

Story of the Corddry Family

Compiled by Mary Cecile Corddry based on research by herself, her father George H. Corddry, Jr., her cousin Howard Corddry, Chuck Swift (husband of her cousin Cindy Swift), and Robert Cordray of Pittsburgh, PA (who corresponded extensively with George Corddry). The male ancestors of George H. Corddry, Jr. are underlined.

History and Variations of the Name “Cordry” and Coat-of-Arms

(Querderai – Cordray – Corderoy – Cordry – Cordrey – Corddry)

There are four groups of similar names, all apparently of French origin, possessed by families who may be unrelated except by the similarity of their surnames. Their shields are completely different.

1. Querderai - Querderay – Cordray (coeur de roi – heart of king)
Roger de Querderai (1200) is the earliest Querderai/Cordray recorded in England.
Crest: red heart wearing a gold crown. Arms: 2 gold stars, a gold chevron, and a gold lion, en passant, wearing a gold crown, all on a black shield.
2. Coudray – Coudrai - Cowdray – Cowdrey – Cowdry (coudraie – a wood, hazel hedge, grove of hazel trees)
Fulk/Falk de Coudray (died 1251) is the earliest Coudray/Cowdray recorded in England. This was a common surname in the Sussex area of England and may denote a man who lived near a hazel copse. This may have given the name of Cowdray to Easebourne or to Cowdry Farm in Birdham, England.
Arms: various numbers of gold billets, on shields of various colors—red, blue, or black.
3. Corderie – Cordrey (corderie – rope walk, meaning a place where rope is made)
John de la Corderie (1292) is the earliest Corderie/Cordrey.
Arms: 3 gold lions’ heads on a blue bend, dexter, on a gold shield.
4. Corduroi – Corduroy (corduroi – cloth of the king, for the cloth worn by French kings’ games keeps, etc.) (“Corde du roi” in French means the cord of the King.) (“Corduroy” fabric probably derives from “cord” and “duroy” which is a coarse fabric made in England.) No one from this line was found to have gone from France to England.

Howard Corddry discovered information about a family named “Coudray” who lived in the Loire Valley of France in the 11th century or earlier. There are no “Cordray” arms of record by any spelling in France or Ireland, just in England.

There are at least three histories of the family--Descendants of Virginia, Kentucky and Missouri Pioneers (1973) by Eugene Allen Corddry (who was killed by a burglar in Dallas in 1979); Nine Hundred Years of Cordrays by Paul Cordray of Ohio (1990); and another dated 1911 by Mary Mehling about the Cowdry. Also, there is a history of the Cowdrey family on file at the DAR library in Washington, D.C. The first and third authors give the origin of the name as “coudraie,” which is French for hazel-hedge. A different origin of the name may be “Querderai,” similar to the French for “coeur de roi” or heart of king.

There is an eight-page document of unknown origin, whose author had access to genealogical records in London. Howard Corddry believed that the author was Naomi Smith, born around 1885. She was a daughter of Margaret Cordry, a great-granddaughter of John Cordry (born 1760) of Frederick County, Virginia. John Cordry was part of the branch of the family, possibly linked to Anna Corderoy Bernard, which is discussed in Descendants of Virginia, Kentucky, and Missouri Pioneers.

In the Visitation of Hampshire in 1531, published by the Harleian Society in 1913, the name is spelled as “Cowdrey,” and in the Manuscript of the Visitation at the College of Arms, it is spelled as “Cowdrye.” The Visitation of Wiltshire, 1565 edited by Walter C. Metcalfe in 1897, spells the name of the family in Chute County of Wiltshire as “Cordray.” In the Visitation of Wiltshire - 1623 edited by George Marshall in 1882, the

name of the family in Chute, Wiltshire, England was spelled as “Cordray,” except in the first generation where it is spelled “Cordrey.” G.D. Squibb in 1954 for the Squibb Edition as of 1629 spelled it “Corderoy” throughout. In the official report of the Visitation of 1623, the spelling was Corderoy. Sir Walter Scott’s The Heart of Midlothian gives the name “Cordry” to a Scottish schoolmaster.

Robert Cordray of Pittsburgh did extensive genealogical research. He wrote George H. Corddry, Jr. 23 letters between June 19, 1980 and April 6, 1982, when he went silent. George Corddry died on November 6, 1982. Robert Cordray believed that the English families of Cordray, Corde/Corder/Corderie/Cordrey, and Cowdray in west Sussex (originally spelled Coudray) were not related. He said the Cordray-Cordrey’s (such as the 1275 Tom Le Cordrey, perhaps the brother of 1287 Richard Cordray) and the Corde-Corder-Corderie’s were two different, unrelated Cordrey’s in England.

The shields of the Cordray families are the same as the shields of the Cordray’s of Chute. Whereas, the shields of the Corde/Corder/Corderie/Cordrey (French for a rope-walk) families have three gold lion heads on a blue bend dexter on a gold field.

Robert Cordray traced a family line from a Roger de Querderai (French for “heart of king”), who was granted a charter in England around 1200. His possible grandson Richard changed the spelling to Cordray in 1287. Robert Cordray and George H. Corddry, Jr. are descended from Thomas III Cordray (1520-1582) of Chute, Wiltshire, England. William Cordray (1549-1623), a son of Thomas III and the ancestor of George H. Corddry, in his will made in 1621, changed the spelling of his name to Corderoy, the spelling used by his descendants who arrived in America around 1651. The progenitor of the Sussex County Delaware/Snow Hill Maryland line and a descendent of William Cordray/Corderoy, John (1662-1722) spelled his name Cordry and also Corderoy, Cordrey, Cowdry, Cowdrey, Cawdry, Cauthrey, and Coadry. Descendants branched off and adopted various spelling of their last name—Cordray, Cordry, Cordrey, Corddry, etc. Sometimes a person used various spellings, even in the same document. The Delaware Cordry’s evidently started spelling their surname “Cordrey” sometime after 1835. When William D. Corddry (1835-1911) moved to Snow Hill, Maryland around 1853 from the Laurel area of Sussex County, Delaware and started the Snow Hill line, he apparently spelled his name as Cordrey. He later changed the spelling to Corddry. It is said that he changed the spelling at the suggestion of his wife when he and his oldest son founded the W.D. Corddry & Son Company in 1883, because she felt that the altered spelling looked better in print.

Variations on a Theme:

Querderai	Coudray	Cordrai	Corduroi	Coadry	Cowdry	Corday
Querderay	Couderie	Cordrey	Corduroy	Caudry	Cowderoy	Cordai
Queorderey	Couderay	Corddray		Cawdry	Cowdrey	
Corderay	Coudrai	Cordray		Cawdry	Cowdray	
Corderie		Cordry			Cowdraye	
Corderoy		Corddry			Cowdery	
Corderey		Cordy				
Corderoy		le Cordray				
Cordary						
Cordaroy						

The English College of Arms was founded in 1484. Most, if not all, of the English families of stature had a coat-of-arms, which was on their shield. They might also have a crest. Because the spelling of the surname varied from generation to generation, only the coat-of-arms borne by a family could positively identify it. However, a specific shield belonged to one individual at a time, not to the entire family, in order to identify an individual in battle. As long as the father was alive, his son could not carry the same shield. The oldest

brother inherited his father's shield at the father's death and gave up his shield, but his brothers retained their shields. Members of the same family carried variations of the basic, original shield of their common ancestor. For example, a son might add a border (bordure) to the design of his father's shield. Prior to King Henry VIII's reign in England (1509-1547), only a nobleman with a rank of knight or higher could have a coat-of-arms. Since the Cordray shield probably antedates 1417, one or more of the ancestors of father and son Sir Thomas Cordray (1425-1521) and (1468-1511), "Knight of Wiltshire," had the rank of knight or higher. The Cordray shield is so old that there is no record of when it first appeared. There is no evidence that a Cordray, however, had a rank as high as a Duke, who is just below the King. The shields for Cordray, Coudray, and Cordrey are entirely different with different origins, so may be for three different families in England.

The Cordray/Corderoy Coat of Arms, depicting "A Crowned Lion En Passant," was presumed by The Royal College of Arms to ante-date 1417 and definitely ante-dates 1470 and Sir Thomas I Cordray of Chute (1468-1511). The Cordray arms are an example of "armes parlant." The crest of a red heart wearing a gold crown is consistent with the French translation of the origin of Cordray--"Querderai" or "heart of king." The type of crown in the Cordray shield and crest is termed a "ducal" crown according to English heraldry, but does not indicate rank. An original, undated family shield was gold on a black shield with no bordure. All of the charges on the shield—two stars, chevron, and lion—were originally gold. Some Cordray's of Chute had a silver lion rather than gold lion, one changed the lion's stars from gold to silver, one added a gold border (bordure), and another changed the border to silver. The changes followed the rules of heraldry for the era. Per the Visitation of Wiltshire dated 1623 and edited by George Marshall, William Cordray/Corderoy of Chute, Wiltshire (1549-1623) had a shield with a silver lion wearing a gold crown, a gold chevron, silver stars, and a silver "bordure." This pedigree in the Visitation of Wiltshire describes the family's coat of arms as: "Arms; Sable, a chevron OR between two mullets of the second in chief and a lion passant Argent ducally crowned of the second in base, within a bordure of the third." Although the two stars, chevron, and crowned lion on the Cordray's shields are just "charges" and have no meaning, the Cordray crest—a red heart wearing a gold crown—does have significance, especially considering the family's name—Querderai – heart of king.

Robert Cordray of Pittsburgh was of the opinion that shields had to be researched to learn the sequence of Cordray's (of whatever spelling) who bore what shield at what date, back to the earliest one. He had the impression that the Cordray shield and crest were borne by a Corderoy of an unknown date, and that a similar shield with a gold bordure added was borne by a Corderoy of an unknown date, perhaps by Thomas III Cordray of Chute's eldest son Edward (1545-1587). That shield, with the gold bordure changed to silver and the gold lion changed to silver but retaining its gold crown, was borne by Edward's brother William (1549-1623). One of his children then changed the gold stars to silver.

An early coat-of-arms was registered in the College of Heralds prior to 1500 for "Cowdray," blazoned simply as "Gules, billey gold." It was possibly related to Cowdray Park in Sussex. They are not believed to be related to us.

