



Corson Cousins

<http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~ccfha/>

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SPRING

Are you in a DST state?
(Some states don't observe it.)
If so, you've just had to
"spring forward" and the
hour you lost is "banked"
until Fall.



Do you, like some,
wonder what to do
with that "extra hour"
some think we gained?
Why not share stories
about your ancestors
with the rest of us?

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. Domestic subscriptions alone, \$9 per calendar year. Membership dues (domestic) for THE CORSON/COLSON FAMILY HISTORY ASSOCIATION (CCFHA), \$12 per calendar year, including subscription to *Corson Cousins*.

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The CCFHA is incorporated under the laws of Virginia
Internet Home Page: <http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~ccfha/>

CCFHA Statement of Purpose (Articles of Incorporation, Article V)

- 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.

Officers and Directors

President	Gale Corson	galechap@aol.com
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We invite letters and queries about your family, newsletter, and Association. Address all correspondence to:
Iverne Corson Rinehart / Editor, *Corson Cousins*, at the address shown above.

Invitation to Readers -

Readers who want to tell special friends and relatives about the CCFHA and its programs may ask for an information leaflet to be sent to them. The leaflet includes an invitation to join the CCFHA. If you express a preference, it can be mailed either with or without your name as a reference. There is no charge for this service. Send your name and address, together with the name and address of the person to whom the information is to be mailed, to the Editor as noted on page 2.

T he President Speaks Out:

I'M MY OWN GRANDPA

A popular song of yesteryear declared "I'm my own grandpa" (or grandma). Through convoluted marriages the song writer was able to construct an improbable relationship and some strange side effects.

Those of us who have gathered family history know that crossovers can occur and sometimes do. Maybe you *are* your own grandpa. Orville Corson in his book pointed out several instances where two "Corson" lines merged (resulting in two possible numbering sequences), sometimes joining two different generations.

Today as more and more people delve into their family histories we are seeing an even more improbable outcome: Almost everyone, it seems, is finding themselves to be a descendant of Charlemagne, or Cleopatra, or some other important historical personage of a thousand years ago or more. I can make similar claims, too, if you don't mind some questionable sources and documentation.

Last Christmas two of my relatives and acquaintances proudly declared they had traced their family lines to King ThisOrThat, one of them a Hebrew king 800 BC. Each of these researchers was new to the field and not very proficient, but still able to get their results in a matter of a few months!

How is it that so many people seem to claim descent from royalty, sometimes the same king or queen as just about everyone else? Is it for real?

Probably not. There are billions of people in the world and it isn't likely that we all have the same ancestors - unless you count Noah or Lucy. The disturbing part about such ancestral claims is that while they pop up easily on the Internet, they are almost impossible to document. "I found it on the Internet" isn't documentation - the best you can say for that statement is that someone thinks they have a connection ... so if you are related to them maybe you do, too. You have found a clue, but you still have a lot of hard work and documentation ahead.

Imagine the decades of work required to establish an unbroken chain to Charlemagne. Think how difficult it would be to document a connection all the way to Cleopatra. Perhaps with goodly effort you have already been able to trace your family back three or five or more generations. But Cleopatra lived about 100 generations ago. By today's standards there weren't many records written down then, and most of

those that were have long since been destroyed by fire, flood, rot, neglect, vermin, vandalism, theft, and attempts to rewrite history by blotting out the records of earlier monarchs. Any remaining records (if you are lucky enough to locate them and gain access to them and make copies of them) were written in languages you can't read. Few of us are sufficiently versed in variations of archaic Egyptian, Hebrew, Latin, French, and German (or Dutch, if you are trying to trace Cors Petersen) to translate all the old documents.*

On the other hand, a lot of people really are descendants of Charlemagne (or whomever). We've all heard about geometric progressions. If the king had seven children, and each of them had seven children, and each of those had ... well, you get the idea. Kits, cats, sacks, and wives: How many were going to St. Ives? In the riddle, not many were going there but 2801 things were coming *from* St. Ives. After another few generations the numbers grow into the millions and even billions. That's quite a few descendants. Of those, the ones who weren't the Chosen One (the firstborn male, that is) soon merged into a large chorus of commoners. But wouldn't you still be pretty proud that great-granddaddy had been King Soandso? That bit of family pride would be passed down from generation to generation. So, who knows? In the course of time, maybe most people do in fact have a valid claim to a little royal blood. Besides, kings were fairly prolific procreators and had the means to keep their children alive better than the average commoner. And it has always been fashionable to record the lineages of rulers, so it's much more likely to find a record for one of them than for just about anyone else - although kings weren't above cheating a little on their own family histories, either. (Personally, I like the Black Sheep Genealogical Society better - Why can't we all be descendants of Bluebeard? Now there was a colorful guy!)

So are you *really* a descendant of ancient royalty? Could be. But please take it all "with a grain of salt." It probably makes more sense for you to concentrate on ancestors closer at hand - those you have a better chance to document. While it's true that many people in our democracy still "love our royalty," that and a million dollars will get you a cute little place to stay in the country.

Gale Corson

* The CCFHA invites you to nominate documents for translation - as a group we may be able to take care of some of them

Quinceñera

Quinceñera (keen-say-nyer'-a) is what our Mexican friends call it: A special "coming of age" birthday party marking an adolescent girl's 15th year of life. A celebration of the tremendous growth, changes, development, and progress that have occurred in those 15 years. A time to look forward to even more responsibility as a young adult.

The CCFHA will mark its 15th birthday later this year. It was chartered in Virginia on December 17, 1987, so hold the celebration for a few months, but this is still a good time to consider our growth, changes, development, and progress. And tax status.

When the CCFHA was chartered, its Articles of Incorporation stipulated that the new organization was to be a 501(c)(3) organization within the meaning of the US tax code. That section of the Code defines the requirements and privileges of certain non-profit organizations in this country. You have probably seen that number before, because groups asking you to make a contribution to further their charitable programs often cite it. The "founding fathers" of the CCFHA intended that the new organization would be non-profit, and that's exactly the way it has been operated for the past 15 years. Among other things, there is no paid staff, and none of the association's revenues are used to benefit specific individuals in or related to the organization.

On the other hand, there are many other non-profit organizations in this country that are not 501(c)(3) organizations. Many credit unions, farm cooperatives, garden clubs, fraternities, labor organizations, and other groups operate not-for-profit but still serve no charitable purposes and provide no public benefits that would qualify them as 501(c)(3) organizations. Both general types of organization are recognized and accepted by the IRS as nonprofit groups, in separate ways. So what's the practical difference?

The practical difference, in addition to the charitable purposes and public benefits, is the impact on your own pocketbook as a taxpayer. Contributions to 501(c)(3) organizations can be listed on Schedule A of your Form 1040 tax return and thus used to reduce the income tax you pay; but contributions to other non-profit organizations don't enjoy that privilege. For this reason, a 501(c)(3) organization is sometimes referred to as an "exempt" non-profit.

The IRS publishes a long list of "exempt" organizations in their Publication 78. The CCFHA is not one of the organizations listed there; contributions to the CCFHA aren't deductible from your taxes, at

least not yet. The IRS only lists those organizations that have asked to be recognized and are accepted after due examination. A processing fee is charged for this service. Several years ago one of our members suggested that the CCFHA might be listed, and then donated funds for an application. That application is still "in the works" as the IRS continues to process it, but final results are expected soon. We should be able to share the outcome with you in July, even if the results are not as favorable as we would like.

It's clear now that the CCFHA would not originally have been accepted as a 501(c)(3) organization, not by today's standards at least. In 1987 it was focused inward on the single family of Cornelius Corson of Dover, New Hampshire, and a significant goal was to bring members of that family together in social contacts. The IRS views both of these as evidence of private rather than charitable interests. Moreover, little was originally said about efforts that would benefit the general public.

Over the years, however, the CCFHA has grown, changed, developed, and progressed. As we approach our quincenera we are pleased that we have come to embrace not only all the "founding families" identified by Orville Corson in his book, but also those American Indians, African Americans, and others who share a common "family" of names. Because we have such a diverse constituency we will probably never hold an overall "family reunion" (although we encourage family groups to hold their own). Even as we continue to be interested in individual family histories such as yours, we have also gained perspectives that seek to do more for "public" interests, especially for those pursuing family histories everywhere.

We're going to find out soon if the IRS will list the CCFHA as an "exempt" organization, but ultimately it shouldn't make much difference one way or the other. We want to continue to serve our members. We want to continue growth in activities such as our Libraries Program. We want to continue "outreach" development that benefits the broader public as well. And we trust that CCFHA members will continue to support these efforts through their memberships and through their contributions, whatever the opinion of the IRS may be.

