this project, we urge you to include as much documentation as possible. However, no Corson will be turned away, documented or not. I will accept submissions in any format convenient for you. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact me."

Deby Justice  
Box 171  
Concho, Az 85924  
(520)337-3472  
<mailto:deby@cybertrails.com>

## Changes and Corrections

Please make the following changes in your Directory

Address Changes:

M-010 William L DeCoursey  
1735 19th Terrace  
New Brighton MN 55112  
E-Mail: decoursey@earthlink.net

M-043 Lucile Small  
151 S. Alpine Street  
Oakland ME 04963-4914

M-154 Elaine C.Artlip  
(Just add -7079 to her Zip Code)

M-201 Dr. Lynn A. Corson  
(Add a street address:  
6678 W 200 N)

Here are new or changed E-Mail addresses:

M-108 Dale Hanson = dfhanson@torchlake.com  
M-201 Dr. Lynn Corson = corsonl@ecn.purdue.edu  
M-044 Elaine Prince = fyfl62b@prodigy.com  
M-093 Marilyn Whittiesey = rmandrwhittiesey@compuserve.com  
S-026 Madelyn Cataldo = madi@budsters.com  
M-134 Jean London = j.w.London@worldnet.att.net  
M-193 Norm Corson = mcorson@midmaine.com  
M-208 Diane Rosenberg = drosenberg@juno.com  
M-213 Corson Ellis = corsone@aol.com  
M-232 Bob Corson = bcorson@cyberus.ca  
M-234 Mary Chick Miller - dwmiller@flash.net  
M-262 Robert M. Corson = rmcolson@prodigy.net  
M-180 Kathy Wolfe = keflow1@prodigy.net

Here are some other notes: M-102 Dr. Charles R. Corson is deceased; change to D-102

M-243 Denny Donnell adds two grandchildren to their family tree:

Grant Michael Koppelberger, born 25 Sep 1996

Kiersten brianne Dossett, born 1 Oct 1998 (by adoption)

Upgrade S-290 to M-290 Karen J. Checho (gift from M-228 Barbara Johnston, her mother)

Upgrade S-131 to M-131 Roy Liston Davis

I have probably missed some - but I'm an hour away from my deadline to head for the printer!  
Will catch them next time. ICR

## Coordinators' Reports

Our coordinators' reports have been received in a format other than the columns used in the newsletter, so they are either reprinted in full or excerpted here.

First from Janet Morgan (M-004, Div I-A):

Howdy! I am Janet Morgan and am one of the division leaders. 1999 has started out kinda bad for me but I am on the mend. I would like to get to know my division better.

The main thing is to get your 'tafel form from Gale Corson, fill it in, and get it back to verne who will schedule it for a future issue.

To contact me by E-mail: [morganjn@intcomm.net](mailto:morganjn@intcomm.net)

By regular mail: Janet Morgan, PO Box 680, Premont TX 78375

By phone: New area code is 361-348-3317 (or 1-800-484-9033 - you will be asked for the code)

Second, from Norm Corson (M-193, also Div. I-A):

I am Melvin N. Corson - most people call me "Norm" - I have been working on family history since mid-1970. I have a few Obits I would like to share with everyone. I have collected them from the Maine and New Hampshire newspapers. In the past year my father has been ill and I have had cancer for the second time in two years. I won it the first time and I will again!

[Ed. Note: Among the obits Norm sent is the one for his father, who died March 24. I hope to include some in future issues. They include Earl Corson (1996), Dorothy Corson (1998, widow of Albion, d. 1982), Clifford Corson (1997), Max Corson (1995), Adelaide Corson Cousens (1998), Welma B. Corson (1999), Leol L. Corson (1997), and several others not named Corson, but with Corsons in the survivors listed.]

The third one, from Ken Corson (M-267, Div IV) will be found in full on the next page.

My own assignments: Div I(C) (E) and (G) have "fizzled out": One never married, so would not have descendants; one never answered; the only one to answer has problems that keep her from any future participation, so remains Inactive.