II. French Origin

According to Howard Corddry, the family is well documented as of French origin under the name of "Coudray," living in the Loire Valley in the 11th century or earlier. This family name is still represented by place names and by chateaux, at least seven of them scattered over a 40-mile radius centered about 10 miles southwest of Saumur, which is 80 miles due south of Alencon in Normandy. In the Loire Valley, there are castles dating from the 14th century called Le Coudray – Montbault and Le Coudray – Montpensier. There is also a Chateau le Coudray near Seuilly, four miles southwest of Chinon also in the Saumur region, consisting of apartment structures within the huge Castle of Chinon, an outstanding feature in the area. All that remains of this chateau are the outer wall at the west end, the Tour du Moulieu (late 12th century), the Tour de Coudray

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(early 13th century), and two less ancient towers. All but one of these chateaus are within 60 miles of Chinon. Chinon is about 150 miles south-southeast from St. Lo. Beaucoudray, near St. Lo in Normandy, was a fief of the Haye family (William de la Haye, 1st Lord Errol), who moved to Scotland about 1160.

Howard Corddry obtained a book The Norman People and Their Existing Descendants in the British Dominions and the United States of America, published by an anonymous genealogist in London in 1874. It lists about 7,500 English families of Norman origin. It states:

“Corderoy or Cordray - From Cordai or Corderay in the Cotentin Peninsula on the north coast of Normandy. William de Cordai occurs in Normandy 1105-1108; Peter de Codrai in England (13th Century). The family is frequently mentioned.” (The spellings Cordrey and Cordery are also listed as variants of Cordray.) This seems to establish a base for the Cordray family in Normandy as early as the early 12th century. The name can still be found there, as well as in neighboring Brittany.

“Cawdery or Coudray – a branch of the Beaumonts, Viscounts of Maine (see Anselme – article on Beaumont). Benedict de Coudray was a witness to a charter of Roger de Menilwarin to Deulacresse Abbey (Mon. ii). Fulco de C. held one fee from Abingdon Abbey (Testa) and Matthew de C. held one fee from Ralph de St. Amand (Testa).” Abingdon Abbey is 5 miles south of Oxford and about 40 miles from both Chute and Warwick, England.

The discovery from The Norman People that Coudray was a branch of the Beaumont family made it relatively easy to trace the migration of the Coudray family from the Loire Valley to Normandy. Both had their origins in the same Loire region. In the 11th century the Beaumont family was established in or adjacent to the Loire Valley and within 40 miles of Coudray territory. As the Beaumont family shifted from central France northward to the Seine and Paris and thence westward to Falaise (the stronghold of William the Conqueror, Duke of Normandy) in Normandy, the Coudray family apparently went also. Beaumont-sur-Oise is 19 miles northeast of Meulan and about that far from Paris, while Coudray St. Germer is 27 miles northwest of Beaumont-sur-Oise and 27 miles north of Meulan. The Beaumonts were a Norman and English family. Roger de Beaumont (1027-1094), a kinsman of the duke of Normandy, presumably established himself in Normandy before or soon after his marriage to Adeline, Countess of Meulan. He fought at the battle of Hastings in 1066. He was a second cousin of the father of William the Conqueror, and contributed 60 ships as well as their complement in fighting men for the expedition. He added large estates in Warwickshire to the Norman fiefs of Beaumont and Pont Audemer. He later served as Chief Counsellor to William, William Rufus, and Henry I as Kings of England.

Hugh Coudray (died 1251) was a Norman, origin not known, but presumably a Coudray of Normandy.

In Anselme’s Histoire Genealogique, there is a reference dated September 1367 to: “Jean de Beaumont, Chevalier, Seigneur du Coudray en Berry.” Berry was a former ancient province of France situated southeast of the Loire and adjoining the Coudray area on the east. Late in life Roger de Beaumont (Chief Counsellor to William the Conqueror’s wife Matilda and regent during his invasion of England) retired to the Abbey of St. Peter in Berry, near its western border with the Coudray area.

The concentration of the estates of the Beaumont family in the Loire Valley, adjacent to the Coudray concentration but on the north side of the Loire River, places its origin centering about 20 miles north of the river and the same distance northwest of Tours, and 20 miles northwest from Paris. Within 10 miles of this central point, there are 5 Beaumont estate or place names, and another 5 within a 45-mile radius.

Cordrys in England

The Beaumont connection offers an explanation of the statement by the Royal College of Arms that the Corderoy Coat of Arms, depicting “A Crowned Lion En Passant,” was assumed to ante-date 1417. The rolls of individual coats-of-arms adopted subsequently had already been transferred to the official permanent records, and the roll containing the Corderoy Coat had not yet been transferred. There is a pedigree of more than five generations for the family of “Corderoy” or “Cordray” in Chute County of Wiltshire given in the Visitation of Wiltshire, issued in 1623 and edited by George Marshall. Thomas III’s son William may have been deceased when the 1623 Visitation was made. Whoever penned his will (dated June 15, 1621) changed the spelling of William’s last name from Cordray to Corderoy.

We can safely assume that some Coudray’s went to England under the banner of Robert de Beaumont in 1066. We can also safely say that some of them were still there in 1207, as was reported by Catherine Vain, the Duchess of Cleveland, after a meticulous search and by Bardsley in various spelling variations after 1297. The Battle Abbey Roll, a scroll of names initially constructed in 1338, was reconstructed by Sir Anthony Browne about 1539, probably when the original roll was found during a reconstruction of the Battle Abbey Gatehouse. Its scroll was initially thought to be a list of men who accompanied William the Conqueror as leaders in the battle of Hastings in 1066. By others, it is thought to designate what families in England came over from Normandy, France with the Conqueror. The Duchess of Cleveland used Holinshed’s version of the Roll as a basis of her list, published as Battle Abbey Roll with Account of Some Norman Lineages by John Murray in 1889. She found in her research for 1207 of Normans holding titles to land: the names of Robert de Cowdraye, Jane de Cowdraye, and Benedict de Couderie/Coudray living in Cheshire in 1207; and Peter de Coudray and Margery Coudray in Hampshire. She found in the Duchesne listing of scroll itself the name Couderay. On page 207 of Volume 1 of Cleveland’s Battle Abbey Roll appears the following:

“Padworth in Berkshire was at an early period in the family of Coudray, who held it by the service of finding a sailor to manage of ropes of the Queen’s vessel, whenever she should pass over into Normandy. The Coudrays continued to possess this manor in 1465 – Lysons.”

This reference to “Lysons” is to D. and S. Lysons, who wrote and published Magna Britannia in several volumes. The Queen referred to was Eleanor of Aquitaine, who married Henry II of Anjou in 1152 and became Queen when Henry succeeded Stephen as King of England in 1154. The Duchy of Aquitaine, which had its northern boundary at the Loire River and which Eleanor controlled, together with Henry’s Anjou, comprised half of France. Henry spent more than half his time there; while Eleanor seemed to prefer living at Windsor Castle in England. Eleanor’s trips between England and France were frequent. It was, consequently, important that she have prompt, safe, and certain means of travel between the two countries. It is, therefore, quite evident that the member or members of the Coudray family to whom Eleanor granted the Padworth estate for performing that duty had a far greater responsibility than merely furnishing a sailor to pull on some ropes.

The Commander of Eleanor’s private navy spelled his name Coudray, and not Couderay as in the Battle Abbey Roll. This is persuasive evidence that Eleanor took him from France to England, thereby establishing a second branch of the family from which the Corderoy’s of Wiltshire may have descended. Therefore, he may have come from the Coudray family already established in its native region on the south side of the Loire River in Eleanor’s own duchy, rather than from members of the family previously settled in England in the region of Hampshire or Wiltshire and engaged in trade with European ports.

Howard Corddry concluded this overview of his research by stating, “So in the final analysis we have, at present, a choice between Roger de Beaumont and Eleanor of Aquitaine as the motivation that took the Coudray family from the Loire Valley to England. Padworth was approximately midway between Windsor and Southampton Water on a 70-mile two-day ride, and, therefore, might have been a convenient place for an overnight stop.” Sir Walter Scott, in his historical novel Kenilworth, mentions Padworth early in the 2nd chapter as a place well known in Donnington area of Berkshire as of 1575. This advances the continued existence of

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Padworth another 110 years beyond its known ownership by the Coudray family in 1465 (according to Cleveland's "Battle Abbey Roll").

Bill and Doris Corddry visited Padworth in 1987. Padworth is in the Thames Valley and is now a women's culinary college. The only old building on campus was the chapel, probably dated to the 16th century. Bill and Doris toured this lovely, small building. Doris clambered up a ladder to the loft and played the organ. A brochure related the origin of Padworth to Fulc Cowdery, who was granted the property by Queen Eleanor.

The name Couderay is of particular interest because it appears to represent an early variation from the earliest known form Coudray by the simple addition of an "e," which may have been merely a phonetic error of transcription that occurred in England. Between 1100 and 1500, the French family name of Coudray went through many variations in spelling until it finally was inscribed on the rolls of the Royal College of Arms in London (Visitation of Wiltshire) in 1623 as Corderoy, and then went through still more changes after crossing the Atlantic.

Before and after a family tree that begins with John Cordray (1377-1411/1441), there are isolated records in Bardsley's A Dictionary of English and Welsh Surnames (published 1967) of: Peter de Coudray--1207, John de Coudray--1273, John de la Corderie – 1293, Peter de Corderoy – 1297, William de Coudraye—1307, Emma Querderay – 1379, John Corderoy – 1440, John Cordrey—1531, Anne Cordrye marrying William Wytlye in 1577, Philip Corderoy buried in 1692, and William Corderoy married in 1719 or 1720. There are listings going back to 1297 for Cordrey, Cordery, and Cordray, and other listings for Cowderoy, Cowdery, and Couldery.

Guppy, in his Homes of Family Names in Great Britain, states that the Corderoy's (and Corderey's) "were a gentle family numerously represented in Chute, Wilts, in the 16th and 17th centuries; and those of the name who had settled elsewhere often found their resting-place in the church of their Wiltshire home...Robert Corderoy was mayor of Devizes, Wilts, in 1592...Cowderoy Park is a seat in Sussex." In Cowderoy/Cowdray Park, there is a Cowdray Castle, which was devastated by Cromwell's troops.