Gale Corson



IVERNE RINEHART'S "2¢ WORTH"

Remember when General MacArthur said, "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away."? Unfortunately, we have had a different story: Some of our participants have died and some "just faded away" - in some cases, maybe both! We are sorry to see members marked "Inactive" and don't know if a contact is yet possible. A recent proposal that we designate an "heir" might also include a "deputy" who would notify us when a member or subscriber had passed. Our numerical list of 31 March now shows 32 as "D" (deceased) and 200+ as "I" (inactive) and in only a few cases have we been told personally of intentional withdrawals. That is one reason behind the "Red Dot" message in our January issue - our list has grown so long we need to find a way to keep our promise that "a number once assigned remains yours permanently" but reductions in space can be had by cutting out inactive data (addresses, phone #s, e-mail addresses, etc.); vital info (name, family line) should stay.



We were pleased to receive a number of "red dot" folks back, and a few of the notations were even amusing: One said "Sorry I'm tardy -I was buried and just found it!" We are glad it was probably just a typo!

Another thought it had been mailed, but found It had slid down beside the chairseat.

Whatever the case, we are happy to have you. We hope the Directory will prove helpful.

What's Unusual about this Paragraph?

This is an unusual paragraph. I'm curious how quickly you can find out what is so unusual about it. It looks so plain, you would think nothing is wrong with it! It is unusual, though. Study it, and think about it, but you still may not find anything odd.. .But if you work at it a bit, you might find out. Try to do so without any coaching!

(Look for the answer on page 23)

Welcome to New Members

When I checked to see where to begin this list, I was chagrined to find I didn't do one in January! I recall mentioning one new member in the "Two Cents' Worth" column but without any details. Therefore, I shall begin with November enrollments:

M-361 is Diane M. BRITT, 32 Grand St., Somersworth NH 03878. Her husband is Daniel L. Her Email dbritt@attbi.com
Not sure of full line yet, but daughter of William, granddaughter of James Corson.

M-362 is Schuyler E. CORSON, 102 Pear Court, Ames IA 50010. He is grandson of M-082 "Chet" and in Division III. His Email address: wayfarer4@yahoo.com

M-363 is James CORSON, 596 Catskill Court, Grand Junction CO 81503. His was a gift of M-311, so am assuming he is also in Division III. No lineage given otherwise.

M-3 64 is Beverly (Morgan) WAIT, 109 Seco Drive, Portland TX 78374. Her Email hornblower@interconnect.net
Daughter of M004, she's Division I.

M-365 Susan "Sue" LODER, 113 Kenvil Road, N. Cape May NJ 08204. Email Address: gennut@dandy.net and she has a 13-generation line from Carsten Jansen. [Corson/Young/Robinson/Hughes and Loder in the string.]

M-366 James Richard CORSON, 2003 Bremer Rd. (POB 215) Waverly IA 50677-0215. Email: jrcemc@wl-p.net
Not sure of Division as yet.

M-367 Nina C. PHILLIPS, 1185 Pleasant Valley Rd., N, Groton CT 06340
Email: neantiqs@ctol.net
[We're fairly sure it's Division I, as John Ichabod and David Wilmot are there.]

M-368 Deborah Anne SMITH
205 Cotton St., Wrens GA 30833-1304.
E-mail: debsmi2001@MSN.com.
Deborah is in Division IV, descending from Carter Jansen through Peter and Abigail; Young/Townsend/Hall/Lowe.

M-369 Margot L. ARMSTRONG, 495 Bristol Street, Cambria CA 93428. Her Email: marmstrong495@vahoo.com
[Not sure of Division, she has three Corsons: Jacob, William H., Paul Gordon, but not sure which Jacob.]

[Ed. Note: We sometimes have a hard time identifying James and William Corsons in our lists, so an initial is always helpful when you send us a new listing. Thanks, ICR]

Alert!

In the Directory is a page we would love to delete - the list of inactives, reason not known. If YOU see a name there you'd like to "nudge" back into our roster, do let us know - maybe we don't have a current address. On the other hand, if we must now move their name to the "D" list, would you please share that sad news. Thanks!



**IS YOUR MAILING
ADDRESS CORRECT?**

**IF NOT,
PLEASE NOTIFY US OF ANY CHANGE.**

The Big Event of 2002

The Big Event of the current genealogy year may have been the release of US 1930 census data on April 1. Exactly 72 years after the official date of the census (the waiting period required by law), the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) made all 2667 census microfilms available for public viewing and reproduction. All are in the T626 film series.

Concurrently, NARA released all the Soundex information available for the same census. However, as you read here a year ago, the Soundex files cover only 12 southern states. Surname information for all the other states has to be located geographically and by Enumeration District instead. NARA is offering quite a few finding aids (such as maps and city directories from that time period) to help people find the information they want. Old letters with addresses are a great way to get started. If nothing else, go back to the 1920 census (indexed for all states) and hope your person didn't move afterwards.

The census release was a big event for NARA as well as the genealogical community. NARA has been preparing for the release for several years, partly in anticipation of large crowds on opening day. Extra volunteers were trained to handle the demands. Special "Preparing for the 1930 Census" workshops are being offered for those who may be interested. The National Archives facility in Washington D.C. set longer hours and planned to issue (free) tickets in three-hour time blocks, first-come-first-served. Regional archive facilities were more relaxed, relying on normal procedures for limiting film and reader use when people are waiting.

In at least one location, enthusiasts were granted unusual viewing hours and privileged to start at the stroke of midnight. April 1 was Cesar Chavez Day and celebrated as a holiday in some locations, but that didn't slow down the census roll-out, either. Some things are just too important to wait, we suppose, even one day longer than 72 years!

Despite all the plans and expectations, however, the crunch of people didn't happen. Attendance in NARA microfilm rooms was up a little, but it had been down ever since the 9/11 disaster. Parallel activity by other institutions that provide census data is mixed; the Sutro Library, for example, has no immediate plans to stock the microfilms.

Want Help with the 1930 Soundex?

For those of you interested in Soundex information for the 1930 census, the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) stands ready to help you find Soundex codes and the specific Soundex microfilm rolls you need.

Soundex codes for 1930 are the same as those used in prior years, so "Colson" codes to C-425 and "Corson" codes to C-625. Films for those two codes are listed below for your convenience.

If you want to check on other Soundex codes as well, help is available not only at NARA and each regional facility but also through their Internet site, <http://1930census.archives.gov> especially <http://1930census.archives.gov/beginSearch.asp>

1930 Soundex Microfilm			
State	Colson C-425	Corson C-625	Total Rolls
AL	M2049-20	M2049-24	
AR	M2049-138	M2049-140	195
FL	M2050-15	M2050-19	100
	M2051-15	M2051-19	98
GA	M2052-41	M2052-51	253
KY	M2053-4	M2053-5	24
LA	M2054-27	M2054-33	146
MS	M2055-24	M2055-30	158
NC	M2056-28	M2056-34	169
SC	M2057-19	M2057-23	109
TN	M2058-9	M2058-9	
VA	M2058-27	M2058-34	169
WV	M2059-21	M2059-26	127
	M2060-6	M2060-8	39

The 1930 census covers 32 questions, most of them similar to previous years but a few new ones too. To see all the questions go to:

<http://www.census.gov/pubinfo/www/photos/Histforms/1930/His930FQ.html>

On balance, there is useful information to be found in the 1930 census for those who know where to start mining. Happy prospecting!

Prominent Persons

The July 1992 issue of *Colson's Corner* had a column called "Corsons who have attained distinction in America". We've located similar listings in *Biography and Genealogy Master Index* (various years), Frank V. Castronova, Ed., Gale Group, Farmington Hills, MI, 2000. We find surprisingly little overlap between the two.

Some of you have enjoyed the "Faces and Places" feature which can be found on the CCFHA Website and also shared on these pages from time to time. The emphasis there is on the "Corsons" and "Colsons" honored in place names, when various features are named for them.