## Cape May or South Jersey Corsons -Division IV

### Coordinator of Division IV or CCFHA

This is my first opportunity to greet my cousins in the role as coordinator of the CapeMay Division of CCFHA. As the role implies I hope to coordinate information that is relevant to our family history. I am not retired or independent enough to abandon my day job. I have not yet been able to commit the time I would like to the task. Starting in June I do hope to dedicate more time to encouraging others to help us put together an updated family history that will tie in with Orville Corson's book, "Three Hundred Years With the Corson Families In America."

This is a common task that all of us South Jersey Corsons have. It is not my task alone, I am but a servant to the group. Please send me your suggestions and also help recruit other of our cousins to join CCFHA. Every life is a book and we want to include all the volumes we can. We share some common genes. We are family. We are related. I find it interesting to meet or to know new cousins that I never knew before. There are various sources for interest in genealogy and specifically in our own family's history. Our history, our name, our curiosity, our genes make us a unique group. Let us together, tell our story. Please send me your family line so that I may begin building and updating the family tree. ([corsonjk@aol.com](mailto:corsonjk@aol.com)) or Ken Corson, 1039 C.Rd. 803, Wedowee, AL 36278.

### Researching Carsten Jansen

Carsten Jansen is our common ancestor, our progenitor. Carsten's wife was named Barbara but we don't know her maiden name. They arrived in New Amsterdam aboard the ship De Bever on December 20, 1656. For some time I assumed that this is when they first arrived in North America. I later found that Carsten arrived again on October 12, 1662 aboard De Purmerlander Kerck. He crossed the Atlantic at least twice. I have an LDS source that I have not been able to confirm that says Carsten was born on Long Island in 1634.

Flatbush Town Records (no. 1006, pp 246-247) says that the mother of Carsten Jansen was buried on November 5, 1665. Did he bring his mother to the colony or did she come first and Carsten was born here? There are many references to Carsten and sons John and Peter in the town records of Gravesend and Flatbush in what is now King's County, part of New York City. Another source I have found to be useful is "Records of New Amsterdam" a series of seven books edited by Berthold Fernow. I would very much like to hear from others who are interested in Carsten and also I would appreciate any further information or reference sources you may suggest.

### Web Site for South Jersey Corsons

Al & Sue Porter, who are related to Corsons, have an interesting and valuable site at (<http://www.cccnj.net/~taktani>). They have over 20,000 names listed, the majority of them related to Corsons and directly Corson. They also have names from a number of cemeteries in South Jersey.

## The Waldron Lawsuit and its Implication as to the Location of the Cornelius<sup>1</sup> Corson Grant

by Roger Gray

The Waldron lawsuit was an action brought in 1719 by Rtehard Waldron to dispossess settlers illegally living on land granted in 1652 to his father, Captain Richard Waldron. Captain [later Major] Richard Waldron was prominent in the early life of Dover, New Hampshire. He was killed in an Indian attack on Dover in 1689.

The land in question was part of Cochecho Point, otherwise known as Fresh Creek Neck, on the eastern border of Dover. Cochecho Point is an irregular tract of land of 600 acres or more bordered by the Salmon Falls River on the east, the Cochecho River on the south and Fresh Creek on the west. Its northern boundary is a line drawn from the head of Fresh Creek to St Alban's Cove on the Salmon Falls River, known in the early days as the Newichawannock River.

The first grant of land on Cochecho Point that we know about was made in 1643 to William Pomfret. The grant was described as "the neck of land between the mouth of the Cochecho River and Newichawannock River with the marsh thereon to the first narrow.' This is the extreme southern tip of Cochecho Point, which is only 400 to 500 feet wide and perhaps a half mile long. The next grant we know about made in 1652, covered all the remainder of the Point. The land was granted to Captain Richard Waldron and four other men, William Furber, William Wentworth, Henry Ungstar and Thomas<sup>1</sup> Kenny [Canney], one half to go to Captain Waldron and half to the other four men. In 1658, John Roberts sold Joseph Austin his upland known as Cochecho Point. It is not known how John Roberts obtained his land or if it was even laid out. In 1670, Thomas<sup>1</sup> Canney [Kenny] conveyed to his son, Joseph, one undivided eighth of Cochecho Point granted him in the 1652 grant