Chute parish in Wiltshire contained villages and hamlets named Chute, Cadley, Lower Chute, Conholt, Shaw, and Standen. There were 129 poll-tax payers in the parish in 1377, a peak of 571 in 1851, and 309 in 1991. In the Middle Ages, Chute village probably consisted of the church, the demesne farmstead of Chute manor (Manor Farm), a vicarage house, and farmsteads of the customary holdings of the manor. The Dean farm was held by members of the Corderoy family from the mid 14th century. The farm probably descended in the Corderoy family with land at Conholt and also the Chantry estate beginning in 1549. William II Corderoy (1601-1637) sold it to John Foyle probably in 1624 after he inherited it from his father William Corderoy (1549-1623). Land of a chantry in Chute church was conveyed as the Chantry Estate to Thomas III Corderoy (1520-1582) in 1549. The Chantry Estate descended in the Corderoy family with most of Conholt's land to William II Corderoy (grandson of Thomas III), who sold it to John Foyle in 1635. Conholt Manor was divided into three portions by 1535, with one portion held by Thomas II Corderoy (1484-1547). That portion descended to his son Thomas III, who bought the Fauntleroy family's portion. Most of the Conholt's land presumably passed from Thomas III Corderoy to his sons Edward (1545-1587) and William (1549-1623) and from them to William II (1601-1637), who probably sold it to Francis Lucy in 1632. William II had no children, and died of the plague in 1637. The proceeds from selling these lands probably helped to finance the immigration of many members of the Corderoy family to Virginia in the 1600's and their land purchases there.

A George Cowdry contacted me (Mary Cecile Corddry) in September 2019. He lives in Wiltshire, England but his ancestral home is three villages 20 miles from Chute. He believes that his family arrived from

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Chute before 1637. He seems to be descended from the Corderoys/Cordrays who did not immigrate to America in the 1600's.

Near Stoke Poges in England, there is a church yard with a grave for John "the Publican" Cordrey. He was the proprietor of the local pub in the 1800's. There was a custom for "publicans" or landlords of the "public houses" to take turns providing churches' bell ringers with beer. The accounts book for Stoke Poges Parish for 1788-1818 lists that J. Cordery provided the beer on the public ringing day of 8/12/1792. In the same church yard are the graves of Thomas Gray and his mother, and it was here that he wrote his poem "Elegy in a Country Churchyard."

In the 1950's, a William Corderoy was listed as a bell ringer at the Church of All Saints in Chilton, Berkshire. A Corderoy was not listed for another performance of bell ringers in 2001.

Our family was originally French (Norman). A possible line of descent has been traced to around 1200 in England by Robert Cordray of Pittsburgh. He gives the name at that time as "Querderai." The French and English languages were being developed in this period and the close relationship of the name to "coeur de roi" (heart of the king) can be easily spotted. A charter, circa 1200, refers to a Roger de Querderai of Rieveaux, Yorkshire. The charter was granted either during the reign of King Richard I or his brother John. A somewhat later charter refers to Engleram de Coudrai. It is not known whether Coudrai and Querderai were related or acquainted. These two charters were granted by Adam Fitz-Peter for a property at the Abbey (or convent) de Rivalle (Rieveaux). The Rivalle area is in Yorkshire near the English coast. The grants gave Roger and nine others the right to mine and smelt iron. The charters also referred to a convent on 30 acres in Shitlington, probably nearby.

Robert Cordray drew family trees beginning with Roger de Querderai (1) (for whom there is a record dated 1200) who begat Hugh de Queorderey (2) (record dated 1246), who begat Richard Corddray (3) (record dated 1287) and perhaps also Tom Le Cordrey (3) (record dated 1275). Richard Corddray, of the Isle of Wite and Hampshire, changed the spelling of his name to Cordray in 1287. Richard held Bathingbourne as "half a Knight's fee" and conveyed it to a non-Cordray around 1300. He held some other properties nearby. Richard's Bathingbourne and other properties dated back to the Saxon King Edred (946-955). Richard (3) may have begat Robert (4) (record dated 1327), William (4) (1327), Peter (4) (married 1297), and John of Chute (4) (1336). John of Chute (4) may have been the father of John (5) (1364, the clerk of Penton, Mewsey), William (5), and Hubert (5) (1358). John's Penton Mewsey property dated back to the Domesday Book, 1086. Richard Corderay of Yew was born in 1360 with another record dated 1431.

Our known-to-date family tree begins with John Cordray (1377-1411/1441) of Chute, who married Lady Elizabeth Loveraz. They were the parents of Ralph Cordray (1402-1444), who married Clara Bullard (born 1402), and perhaps another woman later who was the mother of the two younger sons. Ralph had Walter (1420-1451), Thomas (1425-1521), Richard (1434-1436), and John (1440-1442). (Perhaps Walter had a son Ralph (1446-1485).)

Sir Thomas Cordray, Knight was born in 1425 and died in 1521 in Chute, Wiltshire, England. There is another record related to him dated 1440. He married Lady Edith Luteshull. Their children were Maude (born 1465), Sir Thomas I Cordray (1468-1511), and Robert Cordray (1473-1475).

Sir Thomas I Cordray/Cordrey (1468-1511) (Gentleman, indicating ownership of land) ("Sir Knight of Chute") was born in Chute County of Wiltshire, England around 1468. Chute is about five miles from the town of Salisbury. In 1483/1487 he married Joan/Jane/Johanna Grey/Gray/DeGray (1455/1468-1498) of Somerset County, England ("Lady Joan of Somerset de Grey"). Her father was Reginald/Henry Grey. The Greys were a

prominent family, close to the Crown. There is a Grey Lake in Somerset County, 36 miles west of Chute and 8 miles southwest of Glastonbury. Their children were Thomas II (born 1484/1490/1494; died 1545/1546/1547) (his heir) and John (died 1509). Thomas I may have had another wife and had children Thomas (1490-1581), Richard (1485-1495/1518), and Maude/Matilda (1487/1495/1498-1506). Maude (Matilda) married Lucas Linton/Lynton of Alford County, Hants (Hampshire).

A number Cordray's of Chute from the 1500's and 1600's are buried at the Chute Church, and there are church records of their births, marriages, and deaths. Chute is a tiny place with two churches—St. Mary's and St. Nicolas. As of 1981, it still did not have telephone service.

Thomas II Cordray (born 1484/1490/1494; died 1545/1546/1547) was born in Chute, Wiltshire. With his first wife (name unknown), he had John the Abbot, a Church of England Abbot of Holy Trinity, established in 1537 by King Henry VIII in memory of his wife Jane Seymour.

- John Cordrey received his B.D. as a Benedictine from Oxford in 1531. He was King Henry VIII's "beloved John." He was made the Prior of Bisham in 1537. A priory for Austin canons was built in 1337 by the earl of Salisbury, dedicated to the Holy Trinity. The chief revenues of this priory came from appropriated rectories. Bisham, alone among all the monasteries of England, was selected by King Henry VIII to be re-established on a much more imposing and wealthy scale by being converted from a priory into an abbey. On 12/18/1537, the King granted a charter to the new foundation of the order of St. Benedict for the soul of his late Queen Jane Seymour. This new abbey of the Holy Trinity was endowed with the house, lands, etc. of the late priory of Bisham and several other priories, including the abbey of Chertsey, of which John Cordrey was the abbot. The King granted "his beloved" John Cordrey the license to wear an episcopal mitre as Abbot of the new abbey. Also, he was placed on the commission of the peace for Berkshire. John the Abbot may have had a son Tom, a lunatic who died in 1587 and had a son Henry.

Thomas II Cordray then on 8/6/1519 married Lady Jane/Joan Seymour (born 1503; died 1537-1540), a daughter and heiress of Roger Sennore (Seamor, Seamour, Seymour) Esq. of Andover County, Southampton (now Hampshire), 18 miles northeast of Chute. Roger Seymour, Esq. was Forester of the Bailiwick of Broyle (Savermake Forest). [Another Jane Seymour (1509-1537), daughter of Sir John Seymour of Walfhall, was the third doomed wife of King Henry VIII.] Thomas II's name was spelled Cordrey in 1545. His will was probated on 2/16/1547. He was buried on 1/3/1569 at All Hallows London Wall, London. Their children were:

- Thomas III (1520-9/24/1582): his heir
- Richard (born 1522-1537; died 1581): unknown whether he married and had children.
- Alys/Alice (born 1524): first married Thomas Bartholomew and then Robert Elliott, both of Salisbury.
- Katherine/Kate/Kathrin (1526-1549): married William Paton/Poton of Colberwick.
- Annes
- Elizabeth (1530-3/10/1575): born in Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire and died in North Luffenham, Rutland.
- Catherine (born 1533)

Sir Thomas III Cordray of Chute (gentleman) (1520-9/24/1582) (possibly with a middle name of Richard) was born in Coxwell, Berkshire, died in 1582 in Chute, and was buried at Gunby-St. Nicholas, Lincoln. In 1544 he married Lady Jane Morris/Murrell (1523-10/28/1598) of Coxwell, Berkshire. Her parents were Captain Thomas Morris (1481/1493-1556) and Alice Wynninge (1483/1496-1540). They lived in Chute, Wiltshire and at some point resided in Oxford. In 1546, Tom III's last name was spelled in a record as Cordrey, but is spelled Cordray in the first two Visitations and even Cordrye in 1576. All of their children died in England. Their 13 children (who used the name of Cordray, Corderoy, Corderay, Cordery) included:

- Edward (1545-12/12/1587): heir of Thomas III; married Anne, the sister of James Merum; died without children.

- Elizabeth (1547-1566/1570/1575): married William Beckett.
- William (1549-9/9/1623): born and died in Chute.
- Jane (1551-1566): did not reach adulthood.
- John Corderay/Corderoy (1553-1611/1612): born and died in Chute; married Ellen Leaver/Leauer. His will was probated on 6/27/1612. He was buried on 6/14/1612 at Compton Chamberlayne/Chamberlame, Wiltshire.
 - They may be the parents of John T. Corderoy (1573-1622) who was the first family member to immigrate to Virginia in 1622 and was killed by Indians shortly after he arrived in Jamestown. [See more about him later.]
 - They may also have had a son Woulston Corderye (1590-1669), who had sons Thomas and William (1630-1669). This William was born in South Moreton, Berkshire and married Dorothy Feild. He could be the William who immigrated to Virginia in 1651 with the family group as a headright of Anna Corderoy Bernard, which also included a Thomas Field/Field, who was perhaps his wife's father or other relative.
- Thomas IV (1555-1582/1587): born and died in Chute. Around 1572 he married Jane Coxwell (1553-1595, 1550-1598, or 1556-1644), the daughter of Thomas Coxwell of Coxwell, Berkshire. [A John Cordry, son of Thomas, was baptized on 11/30/1569 in Beeham, Berkshire. A John Corderoy, son of Thomas, was buried at Compton Chamberlayne/Chamberlame, Wiltshire on 4/28/1619.]
- Alys/Alice (1550/1556-1574/1577): married Thomas Bartlemew and then Robert Elliott.
- Robert Cordray/Corderoy (1557-7/15/1611): was the mayor of Devizes, Wiltshire in 1592. According to the Chute parish records, he was "found on the ground." An account of the time describes how he was found dead at the estate at Shaw of his brother William, after a night of deer hunting by his nephew William II and others. Robert said that he "would fetch the windlass to bring the deer to the place where they took their standing to shoot." The effort may have been too much for him, causing heart failure. He was "much subject to an infirmity of sudden fainting." Out of malice towards the family, the Chute parish priest, parish clerk, and vicar of Collingbourne charged several family members with murder; but Robert's brother William informed King James I of the true circumstances of the death. Robert may have had a wife who lived 1557-1598. They had a child Thomas (8/13/1591-1624).
- Richard (1559-1565): did not reach adulthood.
- James (1560-1582): born and died in Chute; his wife may have been Liz; it is unknown whether they had children.
 - They may be the parents of John Corderoy (1573-1622) who was the first family member to immigrate to Virginia in 1622 and was killed by Indians shortly after he arrived in Jamestown.
 - His son or grandson may have been James Corderoy, who was a headright of his niece Anna Corderoy Bernard and immigrated with her to Virginia around 1652.
- Jerome/Jeramy/Jeremy/Jeromy (1553/1562-1608/6/27/1612): born and died in Chute; attended Oxford; around 1577 sent to St. Alban Hall in Oxford where he got a degree in arts on 7/7/1581 and then studied theology; received an MA from Hart Hall on 6/3/1584. In 1590 he was appointed chaplain of Merton College and remained there for 13 years. He was called "The Divine." It is unknown whether he had children. His son or grandson may have been Jeromy Corderoy, who was a headright of his niece Anna Corderoy Bernard and immigrated with her to Virginia around 1652.
- Mary (born 1563): married John Keines/Simes on 9/24/1582.
- Joan/Jone/Jane (1565-4/25/1630): married Thomas Saunders, son of John of Uffington, on 4/14/1589 in Chute. Died in Uffington, Berkshire.