What's missing in both instances are brief biographies that would give us a better understanding of who these people were and are, and what accomplishments made them prominent. Perhaps someone would like to have a little fun by taking this on as a project of their own; if so, let us know. Here is the original list from *Colson's Corner*, followed by supplemental entries (partial listing) from the index:

Corsons who have attained distinction in America

Hiram Corson (1804-1896) of NY, physician and genealogist

John W. Corson (1816-1882) of NY, physician

Caroline Rollin Corson (1828-1901) of France and NY, translator and author

Hiram Corson (1828-1911) of NY, educator

George Norman Corson (1833-1901) of PA, soldier, lawyer, lecturer, journalist and poet

Juliet Corson (1848[1841] -1897) of MA and NY, instructor and author

Eugene Rollin Corson (b. 1855) of DC and GA, physician and author

Oscar Taylor Corson (b.1857) of OH, educator

Allan Corson (b.1876) of PA, civil engineer

John Jay Corson (b.1905) of VA, author

David Birdsall Corson (b.1864) of NJ, educator

Fred Pierce Corson (1896-1985) of NJ, college president

Others in the biography and genealogy index

Corson, George Hebden, Sr. (1867-)
 Corson, Audrey P.
 Corson, Barry Alan (1949-)
 Corson, Dale Raymond (1914-)
 Corson, Debra (1956-)
 Corson, Donald Cleon (1941-)
 Corson, Harry Herbert (1931-)
 Corson, J. Jay (183 5-)
 Corson, Jame (1845-)
 Corson, James Allen (1859-)
 Corson, James Robert (1845-)
 Corson, John Arthur (1940-)
 Corson, Joseph (1923-)
 Corson, Joseph Kirby (1836-1913)
 Corson, Joseph Mackie (1924-)
 Corson, Keith Daniel(1935-)
 Corson, Kimball Jay (1941-)
 Corson, Laurie H. (1960-)
 Corson, Lorna
 Corson, Madeleine (1937-)
 Corson, Maurice S. (1933-)
 Corson, Richard Ho well (1931-)
 Corson, Robert W.(1946-)
 Corson, Samuel Abraham (1908-1998)
 Corson, Shayne (1966-)
 Corson, Thomas Harold (1927-)
 Corson, Vincent T. (1947-)
 Corson, Walter Harris (1932-)
 Corson, William (1949-)
 Corsun, Lori A. (1961-)
 Coursen, A. B
 Coursen, Bradner Wood (1929-)
 Coursen, Christopher Dennison (1948-)
 Coursen, David Linn (1923-)
 Coursen, Herbert R. (1932-)
 Coursen, Larry L (1942-)
 Coursen, Phillip E. (1944-)
 Coursen, Richard Dennison (1917-)
 Coursen, Samuel Streit (1926-1950)
 Coursen, Valerie (1965?-)
 Courshon, Arthur Hoard (1921-)
 Courshon, Jack Robert (1924-)
 Coursin, David Baird (1919-)
 Courson, Donald C. (1944-)
 Courson, James Harold
 Courson, John A. (1941-)
 Courson, John Edward (1944-)
 Courson, Marna B. P. (1951-)
 Courson, Maxwell Taylor (1936-)
 Courson, Richard J.
 Courson, Robert Wylie, II (1946-)
 Courson, Roger Lee (1931-)
 Courson, Steve (1955-)
 Courson, Virginia Hughes
 Courson DeLa Villeneuve, Tanguy De (1911-)



Your CCFHA in Action

Membership Roster

The CCFHA 2002 Membership Directory has been released. You should find a copy enclosed with your newsletter. There's a place for it in your Member Manual and we suggest that you keep it there.

We've been in the practice of issuing a Directory each year. This year you will find that the Directory has been redesigned to make it easier for you to find the people you want to contact: The main part of the Directory is divided into sections by Division, and within each Division the entries are in alphabetical order. Be sure to take advantage of it for your research.

If all goes well, next year we may be able to issue a short update to the Directory, rather than go to all the cost of reissuing a full roster that's quite similar from one year to the next. You may want to use your Directory for two years, so keep it carefully.

Corson Cousins Online

In the January newsletter we reported that a few issues of the *Corsons Cousins* newsletters are being posted for viewing online and promised to tell you in this issue how to access them. Although the images are still for demonstration purposes and therefore few in number, interested members are invited to look at them and offer comments. Issues from 1996 and 1999 can be accessed through the regular CCFHA Website at <http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~ccfha/index.htm/>

You don't need special access to view them. Just click on the "CCFHA Publications and Newsletters" heading on the home page, The newsletter online experiment will be detailed at the top of the 'pubs' page.

Several recent issues can be can also viewed at a site provided by our Vice President, Bruce Corson.

Life Member

Melvin Jennings "Mel" Corson (M-065) is being honored by the CCFHA through his election as Life Member. Your Board of Trustees took the action unanimously early this year in recognition of Mel's extended participation, contributions, and gifts including a generous gift last year that catalyzed progress on the Libraries Program.

Mel was among the first CCFHA members when he joined in 1987, and he has been an active participant ever since. He hails from Division III, which he has recorded extensively in several booklets and collections that span eleven generations from Cors

Pieterszen. He may be exploring, his other interests when he attends Chautauquas and Elderhostels, but we understand he also uses them to look for Corsons. He's a Shriner, retired Navy, and long-time Naval Reservist. He recently relocated from Cedar Rapids IA to Racine WI, so take advantage of the new membership Directory when you send him your congratulations.

Helpful Gifts

Only recently has the CCFHA done much to encourage giving, but gifts received in the past few years have already enhanced our programs and outreach efforts.

A good example of this is the three-part CCFHA Libraries Program: Research Library, Depository Libraries, and Library Affiliates - described in the January newsletter. Much of what was accomplished last year and planned for this year is possible only through the generosity of donors such as Mel Corson (see above). We appreciate the donors and are delighted with the accomplishments made possible through their gifts. Gifts received last year were reported in the January newsletter.

To encourage further gifts is to support further progress. The CCFHA is prepared to make good use of monetary and suitable in-kind contributions and to be named in deferred giving plans such as wills. At a donor's option, a gift may be for general operations of the association or restricted to specific purposes consistent with our programs and goals.

Special giving opportunities at this time include the Libraries Program mentioned above, the 300+ Project, CCFHA Publications, and research/translation efforts. Information about these opportunities and about deferred giving is available on request: Contact CCFHA President, Gale Corson, as noted on page 2. Contributions should be sent to "CCFHA", attention CCFHA Treasurer, Iverne Rinehart (see page 2).

300+ Project

Progress on the Project is being advanced through the addition of a lead compiler for Division I. Compilers for each Division are continuing to make progress with data entry (except in Division II, where no one has volunteered), but soon they may have to stop unless data submittals keep coming in. Have you submitted family data or contacted others for more information? Mailings are going out to additional likely data sources, which will also help. The PCS committee has started talking about what next steps should be taken and what timetable is realistic. Eventually there will be a closing date for further inputs. Look for another report in the July newsletter.

Welcome Volunteers

Ernest S. "Ernie" Tucker (M-87) should be a familiar name to readers. He has served on the CCFHA Board of Trustees, shared information about Division IA family, assembled a member photo montage, donated materials to the CCFHA Research Library, and helped out in many other ways. Not long ago he was maintaining the roster of CCFHA members; in the press of personal business he had to give that up, but we are pleased that he's agreed to help with it again. Welcome back.

Janet (Niles) Morgan (M-04) was until recently handling the membership roster, but has agreed to take on new responsibilities for membership outreach, including member retention and new member contacts. As one of our charter members, Janet has helped in many ways over the years. Thanks Janet.

Nina Phillips (M-367) has recently started working as lead compiler for Division I input to the 300+ Project. Nina is a new member from Divisions I. If you hail from one of the New England Corson families (including Colson) and have been waiting to submit data for the 300+ Project, wait no longer. Nina is ready for your inputs (but send everything to Jim Corson in Seattle - see page 2). We are especially thankful that new members like Nina are joining right in and saying, "What can I do to help?" Thank you, Nina.

Deborah A. Smith (M-368) is another recently-joined member who is helping out in a big way. She's from the Cape May Corson group in Division IV. Deborah is helping to improve our electronic communications and files, and no doubt you will be seeing improvements as they are gradually implemented. She has already helped Jeff Owens upgrade the "hyperlinks" on the CCFHA Website, connecting you easily with pertinent information on the Internet about Corson and Colson families. A current emphasis is to improve the CCFHA Master Reference Source List - you will see more about that in this newsletter. She invites you to help there and to let her know what else you would like to see in our Electronic Library: debsmi2001@msn.com Thanks Deborah.

Help Wanted

- ❖ Reporters and writers for *Corson Cousins*
 - ❖ Associate Editor, *Corson Cousins*
 - ❖ CC indexing: Index current year *Corson Cousins*
 - ❖ Proofread CCWest (1980-1984) index
 - ❖ Update CCFHA membership manual
 - ❖ Associate Webmaster
 - ❖ Language translators
 - ❖ 300+ Project: Lead data compiler for Div.II
- contact Gale Corson

Coming: Nominations

A new slate of CCFHA officers will be elected late this year to serve for the next two years. In July you will be invited to submit nominations. Ballots will be distributed in October. Start thinking now about whom you want to represent you and the association.



The Brighter Side of the Street

The following were quoted in the *Chapman Family Association Quarterly*, Winter 2002, from letters received by the Family History Department of the LDS Church:

"I would like to find out if I have any living relatives or dead relatives or ancestors in my family."

"He and his daughter are listed as not being born."

"My Grandfather died at the age of 3."

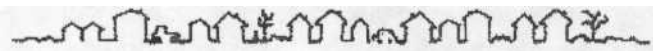
"The wife of #22 could not be found. Somebody suggested that she might have been stillborn - what do you think?"

"Enclosed please find my Grandmother. I have worked on her for 30 years without success. Now see what you can do."

"This family had 7 nephews that I am unable to find. If you know who they are, please add them to the list."