About 1685, our ancestor, Cornelius<sup>1</sup> Corson [Cursonwhit], William<sup>1</sup> Henderson, and perhaps

others, began to settle on Cochecho Point. We know this from a deposition made in the 1719 Waldron lawsuit by three local men, Hatevil Roberts, James Stapole [Stagpole/Stackpole ?] and Henry<sup>2</sup> Hobos [brother of Cornelius<sup>1</sup> wife, Hannah<sup>2</sup> Hobbs], who testified that to their "certain knowledge" Cornelius<sup>1</sup> Corson and William<sup>1</sup> Henderson had been in quiet and peaceful possession of part of the land in controversy thirty-four years ago "by building and improving" [see attached copy of deposition].

In 1694, the Town of Dover made land grants on Cochecho Point to Cornelius<sup>1</sup> Corson, William<sup>1</sup> Henderson and others, forgetting or ignoring the previous grant to Waldron. One explanation offered was that the grant to Waldron was made when Dover "was under the government of Massachusetts and was esteemed by many of no validity." It appears that the Waldron suit was not joined by the heirs of the other four 1652 grantees.

The first notice found of the Waldron lawsuit was a writ of attachment dated August 17, 1719. It began "To the Sheriff of our said Province, his under sheriff or deputy, Greeting. We command you to attach the goods and estate of William Stiles, blacksmith, William Blackstone, planter, Howard Henderson, mastliner alias carpenter, Samuel Cousen, planter, Benjamin Mason, shoemaker alias planter, John Foy, planter, Joseph Kenny, planter, James Willmot, cooper, Samuel Alley, planter, Peter Cook, planter, Richard Hamuck [Hammock/Hammett?], planter and Elisha Clark, planter... to the value of twelve hundred pounds," etc. In lieu of this amount of money, the defendants were to appear before the Court held in Portsmouth, New Hampshire to answer to Richard Waldron in an action of trespass and ejectment for that the defendants had illegally entered upon land to keep Richard Waldron out of possession of half of the parcel

which was his by virtue of a grant to his father and others made in 1652.

As the case proceeded in the Courts, Samuel Alley and John Foy quit their claims. The defendants hired an attorney from Boston to plead their case but in the end the jurors found for the plaintiff, Richard Waldron. The verdict was appealed and among the exhibits was a copy of the grant made by the town committee (appointed by the freeholders of Dover for granting land) to "Cornelius Corson his heirs and assigns forever twenty acres of land upon Fresh Creek Neck between Joseph Kenny, John Tuttle and Peter Varney if so much there to be found," dated March 19, 1693/94.

With a subsequent appeal to the Governor and Council, the case dragged on until on November 18, 1727, when the defendants were again summoned to the Court at Portsmouth, this time for an action of partition [of Fresh Creek Neck]. In this action, some eight years after the original writ, the list of defendants had changed. The defendants now included William Stiles, Howard Henderson, James Willmot, Abigail Blackstone (widow), Joseph Kenny, Peter Cook, Richard Hamock, Bisha Clark and three new defendants, Ambrose Clarion, James Guppy and Joseph Hussey. Missing from the original list, in addition to James Foy and Samuel Alley, were Samuel<sup>2</sup> Corson and Benjamin Mason. It seems probable that both of these men moved their homesteads before 1727 to another and safer location.

The text of the 1727 writ had also changed from the original in that it no longer mentioned William Furber, William Wentworth, Henry Langstar and Thomas<sup>1</sup> Kenny [Canney] as grantees to the Point. Briefly, it read "and to the Plaintiff (Richard Waldron) belongs a moiety (one half) of the said land ... and to the defendants (or some of ye) belongeth ye other moiety of the said land." So it seems the defendants gained back half of Fresh Creek Neck,

## WALDRON SUIT (CONTINUED)

although which half was still undetermined.