Sir William Cordray (spelled Corderoy in his will) (Esquire, Gentleman) (1549-9/9/1623) was a son of Thomas III. He was the heir of his childless brother Edward. He was the father of Anna Corderoy Bernard, who led the first group of Cordray's/Corderoy's to America. The Delaware Cordry's and Snow Hill, Maryland Corddry's are descended from William.

William was born in 1549 and died 9/9/1623 in Chute County, Wiltshire. [Some records have his birth in 1575.] He was a young nobleman who, in training for knighthood, acted as an attendant for a knight. Around 1600, he married Lady Bridget Goddard (1575/1580-3/1/1655), daughter of Sir Edward Goddard (Knight) (1544-9/10/1615) and Baroness Mary Kingsmill (1552-10/1610) of Woodhay, Southampton County, England. [John III Cordry (1716/1722-1783), of the Laurel, Delaware area, had a property named “Goddard’s Lot,” owned at previously by George Goddard.] They were married approximately 35 miles from Padworth. She married Jasper Mompesson after William’s death. William, who belonged to the Church of England, had his own chapel in the Chute Church. William’s sons William II and Edward were also of the Church of England. William Corderoy named one of his daughters Eleanor, possibly because the name had been handed down in the family tradition for several centuries, from the first Coudray in England who was aligned to Queen Eleanor. William is the GGGG-GGGG-GG-grandfather of the present Queen Elizabeth of England.

William and Bridget’s six children were:

- William II (Esquire) (9/23/1601-1637) his father’s heir: had two wives and no children. In 1624 in Chute he married Jane Kirkby (1601/1607-4/25/1630). Then in 1632/1633 in Andover he married Bridget Nicholson (1600/1618-1636). He, and perhaps Bridget also, died in Clatford of the plague and was buried at the Chute Chapel in Chute, Wiltshire on 2/24/1637. [Is he the William who married Johannah Jones and had a daughter Elizabeth in Virginia?]
- Bridget (9/24/1602-1650/1656): on 7/23/1628 at age 24, Bridget Cordray married Samuel Iremonger/Ironmonger (Gent) (1607-1650) at age 21 of Dennington, Berkshire County. She remained in England, maybe because she had already died when the family immigrated. Her will was proved in 1650. She died in Dennington, Suffolk, England. They had seven children, including her sons Francis/Frances (1629-1685) and William (1628/1629-1695) Ironmonger who went to Virginia in 1652 with the family group led by their Aunt Anna Corderoy Bernard. Elizabeth Jones (of Robert/Richard Jones and Sarah Thomas), the wife of William, accompanied her husband to Virginia. Two other children of Bridget went to Virginia--Martha, who married Robert Jones (brother of her sister-in-law Elizabeth Jones), and Cordray Ironmonger (1643-1675), who married Mrs. Mary Field/Feild. Thomas Feild was another headright of Anna Bernard immigrating to Virginia. Bridget and Samuel had another child Margaret Ironmonger (born 1642), who married John Jones.
- Edward (12/7/1603-4/12/1635) from whom the Delaware and Snow Hill Maryland Cordry’s/Corddry’s are descended; died in Chute. See more information below.
- John Cordray/Corderoy/Cowdray (6/9/1606-11/15/1669): lived and died in Chute. He may have married Mary Hapgood (1607-1688) in 1640. He may also have married Sarah (1608-12/12/1688), or they could be the same woman. John remained in England, but his sons William and Samuel Cordray went to Virginia.
 - The Chute parish recorded the baptism dates for his children: Anna (born 9/27/1630), William (4/9/1632-4/9/1667), Edward (1/20/1634-1635 to die as a baby), Jasper (10/3/1636-7/14/1716), Francis/Frauncis (2/18/1644-7/14/1716 possibly in Chute), and John II (10/15/1645-5/15/1669).
 - John’s son William arrived in Virginia in 1667 on the ship the Charles, but died shortly afterwards. He was described as “merchant of Virginia – bachelor.” William’s brother Jasper executed his will in Virginia on 10/10/1667, so Jasper may have immigrated, also.
 - Some accounts have that John and Mary Hapgood had a son Edward Cordray, who did not die as a baby but was born in Chute on 1/20/1633 and died in 1689 in Calvert Co., MD. This Edward may have married Mary (who was born in 1640) in 1662. Edward Cowdrey arrived in Maryland in 1662. However, the information about this Edward is the same as that for the Edward (1603-1635) who had a son Edward.
- Anna/Anne (4/29/1609-9/25/1671) who led the family in their immigration to America around 1652. See more information below.

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- Eleanor (Ellinor, Elinor, Ellenore) (9/9/1611-1651/1670) who went to Virginia with her sister Anna as a headright. She might have died unmarried.
- An infant who died 2/22/1609/1610.

According to the 1623 Visitation of Wiltshire, William and Bridget had the following children living with them: William age 22, Edward age 20, John age 16, Bridget age 21, Anna, age 15, and Ellinor age 11.

William's will was written on 6/15/1621, and was proved in probate 11/4/1623 at the Prerogative Court in Canterbury. He died on 9/9/1623 was buried in his chapel at the Chute Church at his request. Whoever penned his will changed the spelling of William's last name from Cordray to Corderoy. His brother-in-law Edward Goddard and two cousins were instructed to raise money for 12 years to pay to his son William II Corderoy (age 22) 50 pounds yearly. William II was left his father's lands in Chuet, Conholt, Langley, Mowse, Uphan, and Wilton. In default the lands were left to his other sons Edward (20) and John (16). His daughter Eleanor (11) was left 400 pounds. His wife and her maid were left "beds, beddings, etc. and their diet." His other two daughters Bridget (21) and Anna (15) were left 20 pounds yearly.

Edward Corderoy (12/7/1603-4/12/1635), son of William Cordray/Corderoy (1549-9/9/1623), was born and died in Chute. He was buried on 4/12/1635 at the Chute Chapel, Chute, Wiltshire. He had a probate record filed in Bisley, Gloucestershire, England. On 2/14/1630 or 1/28/1631, he married Mary/Marie Thornbury/Thornburie/Thorbrounge/Thourbruge/Thorbrounge (1591-1637) in Ludgershall, Wiltshire. She was buried on 1/17/1637 at St. Botolph, Aldgate, London. They had a son Edward A. Cordery/Cordrey/Corderoy (1631-1689).

- They may have had another child William, who immigrated to Virginia in 1651 as a headright of his aunt Anna Corderoy Bernard, along with his brother Edward A. There are many records of brothers Edward and William Corderoy immigrating to Virginia and purchasing land there. In 1662, this William may have married Anne B. Campbell (born 1640) and had Helen Cordray (1672-1735/1739). She married William Maples, Sr. on 4/24/1726 in North Parish Church, New London, Connecticut, and died in 1739 in Williamsburg, James City, Virginia.

Edward A. Cordery/Cordrey/Corderoy (1631-1689), son of Edward Corderoy (12/7/1603-4/12/1635), was born in Chute, Wiltshire, England. In 1651, he immigrated to Virginia as a headright with the family group led by his aunt Anna Corderoy Bernard. Both of his parents had been deceased for a while at that point. In 1662 in England he married Mary Anne Campbell Thornbury (born 1640; possibly died 12/12/1688). She was born in 1640 in Ludgershall, Wiltshire, where his parents were married. Their sons John Cordry (1662-8/3/1722) and Dan Cordry (born between 1652 and 1680) were born in Somerset County, Maryland [in what is now Wicomico County], and began generations of Cordry's. Either Edward A. or a possible brother William had Helen Cordray (1672-1735.) Edward A. died in Calvert County, Maryland in 1689, but was buried in Bisley, Gloucestershire, England [or maybe just his probate record was filed there, like his father's]. His wife Mary may have died on 12/12/1688 in Chute.

William, and perhaps some of his brothers, changed the spelling of his last name from Cordray to Corderoy. His brother Robert changed his name to Cordery.

There is confusion about certain "headrights" of Anna Corderoy Bernard, William's daughter. These family members immigrated to Virginia with her in the early 1650's—Edward, James, Jeromy, and William Corderoy. It is unclear whether they were her nephews, or cousins. Edward was her nephew, son of her deceased brother Edward. It is also unclear who were the Corderoy's and persons of a similar name (Corderoye, Cordroy, Cowdery, Cowdroy) involved in land deals in Virginia in the 1650's and 1660's, particularly brothers Edward and William Corderoy. The parentage of John Corderoy (1573-1622) is also unclear. He was the first family

member to immigrate to Virginia in February or March 1622. He was murdered by Indians shortly after his arrival in a massacre on 3/22/1622. It is unclear whether his father was one of Thomas III's many sons (James, Jeramy, John, Robert, Thomas IV, or William) or a cousin.