"We lost our Grandmother, will you please send us a copy?"

"Will you please send me the name of my first wife? I have forgotten her name."



Research Opportunities

Those who read this newsletter regularly may remember the challenge that appeared on these pages two years ago, encouraging people to participate in family history projects that offer assistance to many members or a broader public. Suggestions included US census transcriptions, indexes, cemetery census, or becoming more active in the operation of the CCFHA itself. Some of those things have happened since, but there are always more opportunities and unmet challenges.

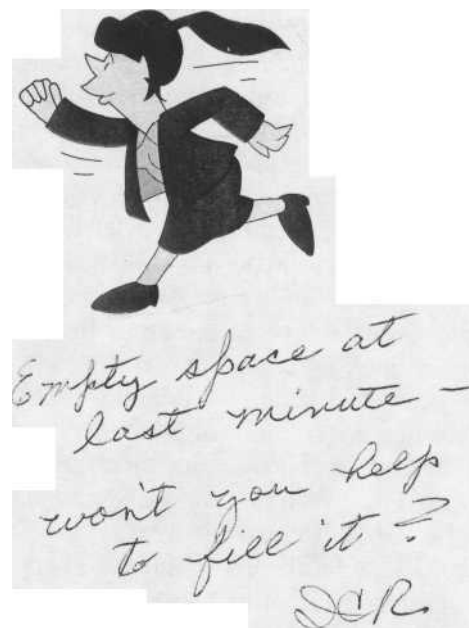
In a month or two every issue of *Corson Cousins* will have been indexed, allowing more meaningful research; but wouldn't it be great if we could also publish a complete surname index for every issue of "Courson Cousins" (edited independently by Margaret Gardner, 1980-84)? We've got an index now for the lineage table in Volume 1 of Orville Corson's book; but we still need more volunteers to help us update his *Three Hundred Years with the Corson Families in America*. Jeff Owens created a fine listing of "Corson" military service (on our Website); but when will someone collect "Colson" data he can post? There's even a *Corson Census Compendium* now (yet to be published); here again, wouldn't it be great if someone would organize an effort to do as much for the Colsons?

Last October we invited readers to recommend significant foreign language documents for translation. Except for French-language books Bill DeCoursey (M-010) has located at the Minnesota Historical Society Library (but hasn't checked yet), no one has seized the opportunity. From time to time people express interest in doing more with wills, obituaries, Bibles, pictures, land records and so on, but organized efforts on any of them await sufficient interest for someone to volunteer. Has census information been collected for all relevant graveyards in the Gravesend, Cape May, and Hunterdon County areas? Are we alert to current findings of potentially relevant sister groups such as the Huguenot Historical Society?

Plenty of opportunities remain for directed research projects. Great things can happen if they interest you and (or even *because*) they help other researchers, too. You are invited to initiate or get involved in efforts of your choice. Contact us if you need help to get started.

Dutch Translation

Information shared recently in a message on the Internet includes reference to a Corson or Courson family. It would be good to review the information, but the message was written in Dutch and so far it hasn't been translated. If you have the capability, please contact Jeff Owens.



Not Just Graveyard Humor

Digger O'Dell, the friendly undertaker, claimed he was "the last man to let you down." Those of us who listened to "The Great Gildersleeve" radio show remember Digger's weekly dose of graveyard humor. From the macabre spoofs of "The Adams Family" to the current HBO "Six Feet Under" soap opera set in a funeral home, many enjoy humor on the dark side.

Folks who collect family history data have on occasion been known to spend a lot of time in graveyards. Some people read tombstones. Some research burial records. Others make tombstone rubbings. A few cemeteries offer outstanding art. Cemeteries are the final resting-places of loved ones, but they are also important storehouses for data about the people buried there.

For that reason there is a nation-wide "tombstone transcription project", organized somewhat loosely through USGenWeb on the Internet. As information is collected, it is being shared, usually in two major parts: 1) cemetery registry - lists of cemeteries (and their locations) in each county; 2) complete "census" of those buried in each cemetery (often with dates from transcriptions of tombstone inscriptions or administrative records). For anyone intent upon locating an obscure burial, the census information is obviously a huge help.

Here is one of many ways you can express your thanks for the contributions others have made to your pursuit of family history - "giving back" through participation.

What you can do.

If you are able to access the Internet, you will find the Tombstone Transcription Project at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~cemetery/> You can help without becoming a regular volunteer, although volunteers are needed (information is available through the same site):

- Check the registries for cemeteries of interest to you. If a cemetery you can identify is missing from its county listing, contact the volunteer for that county.
- Check the cemetery census data listed for cemeteries of interest to you. Make sure the entries are complete and accurate for all the people there who are in your records, and let the volunteers for those counties know if changes are needed.
- Offer to help create a cemetery census, if one is missing.
- Make sure you include relevant interment information in your 300+ Project submittals.

Let us know of any "Corson/Colson" family graveyards and other cemeteries with large concentrations of "Corson/Colson" burials. Perhaps someone will volunteer to keep track of them.

THE ELECTRONICS GENEALOGIST

by Jeff Owens (CCFHA M-260)

Serendipity Goosebumps

I got them recently.

As a result of some Internet searching one morning for some collateral Hampton and Duval, etc., as a result of something a very helpful Internet collaborator sent me, I was checking entries on Gendex.

On a particular site, I found an Amma (sic) Mae Barber m. R. Lee Sailor. Don't even know how I found my way to that entry, must have been in someone's site index. Recorded it on one of my 3x5 cards for my 'BARBER unattached' collection [only surname I do this for].

Just minutes later, checking another site, I found the 'bingo' connection:

Anna Mae Barber m. Robert Lee Sailor, they are shown in 1900, 1910, 1920 census (per one tree); he a farmer res. Old Man's Twp., Salem Co., NJ; her parents John M. Barber and Hannah P. Layton.

Why such a rush you say? I first got into the genealogy thing in 1970 if I remember right (maybe earlier). At the time anyway, my paternal grandmother was living with us. She was fading some (this before the trendy Alzheimer's). My 1st cousin, living in California, got into genealogy and asked could I ask her everything I could. I think it was right after my discharge from the Navy and I had some time on my hands, so I dug out all her stuff, including tons of pics and started through them. Day after day, sorting, questioning, making notes, labeling pics, and then again trying to stimulate her memory, bringing back some things again and again at different times, trying to make sure she had it right. Among this stuff were a number of things referring to Anna "Annie" Sailor - funeral cards, notes, etc. I never was able to get an answer from my gm who she was, and nothing really made sense in the myriad of things which put her in place.

After our sometimes all day sessions, I would go to my desk in my room across the hall and muse over the stuff into the wee hours. Staring at pics yet unidentified, and trying to place the face and time to be able to give clues to her to spark the memory. The Annie Sailor stuff was eerie; I kept going back to it; never being able to fit it in, yet it seemed to beg for connection.

I never was able to place her. My grandmother passed away in June 1971. At some time before, I had mailed the majority of the stuff in large envelopes and boxes, a bit at a time to my cousin, who was assuming the role of 'family historian'.

Genealogical tragedy to follow later. — My cousin worked with the material and using the old, hand-done group sheets had put together quite a good synopsis of the Barber's. He had hired a couple researchers who did work in Salem, Gloucester, & NJ Hist. Soc. & wherever else. After begging for five years or so for copies of his work, one day I got his secretary on to it, and she managed to get him to bring it to work, and she copied certain sheets according to what my cousin determined would be my 'direct' lines. Never mind that I had fed him so much data it was unreal, but most of the collateral lines were not included in what I received. My grandmother was a "saver" she had so many newspaper clippings, funeral cards, letters, and etc. you would not believe. She kept everything. Moving her out of the house she had lived in since 1937 before moving in with us was monumental, and another long story.

And now the tragedy. ~ All the material that I sent to my cousin, nearly 90% of my gm's collection, was lost, along with the originals of my cousin's organized recordings. Through a personal setback, he had all his possessions stored in one of those rental storage units. Financially broke, and not fully communicating

the situation to relatives, the possessions were seized for delinquent rent, and most likely what wasn't sold at auction was trashed.

The let down of such an event has long since past. I plug away at the Barber's as time allows. Long stretches go by without placing any of the many 'unattached'.

As I found that definitive data, I got one of those good feelings I read about so much. Annie Sailor, my first cousin twice removed, now has her correct placement.

EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGES

NOT RECEIVING ANY MESSAGES FROM THE CORSON MAILING LIST LATELY? * *

Just as it is important to notify our friends, relatives and other correspondents if moving our residence to a new address, it is also important to attend to the same process with our email correspondents when our email address changes. For some it is a forgotten task because it all happens in the background when a new email address is not the result of changing our surroundings to a new home.

It is frustrating to find a possible genealogical contact during a web search and then find out that the email address is no longer active. This might be due to factors that prevent that person from using email anymore, but too many times it is because that person neglected to update their information.