On April 12, 1728 a jury of twelve men, summoned by the High Sheriff to divide Cochecho Point into two equal parts, reported that they had done so and had assigned the upper half to Richard Waldron. Apparently, this award was not to Richard Waldron's satisfaction, presumably because most of the settlers who had cleared and improved their properties were in the lower or southern half of the Point, which thereby was the more valuable half. Within a few months a second jury was summoned by the Sheriff of the Province to divide the land all over again. On September 13, 1728 this jury reported they had divided the land in question and had assigned the lower half to Richard Waldron.

This action was protested by Howard Henderson and several of the other defendants and was appealed to the Governor and Council on April 4, 1729. It may be of interest to note that at this time the Governor and Council were appointed under the direction of the Crown of England and not elected by the settlers. Also, that in 1726 and possibly in 1729, the secretary to the Governor was Richard Waldron. What action was taken on this petition does not appear.

In any case, some three months later, on July 24, 1729, Richard Waldron deeded one half of Cochecho Point, except for the Pomfret grant, to Benjamin Mason for eight hundred pounds. This Benjamin appears to be the same Benjamin Mason who was one of the defendants in the lawsuit. The Waldron deed, while it clearly sold one half of the land area, did not in any way specify which half of the Point was actually sold. A statement as to which half of the Point Benjamin Mason bought also could not be found in the case papers, but indirect proof was found in deeds subsequently filed by defendants in the lawsuit.

On July 30, 1729, six days after his purchase of half of Cochecho Point, Benjamin Mason leased to Elisha Clark two acres of land in the

lower half of the Point. This land was to "run across ye Point" from the Newichawannock River with a river on each side, following certain bounds to Pomfret's old grant. In return, Elisha was to furnish free transportation on the Cochecho Point ferry to members of the Mason family. This is the only indication found that there ever was a Cochecho Point ferry.

This lease is a good indication that it was the lower or southern half of Cochecho Point that Waldron sold Benjamin Mason. More solid evidence of this is found in a Joseph Canney [Kenny] deed in 1734 and a Howard<sup>2</sup> Henderson deed in 1743. These deeds indicate that both Canney and Henderson lost their grants to the Waldron lawsuit. One of the bounds of the Canney grant was the Cochecho River, the southern boundary of the Point. The Howard<sup>2</sup> Henderson grant, acquired from Howard<sup>2</sup>'s father, William<sup>1</sup> Henderson, was also in the southern half of Cochecho Point, being laid out just north of the present bridge over the Salmon Falls [Newichawannock] River, leading from Dover to Eliot, Maine. It is clear by inspection of a map of Cochecho Point that an east-west line dividing the point into two equal areas must have run well north of the bridge to Eliot [see copy of map]. Since Waldron successfully dispossessed both Canney and Henderson from their land grants in the southern half of Cochecho Point, it must have been the southern half of the Point that Waldron acquired by his lawsuit and later sold to Benjamin Mason.

The two deeds mentioned above (as well as others), made by defendants in the lawsuit, also indicate that the Town of Dover, which seems clearly at fault in issuing overlapping land grants, made some amends. The deeds show that Dover subsequently granted the dispossessed settlers an equal quantity of land (in lieu of what they lost) in another part of Dover.

This is shown in the deed dated July 1, 1734, wherein Joseph Canney sold Elisha Clark land in Dover "containing three acres which is some part of the same twenty [acre] grant of land which was granted to ye said Joseph Canney on Cochecho

Point and was lost by lawsuit with ye Honorable Richard Waldron, Esq., and in as much as the Town of Dover hath past a vote that the same should be allowed and laid out in sum other place in ye Town of Dover, therefore, I ... Joseph Canney do ... sell... the aforesaid three acres unto ... Elisha Clark ... in any place where the committee shall lay out the same."