After 1669, most of the Corderoy's lived in America. It looks like the descendants of Thomas III and his son William left England between 1622 and 1669 if they were physically able, perhaps because of Cromwell. After that date, there are no further records of them in Chute or the other Wiltshire parishes. Those who remained in England probably moved elsewhere. The last recorded family birth in the Chute parish was in 1645 and the last death (with two exceptions) in 1669. Several of those who did not immigrate with the family in the 1650's but remained in England died in 1669. Was there an outbreak of small pox or something else then?

A Thomas Corderoy and his cousin William III Sotwell received Seymour's Place in 1639 from John Bennett and his wife Edith. Jane Seymour was the wife of Thomas II. Her sister Margery married Tom Sotwell and may have inherited this property of their father Roger Seymour.

The First Cordrys in the New World

There are two main legends about the Cordry family in America: [1] that it was originally composed of French Huguenots who left France because of religious persecution; and [2] that there were three brothers who came over together and settled at three different locations on the east coast. No proof has as yet been found for either of these common legends of the time.

According to George H. Corddry, Jr., in spite of a previous assumption that the Cordry's who came to America were of French Huguenot descent, this now seems unlikely. The presence of Cordry's in England preceded by several centuries the influx of Protestants (Huguenots) from France during the religious wars (1562 – 1598) and following 1685, when the Edict of Nantes was revoked. There is no evidence that any of the Cordry's who came to America were French or spoke French. Instead, the Cordry's in England may have come over from France with the Normans during the 11th century.

The three-brother story is common to many early families. However, the State of Delaware Biographical Encyclopedia mentions three Cordrey brothers who landed in Delaware in 1728 or earlier, and then dispersed to New Jersey, Virginia, and Delaware. There were three such Cordray/Cordry brothers who dispersed from Milford, Delaware—Isaac, William, and Tom—from the line of John Corderoy (1573-1622). His parentage is unclear but was from the sons of Thomas III Cordray (1520-1582)), rather than of William Cordray/Corderoy (1549-1623) from whom the Sussex County, Delaware and Snow Hill, Maryland lines descend.

The first Cordray/Corderoy who immigrated to America, John T. Cordray/Corderoy (1573-1622; parentage unclear among the sons of Thomas III Cordray (1520-1582)), was the ancestor of Robert Cordray of Pittsburgh. He was born in Chute, England. He married Mary "Sara" Hart (1575-1619) in 1595. She lived and died in London. They had children Josias/Josiah Cordray (1598-1679), Benjamin I Cordray/Cowdrey/Cowdray/Cowdry (1619/1620-1684), Margaretha Cordray (1598-1622), and Mary Cordrey (1615-1685). Both daughters died in England. Sons Josias/Josiah and Benjamin I immigrated to Virginia, possibly with their widower father. They have many descendants in America, as detailed in the book by Eugene Allen Cordry, Descendants of Virginia, Kentucky, and Missouri and in family trees developed by Robert Cordray of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

On 11/21/1621, Edward Bennett, a rich merchant of London, was granted a patent for a Virginia plantation upon the condition of settling 200 emigrants. In February 1622, the "Sea Flower" arrived in

Jamestown from London with 120 settlers. John Corderoy was a member of that party, perhaps as a widower with his children. He lived on the south bank of the James River, a short distance upriver from Jamestown, now Isle of Wight County, Virginia. On Good Friday 3/22/1622, a few weeks after his arrival, he was killed in a massacre by Indians at Edward Bennett's plantation called Bennett's Welcome in Warresqueak/Warrosquoyacke, Isle of Wight on the James River. At that plantation, about 57 persons were killed including John, the master, his wife, and their child. That day began with 1,240 English inhabitants in Virginia. In a few hours, 347 of them were killed by Indians in the 80 settlements on the north and south sides of the James River. There was a coordinated series of surprise attacks by the Powhatan Confederacy under Chief Opechancanough.

Ann [Hannah] Tyng (who arrived with John Cordray/Corderoy on the Sea Flower in 1622 from Boston, England) and her first husband the Ensign Thomas Savage may have become foster parents to John's sons Benjamin I and Josias. She paid for her transportation and received a patent for 50 acres. Ann and Tom married in 1622 and had a son Captain John Savage (1624 -1678). He married Obedience Robins and had a daughter Mary. By his second wife Ann Elkington, he had a daughter who married William Cowdrey {?}. John provided for William in his will. Tom Savage's granddaughter Mary later married Benjamin I's son William. Tom Savage was born in the mid 1590's and died in the mid 1630's. He arrived at Jamestown at age 13 in 1608 on the "John and Francis." He was traded to Pocahontas' father Powhatan to rear in an exchange of children as hostages meant to secure the peace. He became a foster brother of Pocahontas. He grew up in the Powhatan tribe, learning Indian ways and language. He was an Ensign to Captain John Martin in 1618. He and Ann Tyng moved across the Chesapeake Bay to the Virginia Eastern Shore soon after the 1622 massacre by Indians. His services were invaluable to the Shore and the Jamestown settlement because he was an interpreter and established trade. He was the first permanent white settler there. They probably settled at the lower end of Savage's Neck, convenient to the London Company's land. He was called "Ancient" because 100 acres were given by the King to each of the "Ancient Planters." These were the men who arrived before 1616 at their own costs and resided at least 3 years. Out of 109 Ancient Planters, 13 lived on the Virginia Shore at the same time. They were counted in the 2/1625 census among only 51 persons living on the Virginia Eastern Shore. As a young man, he established trade with Indians on the lower Eastern Shore of Virginia and was friends with them, especially with the chief of the Accomacks known as Debedeavon, "the Laughing King," who eventually sold him the land on Savage Neck. He was the first settler to buy land from the Indians—8,000 acres.

Early land patents were granted in Virginia beginning in 1639, but it was not until after 1644 that the territory was considered safe for settlement. Gloucester County, Virginia was formed from York County in 1651. It had four parishes—Abingdon, Kingston, Petsworth, and Ware. In the 17th century, the tip of land protruding into the York River across from Yorktown was named Tyndall's Point by Robert Tyndall, mapmaker for Captain John Smith. It was later renamed Gloucester Point.

Mrs. Anna Corderoy/Cordray Bernard/Barnett (daughter of William Corderoy (1549-1623)), newly widowed, was the leader of a group of 20, whose "headrights" she held for a total of 1,000 acres near Gloucester Point at the head of Jones Creek. Anna alone received the land grant (patent) dated July 2, 1652. She received this patent in consideration of transportation of these 20 persons to the colony. **The headrights included:**

- **her son Richard Bernard;**
- **two other Bernards/Barnetts (Elizabeth and Corderoy, probably Anna's children);**
- **her daughter Anna Smith and son-in-law Major John Smith (they married around 1652 perhaps after their arrival);**
- **her nephew Edward A. Cordery who arrived in 1651;**
- **her sister Elinor (Ellenore, Eleanor, or Ellinor) Corderoy;**

- **James, Jeromy, and William Corderoy (whose relationship to Anna and each other is unclear—her nephews or cousins);**
- **three Iremongers/Ironmongers (Anna’s sister Bridget’s sons William and Francis, and Elizabeth Jones, the wife of William); and**
- **and eight other persons who were credited to Anna as headrights, enabling her to obtain the grant of 1,000 acres--Isabel/Isabell/Eliza Ashton, Thomas Sheld/Field/Feild, Joseph Bacon, Ann/Anne Whitlock/Whitelock, John Fuller, Leonard Lett, Henry Fabitt/Fablett, and Eliza Percy/Perry/Parry.**

Other people came with the group but were not included as headrights, especially children. In England, relationships, marital and otherwise, were evident between the families of Bernard, Corderoy/Cordray, Iremonger/Ironmonger, Lanier, Gray/Grey, and Jones.

This group of Cordray’s/Corderoy’s, who were descended from Thomas III Cordray (1520-1582) of Chute, England, settled in Gloucester County, Virginia, on the James River between 1647 and 1652. James and Jeromy Corderoy [unclear their identity] may have arrived in Gloucester County, Virginia from England in 1648, and may have been accompanied by Anna Corderoy Bernard and her sister Elinor Corderoy. The larger family group may have arrived in 1651. Anna’s nephew Edward A. Cordery/Cordrey (1631-1689) (from whom the Delaware and Snow Hill Cordry/Corrdry lines are descended) arrived in 1651. A William Corderoy also arrived in 1651, sponsored by Anna [their relationship unclear]. William Cordray/Corderoy, son of Anna’s brother John, arrived in 1667 and died soon afterwards.

Because so many members of a group of associated prominent families left Wiltshire, England for the New World together, it seems like they were fleeing problems at home, political or religious. The Cordry’s/Corderoy’s may have been supporters of the monarchy, and left England when Cromwell took over in 1648. They were members of the Church of England. Wiltshire was strongly anti-Catholic and supported Cromwell in English civil war. Cromwell had King Charles I beheaded in 1649. He annulled families’ property rights. (Cowderoy Park is a seat in Sussex, England, where there is a Cowdray Castle that was devastated by Cromwell’s troops. However, Robert Cordray says that castle has nothing to do with our family.) Elwyn A. Mauck, in Improving the Government of Wicomico County, states, “The early settlers of Wicomico County arrived in the latter part of the seventeenth century from England as refugees in the conflict between Oliver Cromwell and the Stuart king. Some came from Salisbury, Wiltshire, England...The settlers were Cromwellian followers who had to flee when Charles II ascended the throne.” However, our family arrived earlier while Cromwell was still in power. They probably opposed him and supported the royals.

The Chute parish records are interesting. They record the births of William Corderoy’s children, including Anna Corderoy Bernard, and of John Corderoy’s children (Anna Corderoy Bernard’s brother who did not immigrate to Virginia). No births are recorded in the Chute parish or in other parishes of Wiltshire after 1645. No deaths are recorded after John Corderoy’s in 1669. It seems that the Corderoy/Cordray family left Chute either for America or for areas in England outside Wiltshire.

Anna/Anne Corderoy Bernard was christened on 4/29/1609. Her father was William Cordray/Corderoy (1549-1623) of Chute, Wiltshire, England. On 11/24/1634 she married Richard Bernard of Petsoe/Petsworth in Berkshire/Buckshire/Buckinghamshire (Bucks) County, England at St.-Andrews-in-the-Wardrobe, London (bombed in World War II). His parents were Richard Bernard, Esq., and Elizabeth Woolhouse. Through his father, he was a direct descendent of King Edward I of England and his first wife Eleanor through their daughter Princess Joan of Arce. Richard’s first wife was Dorothy Alwey (Aleway), and he was a widower at age 26. Richard and Anna resided in Petsoe, Buckshire. Richard read law at Lincoln’s Inn and was admitted to the bar in 1640. Their children were Anna II (1634/1636-4/14/1698; married c. 1652) and Richard II (1635/1636-1691). They might also have had Elizabeth, Corderoy, and Francis.