There are many places where you might have posted information and forgotten about the location, or in many cases there is no provision to change your data. Rootsweb, however, has provided a fairly comprehensive way to change your email address on its many forums.

<http://helpdesk.rootsweb.com/addresses/>

If you can't remember all the RootsWeb sources to which you subscribe, then visit

Password Central: <http://passwordcentral.rootsweb.com>

For someone not a member of CCFHA following the procedures on the above pages will take care of RootsWeb situations. On many of the other genealogical lists and sites you should check their homepages for possibilities and instructions.

However, if you are a CCFHA member you also need to notify our secretary, Iverne Rinehart <grandmar21@excite.com>, or myself, Jeff Owens <owensj@epix.net>, or one of our officers to be sure that any email notices will reach you. Important notices are always included in our newsletter, but using email affords us a more timely method should we wish to pass along something quickly. The CORSON-L discussion list is sometimes used for this purpose, so it is recommended that you give some attention to insuring that your address is corrected as soon as possible.

MAYBE YOU'VE BEEN AUTOMATICALLY UNSUBSCRIBED.

RootsWeb lists are set up to automatically remove your name from the subscriber list if your message is undeliverable after a few tries. This prevents a lot of unnecessary traffic that is generated as the Internet functions continue to try to deliver the message. When the message is not received by your ISP a return message is sent to the sending server. As the list admin, I receive these bounce notices. In the case of CORSON-L this is set to three unsuccessful tries and then you are removed from the mailing list. You will not receive any further postings until you resubscribe.

Automatic unsubscribing can take place for many reasons beside the case of an email address no longer being used by an individual. Your ISP may cease operations, or in some cases change their internet address slightly which is enough to stop reception. Your ISP might be temporarily off-line which might be long enough for three bounced messages to occur. You might go on vacation, or not check your mailbox for a

long enough period for it to become full and reject additional messages. This might happen with some lists, but not others. If there is no traffic your address will remain subscribed until the bounces for that list reach the limit.

It seems that in the last few months there might have been a number of CORSON-L subscribers who slipped away from the list because of automatic unsubscribing functions. For non-members, I have no way to reconnect with them. There is no list of them maintained except by the Rootsweb server functions. Additionally, in most cases, because they are bouncing there is no way to contact them again to invite them back. For those CCFHA members who might be missing our list communications we hope you'll check to see what happened.

If you feel that you are not receiving email that you should be, then you should check to see if you are subscribed. Contact the particular list admin for that list, or check the Rootsweb features above, or try making a post of some useful information to that list and see if you get a copy in return. Don't post a 'test' message. This just wastes time and resources, and is annoying for many subscribers.

Subscribing can be done automatically by sending a message to <CORSON-L-request@rootsweb.com> with only the word subscribe in the body of the message; a subject line is not required. If you are already subscribed, you will receive a notice to that effect.

**Check with Jeff Owens<owensj@epix.net> if you have any doubt about whether you're currently on the CORSON-L subscriber list, or with any internet problems or questions you might have.

Handling E-Mail Address Changes on other Rootsweb lists

<http://helpdesk.rootsweb.com/addresses/>

Can't remember all the RootsWeb sources to which you subscribe? Visit Password Central:

<http://passwordcentral.rootsweb.com>

It is not possible to unsubscribe from a different address than the one you originally used to subscribe. In certain situations it is desired to receive list email at a different address even though the original one is still active. Unsubscribing must be done while using the original address. If you discontinue an address, subscription will automatically be cancelled to the old address after a few bounced messages. You will only need to resubscribe using your new address.

COMPUTER POETRY

Remember when:
An application was for employment
A program was a TV show
A cursor used profanity
And a keyboard was on a piano.

Memory was what you lost with age
A CD was a bank account
And if you had a corrupted disk
It hurt when you found out.

Log on was adding wood to a fire
A hard drive was a trip on the road
A mouse pad was where a mouse lived
And a backup happened to a commode.

Cutting you did with a pocket knife
Pasting you did with glue
The Web was where a spider lived
And a virus was the flu!

Quoted in "The Cedar Digest" here at
Cedarfield. ICR

Sussex County NJ Corson Families

CCFHA Division II

*Edited by Gale Corson (M-139)
434 Nikki Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95401
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News items, articles,
and other contributions to this page are invited

Each of us benefits from the shared activities of the CCFHA, but it's nice to have something special for ourselves once in a while. It's been a while, so here is a page especially for Division II. I'll swing the champagne bottle, but it's up to you to keep it going: Those who want something like this page, or data in the 300+ Project, had best stand up and be counted. Volunteer as writer/editor for this page; or as data compiler for the Project if that suits you better.

Sussex County Roots

When Orville Corson wrote *Three Hundred Years with the Corson Families in America* he put the Sussex County Corsons in a prominent place near the front of Volume 1. One chapter later it's all over. The information is important but it isn't enough. Several CCFHA members have added to our knowledge since then, but too many branches are still missing. It's a challenge waiting for your attention. Let me see if I can help a little.

While working on the "Sagebrush Artist" article in this issue it was found that the parents of Augusta (Corson) Metcalfe had come from Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, right where there had been a concentration of folks from the Sussex County group. In fact, the 1850 census shows 15 Corson [Courson/Coursen] households in the county, 10 of them in Shrewsbury Township in a remarkable cluster that confirms just what Orville described on pages 14-16 of his book. Most were gone by 1860. We've identified Augusta's lineage, but the links are pretty thin; further documentation is still needed.

The family history research we did for the article about Augusta quickly filled in some of the missing data points, even though our research was necessarily quite limited. If our modest effort was rewarded, how much more would serious research achieve?

There's the challenge, if someone will run with it. Meanwhile, you may be interested to see what has been found already - as long as you realize there will be a second installment. So let's go back to page 14 of Orville's book and begin with the family of Peter Corsen, son of Johannes Corsen and Geertruyde Van Tuyle. That choice skips other important branches, at least until later, but that's part of the challenge.

Peter Corsen

Peter Corsen, the son of Johannes Corsen and Geertruyde Van Tuyle, was born and raised in New Jersey. There he married Hannah Dutter and began a family with nine children. About 1785 the family relocated to what was then Northumberland County, Pennsylvania. Lycoming County, a little to the north and east of the center of the state, was carved out of Northumberland in 1795. In 1798 Peter bought land there in Shrewsbury Township and settled down to a life of farming.

When the US census of 1840 was taken, Peter had already gone to his reward, but his five sons had established households of their own and were recorded in the census. The census of 1840 was the last to rely on naming only the "head of household". We would be left wondering what the other names were, except that Orville recorded many of them for us. On the other hand, Orville didn't give us many dates but we can approximate them from 1840 census data and other sources. Census data from 1850 on offer both names and dates.

Peter's Children (numbered in Orville's order)

1. Abraham Corson (c. 1779 - 2 Jul 1851)
2. Jacob Corson (Mar 1783 - 23 Dec 1842)
3. Isaac Corson (c. 1781; died between 1840/1850)
4. John Corson (c.1788-)
5. Elizabeth Corson (c.1777 - 1835)
6. Jane Corson (c.1789[5] - 1854)
7. Ann Corson (c.1791 -)
8. Mary Corson (c.1793-)
9. Peter Corson (c.1795; died between 1840/1850)

Moving ahead

Some of the foregoing has been repeated from *Corson Cousins*, Oct '88, Apr '89, and other issues. There will be more details next time. Those who have further additions for the early years of this line are invited to contact me, as are those willing to dig a little deeper. For example, who will look at Edward G. Corson's Civil War record? It probably includes his parents' names and more about his ties in Lycoming County.



Sagebrush Artist Saved Oklahoma for Us

Augusta (Corson) Metcalfe earned "The Sagebrush Artist" title when *Life* magazine used the words in a 1950s article featuring her. Since then her life and accomplishments have been recorded and recognized in the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame, the Oklahoma's Hall of Fame, at least four books, and "her own" museum in Durham, Oklahoma.

Augusta Isabella CORSON was born in 1881 to Mary Ann (DAVIDSON) and Edward G. CORSON. Her father's family can be traced to the Sussex County (New Jersey) Corsons (see box).

Edward G. CORSON, born September 1838, married Mary Ann DAVIDSON on 10 Nov 1861. She was born in PA in July 1838 to parents from Scotland. Only shortly before, Edward had served during the Civil War as a private in Company G, 11th Regiment of Pennsylvania; he was discharged July 31, 1861 due to illness; his veteran's file should make interesting reading if someone cares to search further. The new couple had three children while living in Pennsylvania and later added two more (see box). They moved to Illinois in 1870 and later to Kansas. The 1880 KS census shows the family in Marshall County, where Edward worked a farm. The entry for Edward is "E. G. Corson"; Mary Ann may have reported her given name as "M.", but it was recorded as "Emily". There are similar variances in the children's names.