Facts brought out by the Waldron lawsuit, and subsequent deeds of certain of the defendants, clearly raise a question as to the location we have assumed for the Cornelius<sup>1</sup> Corson land grant on Cochecho Point. When the William<sup>1</sup> Henderson thirty acre grant was laid out on Cochecho Point in 1701, the beginning and southern bound was described as a small white pine near Cornelius<sup>1</sup> Corson's fence on the south side of Josling's Cove. Mary Thompson's Landmarks in Ancient Dover places this cove on the western shore of the Newichawannock River just above (north) of the bridge to Eliot, Maine. Since Cornelius<sup>1</sup> Corson would hardly build his fence anywhere except on his own land, this seems clear evidence that the northern boundary of the Corson grant was also on the southern side of Josling's Cove and that his grant must have been located just south of the present bridge to Eliot, as well as south of the Henderson grant.

The town of Dover stated, when it granted 20 acres to Cornelius<sup>1</sup> Corson, that his grant was to lie between Joseph Kenny [Canney], John Tuttle and Peter Vamey. It is not clear whether John Tuttle or Peter Vamey ever had land laid out to them on Cochecho Point. They are not listed among the defendants in the Waldron lawsuit and so, presumably, never lived there. Joseph Canney's grant was laid out to him and, as previously noted, it was bounded in part by the Cochecho River, which places it in the most southern part of Cochecho Point. If the Corson grant lay between Joseph Canney and others, the Corson and Canney grants at some point should have had a common border. If so, this is further evidence that the Corson grant lay in the southern half of the Point. It follows then that Samuel<sup>2</sup> Corson, as

WALDRON SUIT (CONTINUED)

well as Howard<sup>2</sup> Henderson and Joseph Canney, should have lost his grant (inherited from Cornelius<sup>1</sup>, his father) on Cochecho Point to the lawsuit by Richard Waidron.

Nevertheless, on October 8, 1729, less than three months after Richard Waldron sold half of Cochecho Point to Benjamin Mason, Samuel<sup>2</sup> Corson deeded his rights in the Cornelius<sup>1</sup> Corson grant to Benjamin Mason and Ebenezer Tuttle for forty pounds [money]. The deed reads "with ye appurtenances thereof free and clear from all judgements and from all manner of title troubles."

There is no mention of equivalent grants in some other part of Dover, or any other indication that his grant was involved in the Waidron lawsuit. About five years later, in 1734, Ebenezer Tuttle sold his half of the Cornelius<sup>1</sup> Corson grant on Cochecho Point to Benjamin Mason for twenty-five pounds [money]. Benjamin Mason then, acquired the southern half of Cochecho Point and, in addition, paid forty-five pounds for the Cornelius<sup>1</sup> Corson grant on Cochecho Point. Certainly, Benjamin Mason would not have paid money for the Corson grant had it been included in the southern half of Cochecho Point and for which he had paid eight hundred pounds [money].