One report has that Richard may have arrived in Gloucester County, Virginia in 1647. A report has that Anna's husband Richard Bernard died in Virginia on 4/3/1651. He was deceased when Anna received her land grant on 7/2/1652. Anna Bernard, her sister Ellinor, her nephew Edward, and her relatives James, Jeremy/Jeromy, and William Corderoy and others arrived to live in Gloucester County, Virginia between 1648 and 1652.

Richard Bernard had a deed recorded on January 3, 1647 in Yorktown, for renting a property for three years in York County above Yorktown, called "Pryor's Plantation." The overseers of the will of William Pryor leased to Richard the plantation where Pryor lived and died. Richard agreed to build a "dwelling house 40 x 18"; to maintain the old dwelling house, quartering houses, tobacco houses, gardens, and fences; to pay for the use of Pryor's children Margaret and Mary "34 cows, yearlings, and a boat; and fowerscore and one pounds of lawfill English money"; to pay the overseers 300 pounds of tobacco; and to pay for 81 pounds of tobacco.

On April 3, 1651 in Northumberland County, Virginia, Patent Book 3:306, Anna received a patent from Sir William Berkeley for 1,000 acres on Jones Creek near Gloucester Point. Gloucester Point is directly across the York River from Yorktown. This property was described as "upon the South side Potomeck River (Beginning on the south side of a marsh and small creek upon the eastward side of the Upper Matchotiq [Machodoc] River adjacent land called Thomas Peakes land." Anna's 1651 grant in Northumberland County may have been an error because on July 2, 1652 in Gloucester County, Virginia, Patent Book 3:204, the same property in the 1651 grant was shifted to Gloucester County. Anna's 1652 grant, where she and her family lived, is described as: "700 acres part thereof upon the head of Jones Creek in the County of Gloster, NE upon Jones Neck east on the Rappahannock horse path, southerly upon land of Col. Richard Lee and Hugh Doudinge, and westerly upon a swamp of Jones Creek and opposite land of Samuel Sollace; the other 300 acres abutting northwest upon the land of Capt. Lee, deceased, and southwest and southeast upon the land of Mr. William Prior, deceased" (i.e., Pryor's Plantation).

[To reach Jones Creek, you take Rt. 17, turn west on Rt. 614/Hickory Fork Rd., turn left on Rt. 616/Clay Bank Rd., and turn right on Rt. 708/Woodberry Rd.]

Anna and her family participated in numerous land deals in Virginia and were obviously people of substance. In 1652 Anna purchased "Pryor's Plantation" from Thomas Edwards and his wife Margaret (one of the deceased William Pryor's daughters). On 9/6/1654 in Westmoreland County, Virginia, Patent Book 3:329, Anna increased the original property by 500 acres. She had 1,500 acres on the south side of the "Petomeck" River—the original 1,000 acres granted to her on April 3, 1651 and an additional 500 acres. On 9/6/1664, she received an inclusive patent from Sir William Berkeley for the 1,000 acres heretofore granted and 500 additional acres in consideration of the transportation of 10 persons to the colony. On 11/27/1661 in Gloucester County, Virginia, Patent Book 4:534, she renewed her patent dated 2/26/1653 on 900 acres "on the north side of the Yorke River adjoining the main swamp upon the head of Jones Creek, adjoining Hugh Doodinge, Samuel Sollis, to Rappa Path and to William Thorne who was assignee of Col. Rich. Lee." On 10/23/1690, there is a record of her son Richard Bernard concerning those 900 acres "beginning at a white oak standing in the middle of the main road near Mr. Hansfords mill dam running NNW and on the NW side of the mill...and across dam to beginning."

On 8/21/1665, Francis Ironmonger, Anna Bernard's nephew and the son of her sister Bridget Corderoy Ironmonger, received 600 acres in Gloucester County "near head branches of Totopotomoy Creek & Join's Creek beginning at corner tree of Major John Smith, running to land of William Corderoy & over a path thence south by west to Richard Bernards corner tree, up line of Purton's." This shows that the family members owned land close together near the original patent.

On 10/30/1661, Anna Bernard sold “Pryor’s Planation” to Captain Robert Baldrey, and the deed was witnessed by her son-in-law John Smith and her son Francis Bernard. At that time, she was recorded as being in Purton in Petsoe/Petsworth Parish, Gloucester County, Virginia. Petsoe Parish might have been named in honor of the Bernard family, who were from Petsoe/Petsworth, England. “Old Purton” was established around 1650 as the early Bernard family home. It was on the mainland behind Purton Island, west of Jones Creek, between Adams and Bland Creeks, and on the north side of the York River. Nearby was built the first church of Petsworth Parish. “Purton” has been identified with Powhatan’s “Werowocomoco” tribe, which is associated with Pocahontas and the explorer Captain John Smith. Anna Bernard was a person of stature because she and then her son-in-law Major John Smith in 1670 were listed as guardians of John Mathews and other orphans of Col. Samuel Mathews, son of Governor Samuel Mathews. Major John Smith was a vestryman of Petsworth Parish, the speaker of the Virginia House of Burgesses 1657-1658, and a trustee and the first Governor of William and Mary College, founded in 1693.

Anna died between 1670 and 9/25/1671 in Gloucester County, Virginia. Anna’s remaining properties passed to her son Richard II Bernard, who passed the properties to his sons Philip and John when he died in 1691. In 1689, according to the Westmoreland County records, Richard Bernard of Petsoe Parish, Gloucester County, empowered William Buckner of Stafford to receive 400 acres granted to Ann Bernard and assigned later to Richard.

Anna’s daughter Anna Bernard Smith (born in 1634/1636) died on 4/14/1698 in Purton Bay, Gloucester; and her husband Major John Lawrence Smith (born on 9/12/1624) died on 4/17/1698. Their son Captain John Smith, Jr. (born in 1663 in Purton) also died on 4/14/1698 in Purton, Gloucester. Did mother, father, and son die from the same cause? Their daughter Mildred Smith married Rev. Robert Porteous. Captain John Smith, Jr. married Mary Warner on 2/17/1680. She was the daughter of Col. Augustine Warner (Speaker of the Virginia House of Burgesses) of Warner Hall, Gloucester County and Mildred Reade, and was a sister of George Washington’s grandmother.

The identities and relationships of the following individuals are unclear. A William Corderoy engaged in land transactions in Gloucester County, Virginia during the 1650’s and 1660’s (3/6/1654, 3/15/1658, 3/3/1662, and 2/1/1664) (according to Nugents’ Cavaliers and Pioneers – Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants). On 7/2/1652, Edward and William Cordroy had a land transaction. In 1652 Edward Cordry had a land transaction in Gloucester County with Mrs. Anna Barnett. On 7/24/1653, Oliver Greene was granted 120 acres in Gloster County of Pettsoe Parish and then assigned the land to **Edward Corderoy, who sold it to William Corderoy, who gave it to Edward’s son John** [who are they?]. On 3/18/1662, William Corderoy had a transaction concerning this property, which is described as on “ESE side of Poropotank adjoining land of Nich. Jarnew, Samuel Sollis, SW on Tottopottomoyes Creek.” The two Corderoy men jointly purchased from Richard Croshaw another 200 acres formerly called “Tapses’ Neck,” which was part of a patent of 750 acres granted 10/1/1652 to Samuel Shallis and Robert Taliaferoe. On 3/6/1654 according to Virginia Patents 3, page 320, Richard Bennett granted 150 acres to William Corderoy on the west side of the main swamp at the head of Crany Creek, and then William assigned this property to William Roberts on 3/15/1657. On 3/6/1654 there is a record for William Corderoy for 320 acres “on swamp at head of and on S side of Craney Creek to Ware R. adjoining Jeffry Bew”; and then he renewed 262 acres of this property in 1658. On 1/14/1656, William Cowdery had a land transaction involving 700 acres in Westmoreland County with John Rosier Clarke, and on 8/9/1658 one in New Kent County. William Corderoy had land grants in Northampton County in 1662 and 1664. He had a land transaction in Lancaster County on 7/9/1663. On 2/1/1664, he had a land transaction involving 400 acres in Gloster County “on first branch on the northwest side of Tottopottomoyes Swamp and running by Purton Path to Mr. Buckners to a poplar.” On 8/21/1665, he sold 660 acres in Gloucester County to

Francis Ironmonger. On 4/10/1667, Edward Corderoy sold to Thomas Jones 74 acres in Gloster County bordering Edward's property. On 6/16/1668, William Corderoy's plantation was referenced in a transaction.

[The identities of William and Edward Corderoy in the preceding paragraph and this paragraph are unclear. William Corderoy's properties in Virginia went to his brother Edward Corderoy on his death, perhaps on 11/15/1667. William's land may have gone to Edward because William did not have any living sons. There is a report that William's wife was Johanna Jones, and that she may have arrived in Virginia in 1622 (like John Corderoy 1573-1622). William H. Corderoy and Johanna had a daughter Elizabeth who was born around 1653-1665 in Isle of Wight County, Virginia, and died after 1710 in Toddsbury, Ware Parish, Gloucester County, Virginia. When Edward Corderoy died [date?], his lands went to Edward's son John (born abt. 1660 in VA and died bef. 4/28/1691 in Gloucester Co., VA) [who was Edward's wife?]. John owned another 220 acres, for a total of 540 acres. John willed these 540 acres at this death to his wife Hannah Jones "and her heirs" on 10/20/1682, the year they were married. John died between 1682 and 1691. Hannah Jones was born in 1669 in Gloucester County, Virginia to James Jones (1640-5/12/1719) and Rebecca Sarah Lewis (1642-1724) and died in 1704 in Sussex County, Virginia. Widow Hannah transferred these 540 acres to her second husband Samuel I. Northington (1667-1700) on 4/28/1691 after their marriage in Gloucester County. The Jones family was linked with the Corderoy's through marriage. Bridget Corderoy Ironmonger, a sister of Anna Corderoy Bernard, had a son William Ironmonger (born 1628/1629) who was married to Elizabeth Jones, daughter of Robert Jones. He arrived in Virginia in 1652 and patented land in 1662 and 1664.]

A William Corderoy immigrated to Virginia in 1651. Anna Corderoy Bernard was his sponsor, so he may have been the William among her headrights. He lived in Northumberland, Virginia.

Other than records of land transactions, little else has come down to us about Anna Corderoy Bernard's family, including her relatives William and Edward Corderoy, because of a fire that destroyed the Gloucester County courthouse on 6/3/1820. What records survived were moved to Richmond, only to fall victim to another fire at the end of the Civil War in 1865.