Augusta CORSON was born 10 Nov 1881 in Vermillion (Marshall Co) Kansas. The family moved in 1884 to Ford Co, KS and then to the Neutral Strip, Indian Territory in 1886. At five years of age, Augusta had become an Oklahoman, and would hold true to that heritage the rest of her life.

Early Oklahoma

The Neutral Strip was the neck of land we now call the Oklahoma panhandle. It had been granted by treaty to the Cherokee Nation as a hunting ground and perpetual outlet to the west. Indian Territory was destined to become the State of Oklahoma in 1907. But in 1886 it was the residue of a failed policy dating at least as far back as 1828. People from many Indian nations across the eastern and central parts of the country had been dispossessed from their ancestral homes and forced into large enclaves, guaranteed to them "forever". "Forever" lasted several decades, until divided Civil War loyalties among the Indians and other excuses led to further restrictions in Indian land holdings, thus rewarding the desires of White settlers for more land. In 1886 the Neutral Strip was a no-man's land of wild, open space with few people other

The Ancestry of Edward G. Corson

The record of the Sussex County (New Jersey) Corsons appears in Volume 1 of *Three Hundred Years with the Corson Families* by Orville Corson, 1939. Orville's record starts with Jan CORSZEN from Recife, Brazil, who married Metje THEUNIS in New Amsterdam in 1673. From there, Edward's descent was through Jacobus [James] CORSEN, Johannes CORSEN, and Peter CORSEN (c.1749-1828), who married Hannah DUTTER about 1777. Peter and Hannah moved to Pennsylvania and had nine children including son Peter CORSON, who married Margaret McCARTY. See the April 1989 issue of *Corson Cousins* for a more comprehensive lineage of this part of the family, and the October 1988 issue for a further query.

Peter and Margaret in turn raised a family that included Edward, apparently the Edward G.[George?] CORSON of this story. The 1850 PA census shows Edward COURSEN, age 12, living with several siblings including Martha, in Shrewsbury Township, Lycoming County, PA. The 1860 PA census shows Edward CORSON, maybe the same one, in Shrewsbury Twp working on the farm of George and Martha Van BUSKIRK; the ages of Edward and Martha are about right for them to have been the siblings of 1850, and we know the two families intermarried several generations earlier; but the thread is minimal. Orville's history ends far too soon and doesn't include many important events and people, which is good reason for supporting the 300+ Project.

Readers are invited to check out the Division II page in this newsletter and to submit further documents to resolve the questions.

22-2-18

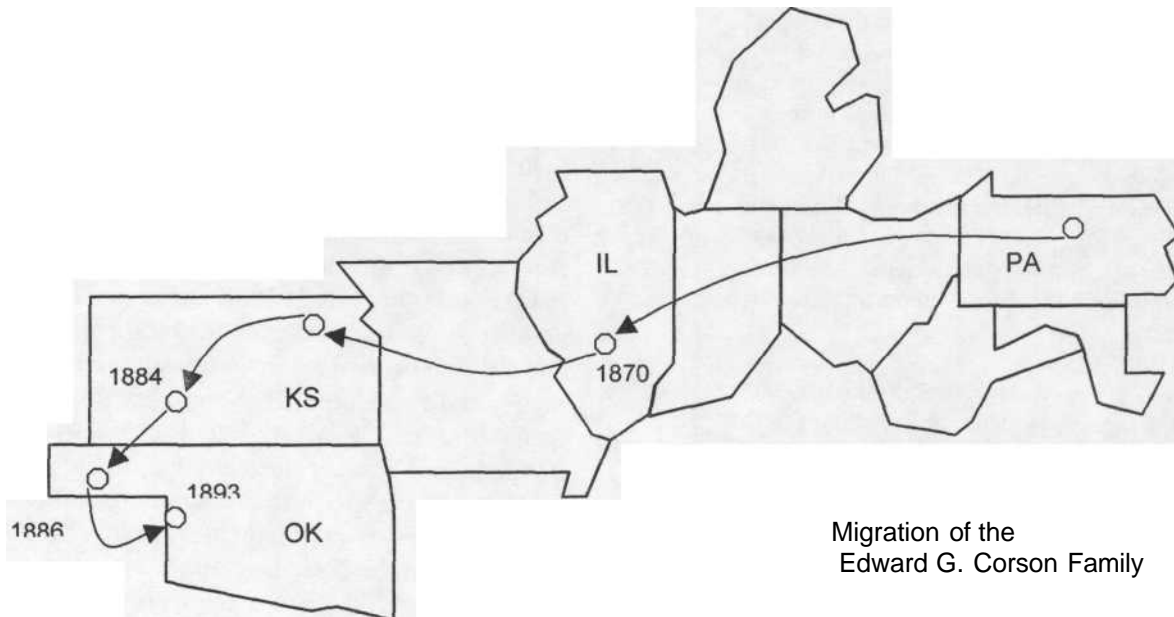
than cattlemen and those attracted by the coming of the railroad. It was part of what Augusta would remember and picture in her art.

Looming large in the colorful history of Oklahoma are the "land runs" that occurred when areas within the state were opened for White land claims and settlement. Settlers dashed across the boarder at the crack of a starter's gun, racing by foot, horseback, and buggy to be the first to claim choice plots of land. The dangers of that day and the hardships that followed are still commemorated each year in Oklahoma. To be more precise, though, there were five separate "land runs" between 1889 and 1895 in different parts of Oklahoma, as additional Indian tribes were forced to sell out. The largest run was held September 16, 1893. We are told that 100,000 people vied that day to get the best of 6,000,000 acres in the Cherokee Outlet. "By the end of the day, farms were being established, and the cities of Enid, Perry, Alva, and Woodward had risen out of what had been virgin prairie the day before." It is no coincidence that the Edward G. Corson family moved once again that September, to what was then called Day County and now Roger Mills County, Oklahoma. There they took up a homestead farm of 640 acres. It was to be their last move (see map).

The "instant cities" of Oklahoma were little more than flimsy towns of tents and lean-tos, as people scrambled to get established. When improved housing came it was often a one-room board shanty with dirt floors. Pioneer life was never easy for the men or the women, but ragamuffin children often gloried in the open space and the excitement of discovery. What was tiring and dirty then has even become romantic, through the memories, stories, art, and artifacts of those, like Augusta, who lived through

Children of Mary Ann (DAVIDSON) and Edward G. CORSON

1. Ellis [Edward] Howard CORSON,
born Sept 16, 1862 [1863] in PA,
died Sept 20 [21], 1894
no children
2. Mary [Emily] Jeanette [Jean/Jane] CORSON,
born July 24, 1866 [1867] in PA,
died summer 1943
married Elmer BUMPS 1888; 4 children
3. John Edward CORSON,
born Jan. 19 1870 [or 1866] in PA
married (1) Rebecca FRY, Oct. 4, 1894;
she died prior to 1900.
one child, George D. CORSON
(1896-C.1908)
married (2) Lizzie WHITE
"some years later"
4. Augusta I. CORSON,
born Nov 10, 1881,
Vermillion (Marshall Co) KS, .
died May 1971, Sayre, OK.
married "Jim" METCALF, Nov 12, 1905;
divorced
one child,
Howard Drummond METCALF,
born August 21, 1906
died 1999



Migration of the
Edward G. Corson Family

it. It is this rural history that is preserved and displayed for the public in the Break O' Day Farm and Metcalfe Museum near Durham, Oklahoma - once the home of the Edward G. Corson family.

Augusta's life and art

Almost suddenly, Augusta became the family's center of attention. Her sister married in 1888. Her elder brother died in 1894. Soon her other brother, John Edward - 11 years her elder - drifted back to Kansas, married, and had a son named George. But his mother died, and baby George came to live with his grandparents and teenage Aunt Augusta. Now there was a new center of attention. When his father remarried about 1905, however, George left to live with his father and new mother. "This caused much distress within the [Edward Corson] home and they grieved his departure. He didn't want to leave either, but his daddy took him anyway." Little George died at the age of 12 .

Augusta, we are told, "began drawing at a young age after her mother supplied her with pen and paper." She "learned all about living on the rugged frontier of the upper Washita Valley. She rode horse, roped and branded calves, and still performed household chores. At the end of a long day she drew pictures of the day's activities. She would sketch anything and everything that she saw. She sketched horses, dogs, calves being born, and cattle being rounded up."¹ She depicted her life on the farm through her paintings and drawings.

Augusta's father died on February 4 of 1903, leaving his widow and Augusta to care for the homestead farm. Now Augusta had less time than ever for her art, but she kept it alive through sketches and pictures on letters and envelopes, eagerly awaited by those who received them. One of her favorite practices was to add rebus (picture puzzle) notes. On November 12, 1905, Augusta married "Jim" METCALFE, and nine months later on August 21, 1906 they had a son, [Joseph] Howard Drummond METCALFE. Two years later Jim separated and left, leaving his wife with the added demands of caring for an infant son.