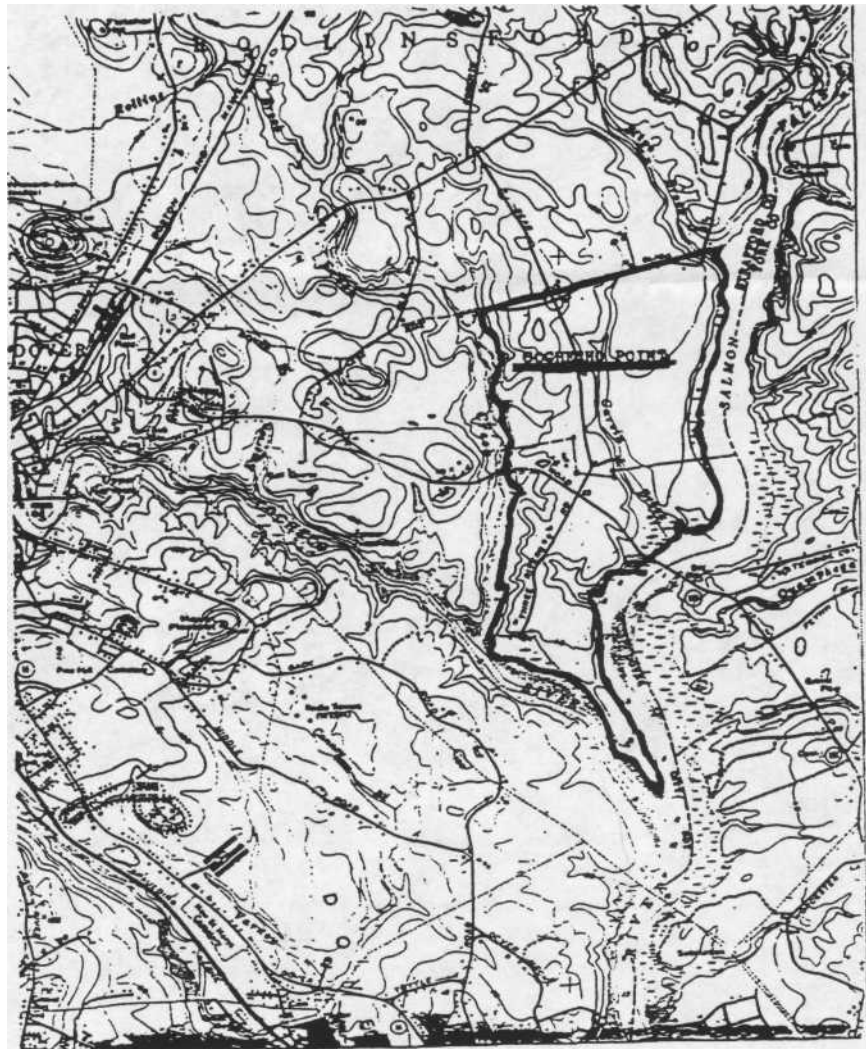
This separate purchase by Benjamin Mason implies that the Cornelius<sup>1</sup> Corson grant did not lie in the southern half of Cochecho Point where other good evidence indicates the Corson grant was indeed located. If the Cornelius<sup>1</sup> Corson grant was laid out in the upper half of the Point, it would have been located a half mile or more above the Henderson grant

[Author's Notes: If we place the Corson grant a half mile above the present bridge to Eliot, we solve the dilemma. Somehow it is difficult for me to accept that Corson and Henderson were not neighbors. They are linked in the deposition as the oldest settlers anyone could remember settling on the Point. I would assume this to be true because the settlers would clearly try to put the settlement at as early a

date as they could support to make their case as strong as possible. It does not seem likely to me that the two earliest settlers would pick spots a half mile apart for their homesites when living in those early days depended on close neighbors. One alternate solution is that Samuel<sup>2</sup> Corson and Benjamin Mason had some sort of early special deal between them that exempted the Corson grant from the area Benjamin bought. It is less likely that any such deal would have been between Samuel<sup>2</sup> and the Honorable Richard Waldron. I think our Samuel<sup>2</sup> was a wily bird and knew something we don't know. Of course, while this solution is unlikely, it is very appealing.]

Roger Gray  
CCFHA #M005

Roger has been researching the Corson family line since 1977. He has made previous contributions to Corson Cousins and is considered an expert on the Corsons of the Piscataqua River area. Roger currently resides in Nashua, New Hampshire with his wife, Lucille.



The Deposition of  
Roberts, Stagpole & Hobbs  
regarding the property of  
Cornelius Corson

The deposition of Guttenel Robert James Stagpole  
 & Henry Hobbs all of full age, legal free & single  
 that to our certain knowledge, will own  
 Henderson & Cornelius Corson has been in  
 the past & present possession of part of the  
 land now in controversy between  
 Richard Watson Plakette & William Metz  
 & Company defendants this thirty four  
 years last past by building & improving  
 Centerville Roberts  
 James Stagpole  
 Henry Hobbs

Sworn in Court  
 Geo. Howard Minford Clerk

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 52

# The Back Page

July is not far off ....look forward to:

**MORE news...**

**MORE ideas...**

**MORE helps in your research efforts.**

**And don't forget to write!**