Descendents of Anna Corderoy Bernard's Relatives in America

In 1662 An Act Against Quakers in 9th Act of the General Assembly of Virginia was passed. This law against Quakers and other non-conformists led to an exodus from Virginia. Those leaving were offered grants of land by Lord Baltimore on the Virginia Eastern Shore adjoining Accomack County to encourage settlement there. A William Corderoy had land grants in Northampton County in 1662 and 1664, as previously mentioned.

During 1632-1642, the Virginia Eastern Shore was all called Accawmak County. During 1642-1663, it was all called Northampton County. In 1663, it was divided into Accomack and Northampton Counties, except during 1670-1673 when again it was only Northampton. The records for 1632-1663 for the Virginia Eastern Shore are in the custody of the clerk of Northampton County.

By the 1785 and 1790 Virginia Census, no one named Corderoy or a similar name lived in Virginia. All had disbursed to other states. Some went to the Virginia Eastern Shore or to Calvert County, Maryland and went from there to the Salisbury, Maryland area and to the Milford and Laurel area of what is now Delaware. In a letter dated June 18, 1981 to George H. Corddry, Jr. that reviewed Delaware history, Robert Cordray commented that virtually all of the early Somerset County, Maryland folks (including the current Sussex County, Delaware and parts of Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties in Maryland) hailed from Northampton and Accomack Counties on the Virginia Eastern Shore. Many of the early settlers of Somerset County returned to the Virginia Eastern Shore to be married because there were no ministers in Somerset County.

Maybe the properties that the Cordry's/Corderoy's and Bernard's had owned on the western shore of Virginia were not to their liking, being too swampy or otherwise unsuitable for farming. Also, there were troubles with the Indians, and the Indians were friendlier on the Virginia Eastern Shore. They may have received land grants from Lord Baltimore to settle on the Virginia Eastern Shore or in Delaware. Somerset County originally included what is now Sussex County, Delaware and Wicomico, Somerset, and Worcester Counties in Maryland. According to Cassius M. Dashiell, in his manuscript "History of Stepney Parish" on file at the Maryland Historical Society Library in Baltimore City, Somerset County "was settled largely by people coming in from Virginia as stated in the complaint to the King by the General Assembly in 1692 against certain demands of Lord Baltimore, which complaint, among other things, states 'how little it cost him [Lord Baltimore] and his father in securing the land, it being chiefly peopled at first by unpeopling their Majesty's Colony of Virginia, invited thither with their families and estates by more fertile soil and specious pretence of liberty of conscience.'" George H. Corddry, Jr. in Wicomico County History states, "The Europeans who settled the lower Shore of Maryland were almost entirely British subjects. They were encouraged by land grants from the proprietor, Lord Baltimore, who received income from 'quitrents' since he maintained technical ownership of all the land in the colony. It was in Lord Baltimore's interest to stimulate settlement in any way that he could."

Our connections with the Cordray's of England are through these Corderoy's/Cordray's of Gloucester County, Virginia. There is no Cordry or similar name in the Delaware census for 1665-1697. However, our family can be clearly traced back to John Cordry/Cowdry, who was born in 1662 and died in 1722 in what was then Somerset County, Maryland (now Wicomico County, Maryland), outside the current Salisbury in the environs of the Wicomico River (then called the Rockawalkin). His last name was also spelled Cordrey, Coadry, and Cawdry. John Cordry had a brother Dan, who spelled his name Cordray, Corddry, and Cordary. Dan had a son David of Rehobeth and Indian River Hundred in Delaware, who died in 1776. David's son Jacob died in 1787 and had a daughter Edith.

John Cordry's father was Edward A. Cowdery/Corderoy/Cordery/Cordrey (1631-1689), a "substantial citizen," who the records show immigrated to Virginia in 1651 with the family group of his Aunt Anna Corderoy Bernard. Records show that Edward Cordery immigrated from Virginia to Calvert County, Maryland in 1665 with his wife (possibly still Mary Thombury, born 1640). He paid for both of their passages and died there in Calvert County in 1689. E. Cowdery made his mark as a witness to the will of David Read of Calvert County in 1666, which left a cow to his son-in-law John Hyatt. Col. George Read (1608-1671) immigrated to Virginia in 1637. In the 1700's the Reads were a prominent and influential family in northern Delaware. At some point, Edward Cordery lived in Somerset County on the Maryland Eastern Shore because his sons John and Dan were born there. But then Edward returned to Calvert County in Southern Maryland where he died in 1689.

Edward A. Cowdery/Corderoy/Cordery probably traveled to Calvert County because Richard Smith, the brother of Edward's Aunt Anna Corderoy Bernard's son-in-law Major John Lawrence Smith (1624-1698), settled there. John Smith died on 4/19/1698 in Calvert Co., MD. His will mentions his godchild David Hellen, Jr. He left his estate including his plantation and 75 acres to his wife Joane. Richard Smith (1635-1689) was the founder of what is considered one of Calvert County's "most illustrious families." These brothers Captain Richard Smith and Major John Smith were born in Abingdon Parish, Lancashire, England to parents Lt. Thomas Christopher Lawrence Smith (1591-1648) and Elizabeth Townley. They both immigrated to America in 1651, shortly after their father's death. Richard Smith purchased his dwelling plantation "St. Leonard's" in 1658, which is on the upper side of St. Leonard Creek where it meets the Patuxent River in Calvert County. He was a lawyer and in 1657 became Maryland's first Attorney General. The Smith family built three houses and had a family cemetery on their tobacco plantation. The second plantation house, called "King's Reach," was

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built around 1690. Richard Smith's son was Captain Richard Smith, Jr. (1670-1705). The third plantation house, called "Cedar Hill," was built by grandson Walter Smith in 1711. There were court disputes during 1767 – 1773 between Walter Smith and Thomas Johnson, Jr., the father of Maryland's first Governor Thomas Johnson III, about the boundaries between their properties. The Smith family homes were abandoned before the Revolutionary War. These properties are now part of the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum [a very interesting place].

Descendants of John Corderoy (1573-1622) [of unclear parentage]

Two lines of Cordrys/Cordrays descended from Thomas III Cordray (1520-1582) of Chute, England, were among the first settlers of the Eastern Shore of Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. They were said to have the "Cordray look" or "Cordray eyes," according to Robert Cordray of Pittsburgh.

The first line, discussed above and to be discussed extensively later, descended from John Cordry (1662-8/3/1722), who originated the Delaware and Snow Hill, Maryland Cordry/Corddry lines. He was the grandson of Anna Corderoy Bernard's brother Edward Corderoy (1603-1635) and was born in Somerset County (now Wicomico County), Maryland. He had a brother Dan. Their father was Edward A. Cowdery/Cordery (1631-1689), who emigrated to Gloucester County, Virginia in 1651 with his Aunt Anna Corderoy Bernard and died in Calvert County, Maryland. Their mother was Mary Thombury, who was born in 1640 in England. John I Cordry spelled his last name as Cowdry after he was married in 1683/4. His father Edward spelled his name as Cordery and Cowdery when he moved to Calvert County in 1665.

The second line descended from John Corderoy (1573-1622). His parentage and relationship to the other Corderoy's unclear, except that he also descended from a son of Thomas III Cordray (1520-1582). It is the line of Robert Cordray of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania who provided much information and various versions of the family tree to George H. Corddry, Jr. It is also the line of Eugene Allen Cordry of Missouri, who wrote Descendants of Virginia, Kentucky, and Missouri Pioneers in 1973.

Early residents of the Virginia Eastern Shore belonged to the Church of England, supporting the Kings Charles I and II and opposing Cromwell. They crossed the Chesapeake Bay to move from the Virginia western shore's tidewater area to the Virginia Eastern Shore after the Indian massacre of 1622. Five generations of Cowdry's lived in Northampton County, Virginia (Eastern Shore) beginning at least as early as 1676, where their wills and land transactions are recorded. These individuals then moved from the Virginia Eastern Shore as they bought land and settled for a while in the Milford, Delaware area, before some of them moved on again.

These Cowdry's/Cordray's are descended from John Corderoy (1573-1622). His parentage is unclear. He was married to Mary "Sara" Hart (1575-1619). John came to Virginia in 1622 (the first family member to arrive in America), then was killed by Indians soon afterwards on 3/22/1622. He lived a short distance up-river from Jamestown, in what is now Isle of Wight County, Virginia. John had sons Benjamin (I) (1619/1620-1684) and Josias/Josiah (1598-1679/1680) Cowdry/Cowdray, who lived and died in Eastville, Northampton County, Virginia. Ann Tyng (who arrived with John in 1622) and Thomas Savage (who arrived in Virginia in 1608) may have been foster parents to John's sons Benjamin I and Josias/Josiah.

Certain material was prepared by Margaret Naomi (Smith) Lewis (1885-1965) and was provided by Virginia Cordrey of Salisbury concerning the ancestry of her grandfather William Langston Cordry of Kentucky, who was descended from John Corderoy (1573-1622). The family tradition is that Cordry's sailed from England on "The John and the Francis" [one or two boats owned by the Cordry's] with Thomas Savage, the "ancient mariner," as the captain. They planned to join relatives in Virginia but a storm blew them off course to land in the area of Dover, Delaware. From there, the family moved to Camden, New Jersey, then to

Maryland, and then to Virginia in 1752. They moved to Kentucky in 1801 and to Missouri in 1830. This is the history of the family of William Langston Cordry (born 1816 in Kentucky and died 1903 in Missouri), who is descended from Benjamin I (1619-1684), son of John (1573-1622).

The first record of Benjamin I in Northampton County, Virginia was dated 1651. There are records of Ben I in Eastville, Virginia in 1652, 1666, and 1676. On 5/7/1653, a bill of sale was recorded from Ben Cowderaye to Josias Cowdray. On 5/24/1653, Ben Cowdrye bought one heifer from William Andrews, and then on the same day Ben Cowderaye gifted one heifer to Josiase Cowdrey. On 5/24/1653, Benjamin Cowdrey recorded his cattle brand. Ben I and Josias came to Milford, Delaware from Eastville, Virginia in 1677/1678 and were there in 1681. Ben I died in 1684 in Eastville, Virginia, and Josias died in 1679/1680, also in Northampton County.

Josias (1598-1679/1680) married the daughter of Henry White. On 4/25/1673, Josias Cowdrey sold 200 acres to William Kendall. Recorded in Folio 81 of the Duke of York's records for 1646-1679 is a patent dated 1677 for 700 acres owned by Josias Cowdrey. The property was slightly north of Cedar Creek in Cedar Creek Hundred in Whorekill County, Delaware. Josias's daughter Margaret was married by 1680 to Robert III Hart, the son of one of the first judges in Kent County, Delaware. [Josias's mother was Mary "Sara" Hart. Any relationship to Robert III Hart is unknown.]