Now, more than ever, Augusta was forced to be active in operating the family farm. She became an accomplished horse trainer and cattle breeder. But Augusta also found that she could supplement the farm income by selling her paintings. "Soon Augusta's paintings began being noticed. Her artworks were the subject of several articles in magazines including the *Farmer's Stockman*, *Oklahoma Today* and *Life*."² She



received local and national recognition that led to her art being sought out and collected. Perhaps the best collection, however, is in the gallery and visitors' center at the museum in Durham.

"Augusta Metcalfe's desire to visually portray her world set her apart. It made her remarkable for her ability to see her surroundings differently than others around her. Metcalfe can be an inspirational figure for those artists with little or no formal training."³

A traveling exhibit several years ago provided an added opportunity to appreciate Augusta Metcalfe's art. The works exhibited were created from 1898 to 1966. Most were oils on Masonite or plywood with a few watercolors on paper. It was said, "She favors cool colors and broad vistas with an intimate feel and tiny brushstrokes. Most are representational; some hint at stylization. She's a better hand at detailing animals and nature than the human form. In the images of routine work there are nice details like the hook and chain braking system on the buggy of a female mail carrier kicking up dust as the wheels stop, the faraway calves coming through the snow to the hay wagon, the simple 'formality' of 'Sandhill Wedding'."⁴

Augusta's mother died February 22, 1920. Howard had grown into a young teenager and he accepted further responsibilities for the farm, which continued to expand with the years. Augusta died in May of 1971 in Sayre, Oklahoma, 90 years old, leaving the farm to her son Howard. When Howard died in 1999 the land and most of his estate were set aside to establish a museum. It seemed a natural thing to do. For years, Howard had been inviting visitors to view his mother's paintings and his collection of mementos, and found there was a lot of public interest. For years he had wanted to build a gallery to

¹ "Through the eyes of a Pioneer: The Art of Augusta Metcalfe": leaflet quoting Joni L. Kinsey, Art Historian

² *Ibid*

³ *Ibid*

⁴ News release reproduced at http://www.news-star.com/stories/070598/art_art.html

exhibit his mother's art collection and display his collection of artifacts, and moreover to preserve the land as a wildlife sanctuary.

Period museum and art gallery

The museum therefore offers visitors the opportunity to visit a centennial farm with a complex of buildings housing countless memorabilia depicting life from frontier times through the Dust bowl era. Within the family home is an art gallery containing Augusta's paintings and other artwork, antique furniture, spinning wheel, and artifacts collected over the years by the Metcalfe family. A guesthouse nearby contains antiques. A tool shed houses farm and antique tools collected by Howard. The Blue Goose Saloon has been moved here from the former town of Hamburg, nearby. Another building is set up to depict a general store as it would have appeared during pioneer days. The museum is an educational and enjoyable place to visit. It serves to record, depict, and treasure the settlement period of Western Oklahoma as shown by Augusta and Howard Metcalfe.⁵



Information for this report came from CCFHA members Jeff Owens, Gale Corson, and Bill DeCoursey. Jeff received a routine notice of an Internet posting with the Corson name, and when it turned out to be an announcement about the museum that houses much of the Augusta Metcalfe art collection, he shared the notice with others on the CORSON-L mailing List. Gale obtained information through contacts with the museum and from census, library, and Internet searches, and posted the added information on the List. Then Bill identified Augusta's father as a member of the Sussex County (NJ) Corsons. Their cooperative efforts made this report possible, and their results have been shared with the museum and museum's visitors as well. It's a good example of using electronic communications and of the benefits of working together.

Arrivals and Departures

Lena Ann Corson, born February 10, 1924, passed on March 24, 2002 at the age of 78. She was born one of seven children in the northwest corner of Kansas to Ernest Seal and his wife Jerusha. During World War II, while working in Long Beach, she met a swaggering sailor, Carl Corson. Carl and Lena were married on February 28, 1946. They settled first in Iowa and later in Kansas. They had two children, Carla Ann Corson (Eastland) and Norman Earl Corson. In 1957 they relocated to Southern California until Carl's retirement in 1984, and then moved again to Santa Rosa, CA to be near their son. In 1986 Lena went to work as an office receptionist and supply clerk, retiring in 1998. She is survived by her husband Carl; her children Carla and Norman; one sister, Viola (Maxine); four grandchildren, Danny Eastland, Ernest Eastland, Laura Penman (Eastland), and Nicole Corson; two grandchildren by marriage, Jennifer Jarrett and Jessica Matthews; three great grandchildren, Misty, Steve and Cianna; a loving daughter-in-law, Ruth Corson; and hundreds of lives that she touched and contributed to. Interment will be at Santa Rosa Memorial Park.

Abstract: the "Press Democrat" Santa Rosa, CA, March 26, 2002

Francis Willard Corson, Jr., 81, of (M-61) Richmond, widower of Helen E. Corson, died Friday, March 15, 2002. He is survived by a special friend, Jeanette Bowles; a daughter, Betty Corson McLane; three sons, Leonard L. Clarke, Francis Willard (Billy) Corson III, and Ken Corson; a sister, Iverne Corson Rinehart; 17 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Mr. Corson was preceded in death by a son, Thomas Wayne Corson. He was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints and a Navy Veteran of WWII. ... Funeral services were held Monday, March 18, 2002 at the Parham Chapel, Woody Funeral Home. Interment was at Greenwood Memorial Gardens.

[I took the liberty of altering the wording just a bit, since this is obviously after the fact. With the death of our sister Evelyn (S-57) Corson Ligon last year, this leaves me the last in our immediate family. I.C.R.]

⁵ Email announcement, Metcalfe Museum, Mar 2002

Names in the News

Colson Whitehead won the New York Public Library's Young Lions Fiction Award for 2001, reserved for American novelists age 35 or younger. Whitehead has written *The Intuitionist* and *John Henry Days*.

The reason for the "Colson" part of his name was not reported by public media, but interested readers may wish to search for it.

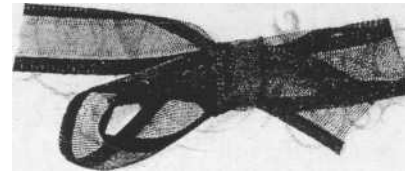
Mij Colson-Barnum - greeting card designer

Corsondonk Beer, pale or dark. We're not selling it, but we thought you would like to know.



ICR

On a cheerier note, here is a copy of the lovely announcement that I received last month:



*It is with joy that we,
 Rebecca Lynn Williams
 and
 Charles M. Clark III
 invite you to share
 in a celebration of love
 as we exchange marriage vows
 on Saturday, the ninth of March
 two thousand two
 at eleven o'clock in the morning
 The Maitland Art Center
 231 West Lackwood Avenue
 Maitland, Florida
 Reception following ceremony*

I was fortunate to be able to attend — it was a beautiful outdoor wedding. The bride, now my new granddaughter-in-law, is lovely. I traveled with my son, (S-06) Hal Costley, his wife Doris, and their son Justin - this old "Grandma" kept up with them later at Epcot Center and Kennedy Space Center.

Miscellaneous Corson Families

CCFHA Division X

*Edited by Gale Corson (M-139)
434 Nikki Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95401
galechap@aol.com*

News items, articles,
and other contributions to this page are invited

Among the millions of people who immigrated to the United States during the nineteenth century were many who used the surname "Corson" (and variations like Coursen, Coarson, and Korsen). A substantial number came from Canada.

Two years ago in these pages, Corson Ellis shared a story about his Corson family's move from the United States to Canada following the Revolutionary War - because as Loyalists they were accepted in Britain's Canadian colonies but they were no longer welcome in the new USA.

The US/Canadian border has always been fairly easy to cross both ways, and friendly to people who share similar cultural backgrounds. It's not surprising that we find Corsons among those who have moved to the United States for economic opportunity, proximity to family, or other reasons.

Records of relocation will usually not be found at the border crossings or in immigration files. US Census records are a good place to look, however, and it is helpful to share some of that information.

Census Records

"Corsons" from Canada appear first in the US census of 1850: John W. Corsen and Alice Courson were both living in New York but born in Canada. John was a 35 year old medical doctor living alone as a boarder in New York City. Alice was a 44 year old woman living in Hopkinton, St. Lawrence county; she was there with two boys, Prosper, age 15, and Osmar, age 13, both born in New Jersey.

Ten years later, the 1860 census records showing former Canadians are similar in scope. Both Mary A. Curson, age 25, (a fur liner by occupation), and Jane Cursan, age 30, were living that year in Dorchester, Norfolk county, MA.

The 1870 census shows 21 people born in Canada, scattered into CA, IL, MA, ME, MI, NH, NJ, NY, OH, VT, WI, and WV. We aren't told where in Canada they came from, except one from New Brunswick: In 1870, Mary Corson was in Robbinston, Washington county, ME, with her husband, Isaac, and seven children. Isaac was also born in Canada, but the children were all born in Maine. The eldest child, Ophilia, was 17 years old when the census was taken, so the family must have moved to Maine by 1853.

Tracing Families

It would be helpful if we could trace everyone from one census to the next. However, those Corsons in 1850 don't show up in the 1860 records; and as far as we know, those in 1860 don't show up in 1870. Of course, the women could have married and changed their names, but you will need to help us with further research to find that out. The difficulty in tracing people from one census to another is fairly common - it has nothing to do with Canada. In addition to changing names, people often move and eventually die. Another big problem is that the Census Bureau has never been able to get a 100% complete census report. In addition, there's nothing to guarantee that all the names in the census got into the indexes.

The good news is that our friend John W. Corson from the 1850 census reappeared in 1870. We find him there at age 53 and still a physician, living in East Orange, Essex county, NJ, this time with a companion, Susan M Corson. Similarly, Osmar Corson from the 1850 census reappears in the 1880 enumeration, this time as Osmore Corson, age 44, married with four children, still living in Lawrence County. The way names were spelled was at the mercy of the census taker and also what was reported to him, and therefore could differ from one census to the next; the same is true of the year when people were born.

The 1880 census recorded 30 Corsons born in Canada and 35 more who were born in the US but had one or more parents of Canadian birth. Two of those from Canada were from New Brunswick, including Charles Corson of Minneapolis MN - although both of his parents were born in Maine. The 1880 US census helps by showing where the parents were born, so even without researching Canadian records (which is more difficult) we can gain some insight into how people got to Canada in the first place. Most Canadians had Canadian parents, as one would expect, but the records for others show England, Ireland, Scotland, and Russia; and two mothers moved from Vermont to live in Canada.

Could any of these be your family? Let me know. In the months ahead we will be discussing Corson families who came to America from still other places. Perhaps your ancestors were among them.

Queries

Isn't it great to have a query answered even before it's published? This happened to us - Gale asked me to inquire if someone could index the families living in Shrewsbury Township of Lycoming County - missing on the roll of 1860 census he was using - then he followed up with the following message:

Fortunately, one of the USGenWeb census projects has recently indexed all of Lycoming Co. PA 1860. The "missing" pages have at last been indexed. You can find the index on the Internet at <http://ftp.us-census.Org/pub/usgenweb/census/pa/lycoming/1860/shrewsbury.txt>

Thanks so much, Gale -I know we have participants from the Lycoming area who will find this is welcome news!

I have a couple old quotes that I didn't get to put into previous issues - don't know if they are still searching:

Does anyone know of any Beastall or Stringfellows or Butlers born in the Sutton in Ashfield or whereabouts from 1925 on? I am the daughter of Joseph Stringfellow and Ada Beastall. I was born 1927 in Sutton in Ashfield Notts. My grandfather was Joseph Stringfellow, born Forestside 1857. Married Mary Ellen Butler. [She lists children, one of whom was Margeret 1886, married a Jim CORSON - believed they had a wallpaper shop. Her father Joseph was born 1885 and was brother to Margeret. These addresses may not look familiar to most of us - they are from New Zealand.] The inquirer is Crescent Rowland, nee Stringfellow. pattern@ihug.co.nz

Another was from janetb@bigfoot.com who asked for information about the book written by Percival Glenroy Ullman: "The Coursen (Corson) Family 1612 to 1917 with the Staten Island Branch." Her main interest seemed to be the Van Buskirk family.

Here are some Corsons I found in the greater Orlando telephone book. If you recognize any, please let us know in whose Division they might be

Groveland: Earl W. (225 Catherine Lane - 34736)

Clermont: Edgar and Patricia (17110 Magnolia Isl. Blvd. - 34711)

Sanford: Greg (2694 Cameron Ave. - 32773)
Waldo G. (2690 Cameron Ave.)

St. Cloud: Linwood (8990 Concord Road - 34773)
T. S. (618 Michigan Avenue - 34769)

Chuluota: Greg W., Jr. (1576 Lake Mills Rd. - 32766)

Orlando: Michael (3900 Kiawa Drive - 32837)
Stephanie A. (6380 Raleigh St. - 32835)
William (2918 Golden Rock Dr. - 32818)

The answer: The paragraph on page 5 is unusual because there is no "e," our most common vowel, in the entire paragraph. [This was done in our publication, The Cedar Digest, here at Cedarfield, where I live. ICR]

CCFHA Member's Individual Library Member #: _____ Email or Address: _____

1		Title/Name		Author		Publisher		Place of Publication	
Year of Publication		Standard Identifier (ref. #)		Division (circle one)		Physical description			
				I II III IV V VI VII VIII IX X XI					
Description:									
Notes:									

Category - Book, CD, Catalog, Periodical, Other
 Physical description: Ex. Genealogy: p. 155. Includes index

Description - Brief explanation of what is in this source
 Notes - Other information others should know

Mail to: Deborah A. Smith
 205 Cotton Street
 Wrens, GA 30833

CCFHA Master Reference Source List

In January of 1991, former CCFHA President Stan Colson invited members to let him know about reference books and materials, especially those they would be willing to share. Three months later, in April, he wrote, "The response from members has been extremely encouraging. ... Thanks to all who have shared their listings with us. Remember, by listing the book or periodical, you are not obligated to lend out the item, you only agree to answer research inquiries. It's a lot cheaper than trying to build up your own collection when other members already have the book/periodical in their possession."

Eventually the list grew to about 900 entries. It's one of the publications available for purchase from the CCFHA. It's also available to CCFHA members free of charge on the CCFHA Website, in the members-only section.

We want to keep building the "sources" list because it's a good bibliography for "Corson" and "Colson" researchers. Members who supplied the citations aren't showjany more because the original contacts are out of date, so a second goal is to make the list useable for "lookup" again.

Both goals depend on reader input. We hope you will want to help with one of the goals or both. Here's a form you can use, or just send the requested *(lengthen as needed)* information by mail or email. The form has also been posted on the CCFHA Website, if you care to print it for your convenience. We trust that a new list, with current lookup contacts, can be offered soon.

CCFHA Publications

1992 Newsletter Index

The surname index for *Corson Cousins* 1992 is now complete, thanks to the efforts of Frank Embon (M-334). The index includes four quarterly issues of *Corson Cousins* and four quarterly issues of *Colsons Corner* published that year. Copies of the index are available for purchase (see new prices in Publications price list at right). The index can also be accessed through the CCFHA Website, without charge. (Some earlier index postings to the Website were delayed, but that problem has been fixed.)

Only the 1993 newsletters remain to be indexed, and Frank is working on them. We expect to have the 1993 index available for you soon.

Ten-Year Indexes

Corson Cousins has been published for over twenty years, during which it has brought you important information about many people and many interesting families. Without an index, however, its value as a research tool has been limited. Until three years ago there was no index for any of the *Corson Cousins* or *Colsons Corner* newsletters. Since then we have been steadily responding to the need, indexing one year at a time.

Today, all the newsletters have been indexed by surname with the exception of 1993, and that year is in process.

Better yet, we have also combined the individual years into composite indexes covering ten years each. The surname index for 1981-1990 has already been printed and is available for purchase (see the publications list at right). The index for 1991-2000 will be printed soon; copies can be ordered now, if desired. The 1981-1990 index is 78 pages long. The 1991-2000 index will be a little longer; the exact page count will be determined later.

The composite indexes make research in old newsletters easier because a researcher can check ten years at a time without thumbing through ten different indexes. The composite indexes are also less expensive because they require less printing and less postage, and those savings are passed along to our members and friends. In fact, we may eventually discontinue sales of individual "year" indexes if the composite indexes are well accepted.



Publications of the CCFHA

The print publications listed below are available for purchase from the CCFHA at the prepaid prices shown (single copies, including S & H). Member and nonmember prices are noted, in that order.

Back issues of *Corson Cousins* and *Colson's Corner* newsletters, 1981 thru 2001, ea: \$3 \$4

Annual **indexes** for above newsletters (includes *Corson Cousins* and *Colson's Corner*), per year, ea: \$3 \$4

Ten-year composite **newsletter indexes** -
1981-1990 (78 pages) \$12 \$15
1991-2000, when issued, (approx 120 pp) \$18 \$22
Add \$3 for (soft) binding

CCFHA Master Reference Source List, 1996 (Bibliography), specify Alpha or Numeric (appx 20 pages), ea: \$4 \$5

Index of places and "Corson" names appearing in *The Corson Family* by Hiram Corson (appx 14 pages) \$3 \$4

Index (alpha) of the Division III lineage table from Vol 1 of *Three Hundred Years with the Corson Families in America* by Orville Corson (appx 50 pp) \$7 \$10

CORSON / COLSON FAMILY HISTORY ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS ORDER FORM

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