Benjamin I Cowdry (1619/1620-1684) was married to Frances Robins (1619-1699), the daughter of Col. Obedience Robins. They had children Benjamin II (born in Accomac in 1650), Anne, Frances (Spencer) (born in England in 1638), William (died 1681), and Thomas (died 1698). Col. Robins, who died in 1660, belonged to the Church of England. He opened the first saloon/tavern on the Virginia Eastern Shore, was a doctor, and built windmills. Ben I bought a lot of land around Milford but continued to reside in Eastville, as did his son Tom. In April 1651, William Stone granted to Ben Cowdry 22 acres near Hungars Creek. On 5/24/1653, William Andrews sold one heifer to Ben Cowdrye. On 2/5/1676/7, William Whittington granted Benjamin Cowdry 240 acres at Hungars Creek. Ben I was a vitner. At some time in his life, maybe around 1666-1667, Ben I lived as a "citizen" of London.

In Benjamin (Ben I) Cowdry's will, probated on 12/1/1684 in Northampton County, Virginia, he left 1,000 acres of land on Missollinger Creek in Sussex County to his sons Thomas, Benjamin II, and William and his daughter Anne. He left 400 acres to his daughter Frances Spencer and 300 acres each to Frances's sons Henry Spencer and Samuel Spencer. His son William Cowdery received "one musquett and one barroll of corne." He ordered a white-faced steer killed at his funeral.

Following are records for Ben I's children:

- William's first wife Mary was the granddaughter of Tom Savage. William was a tavern keeper, like his grandfather and father. Virginia courts, including the highest courts, were convened in taverns until the late 1690's. Therefore, Ben I and his son William were familiar with the high-ranking officials of their era in Northampton County. William Cowdery had land transactions in Westmoreland and New Kent Counties, Virginia in 1656 and 1658. He came to Maryland in 1670. On 5/13/1676, William Cowdery, "cooper," sold to his father Benjamin Cowdery three cows and one black bull. On 5/19/1676, William granted four cattle to his father or brother Benjamin, and a cow and heifer to his sister Frances, as witnessed by his uncle Josias. On 2/23/1677, a land grant is recorded from John Savage to William Cowdry. William Cowdry sold to Edmond Bowring on 11/22/1682 land in low Norfolk County, Virginia.
- On 8/30/1686, Benjamin Cowdry (Ben II) sold to his brother Thomas 100 acres of land which was part of 250 acres possessed by their father Benjamin Cowdrey (Ben I) and purchased from Captain William Stone.
- On 7/17/1676, William Spencer sold a bay mare to Frances Cowdry and a bay mare colt to Thomas Cowdry.

- Thomas Cowdry and Sarah Jacob married on 11/11/1669. Thomas Cowdry had a land transaction on 10/20/1690 at Hogg Island in Northampton County on the Virginia Eastern Shore.

Ben I's son Thomas died 1698 in Northampton County, Virginia. In his will dated 5/25/1698, he left property to his sons Josiah/Josias (84 acres), William (83 acres), and Thomas II (83 acres). His daughters Frances and Elizabeth each received two cows and two pewter dishes. Following are records of Thomas's children:

- William Cowdry [born 1684?] has a will dated 1734 filed in Northampton County.
- Thomas II Cowdry had a will dated 3/3/1778 and probated 6/9/1778 in Northampton County, Virginia [we have a copy from Will Book No. 26, page no. 129]. He gave the "use of all my negroes" to his wife Sarah until son William comes of lawful age, and then "their increase" to be divided among his wife Sarah and their children William (heir), Thomas III, Betsey, and Esther. To his wife Sarah and their children was also left his "riding chair, a grey mare called Pink, a horse called Satchell, half a dozen best cows and calves, ten ewes, all the beds and furniture belonging to him, two 'best breeding' sows, and twelve 'best hogs for another year's killing.'" His wife is to have "all the provisions that is in the house, the use of the horses, the negroes that is hired to make the crop, and to have it for her own use and to pay the rent out of the crop, also two iron pots, one large and one small one, two dishes one dozen pewter plates and one doz. stone, frying pan, one tea kittle, one grid iron, half dozen chairs, one small walnut table and one fine cupboard."
- On 12/10/1698, Joshua Cordry was involved in a deed of sale to Henry Pennington of 150 acres for "Follies" on the south side of Cedar Creek in Somerset County, Maryland. Josias Cowdery bought 50 acres from Robert Howson on 1/8/1708/1709 and 180 acres from John Custis on 10/20/1709. Josias had a will probated 5/10/1726 in Northampton County, Virginia. He left a cow to his wife Charity and to their sons Josias a heiffer and Joshua a mare. His son Thomas executed the will. His daughters Elizabeth and Grace are also mentioned in the will.
 - Joshua/Josias's son Thomas married Sarah. They had William, Betty/Betsey, Esther, and Thomas II. His will was dated 3/3/1778.

Ben I's son Ben II had no children as of 1684, so his children were all born after he moved to Milford, Delaware. Ben II returned at least once to Eastville, Virginia and may have married a woman from there, since there were few young women at that time in Milford. Ben II had three sons—Isaac who died around 1760; William who was born around 1684-1688 and died in 1746; and Thomas Cordery who lived 1704-1764 and was born in Dry Run, Wythe County, Virginia. These brothers may be the origin for the family's "three brothers" stories, that three brothers Cordrey landed in Delaware in 1728 or earlier and then moved apart. William moved to New Jersey, Tom moved to Frederick County, Virginia in 1752, and Isaac remained in Mispelleon Hundred of Kent County, Delaware. A book about the descendants of Tom Cordry, Descendants of Virginia, Kentucky, and Missouri Pioneers, was published by Eugene Allen Cordry in 1973.

Ben II's son William married Anne Clement. They moved from Milford, Delaware to Great Egg Harbor, New Jersey in 1708 and bought property there in 1709. William had Isaac (died 1802), Clement (died childless in 1757), and Edmund (1723-1807). William died in 1746. His will mentions his 500 acres in Milford.

- Isaac's son William (died 1812) served in the Revolutionary War.
- Edmund was a Quaker. His sons Sylvanus (1748-1801) and Clement (1757-1838) were also Quakers in New Jersey but served in the Revolutionary War. Edmund had another son Dan (born 1762).

Ben II's son Isaac originated the Kent County line of Cordrys. He died around 1760. He witnessed the will of his neighbor William Manlowe/Manlove of Mispelleon Hundred who died in 1761. Isaac's children were Tom I (died around 1783), Noble I (died around 1782), James (born 1754), and William (died around 1785).

- Tom I's children were Tom II (died 1832) and Isaac II (died 1816).
 - Tom II was born 1740-1750 and died in 1832 in Tuscarawas County, Ohio after living in Milford, Delaware; Cumberland, Maryland; and Ohio. He was illiterate and spelled his name 8 different ways. He might have fought in the Revolutionary War. His daughter was Comfort Bryan. [There is another mention that the will of Bennett Bryan of Cedar Creek Hundred, dated 10/28/1787, included his daughter Comfort Cordery.]
 - Isaac II was born in 1740 and died in 1816 in Kent County, Delaware. He married Mary Collins. He was the great-great-great grandfather of Robert Cordray of Pittsburgh, who corresponded with George H. Corrdry, Jr. in 1980-1982. According to his will, his children were Curtis (c.1775-1818), Noble (1784-c.1850), Jacob (born c. 1786), Mary (born c. 1788), and Thomas Cordray (1773-1839). Another son Isaac III (1777-1814) was already deceased when his father died.
 - Isaac II's son Thomas Cordray (1773-1839) had a great fear of Indians, so he built a blockhouse called "Cordray's Fort" on Stewart Run, in Montgomery County, Virginia (now in Monongalia County, West Virginia), when he arrived there in 1794 from Farmington, Delaware. Thomas's son Isaac (1811-1888) was the great grandfather of Robert Cordray.
- Noble I's children were Noble II of Milford, Delaware (died after 1788) and Tom E. of Mispelleon Hundred, Delaware (died 1829).
 - On 2/3/1769, John Crippen sold to Noble Cordry (I or II?), "yeoman of Kent County, Delaware," a tract of 200 acres called Cotland Land that was laid out for John Murphy in the forest of Cedar Creek Hundred and on each side of Bowman Branch. John Murphy's will left this land to Nehemiah Tindley and his three sisters when he died without issue. Noble Cordery/Cordry (I or II?), William Willey, and Nehemiah Smith ("all gentlemen of Sussex County") on 5/5/1772 sold to Williams Borroughs of Sussex County, "gentleman," for 160 pounds a plantation of 200 acres in Cedar Creek Hundred [probably the same tract], which was left to John Murphey by Nehemiah Tilney. Those three men were described as descendants of John Murphey.
- The will of John Laws, Jr. dated 4/20/1788 was witnessed by Nobel Cordray.
- According to the 1800 census of Delaware, James Cordery lived with Gerald and Doris Ollar Maddux.
- In April 1803, Noble Cordery was a member of the 2nd Company, 6th Regiment of the Delaware Militia.
- There is a mention of Killom Cordery in the company of Captain James Dennis on April 9-10, 1814 during the War of 1812.

Ben II's son Tom/Thomas Cordry/Cordray (1704-1764) moved in 1752 to Frederick County in the Virginia interior. Also in 1752, he married Martha Hannah Crockett, whose father was David Crockett. Tom owned at least 400 acres. His will was probated 3/6/1764 in Frederick County, Virginia (now Berkeley County, West Virginia). [We have a copy.] His children included Thomas II (born 1722/1729 and died after 1785), Sidney (a girl, 1726-1731/1732), Mary (born c.1733; married Job Curtis), and John (born c.1735 and died in 1760).

- Tom's son John Cordry took a land grant along the upper reaches of the Potomac River in Frederick County, Virginia (now Berkeley County, West Virginia), and had it surveyed in September 1752. He married Hannah Langston (born in New Jersey) in the late 1750's in Camden, New Jersey. His only son John II was born after his death in 1760 in Frederick County. Hannah later married George Coon and moved to what is now Montgomery County, Virginia.
 - John II (born in 1760) married Catherine Mann around 1780. They moved to what is now Todd County, Kentucky, and he died there in 1815. It is thought that this is the John Cordry who was a private in Captain Joseph Crockett's Company from Virginia during the Revolutionary War 12/28/1776-6/30/1777. He was the GGGG-gf of Eugene Allen Cordry.
 - Five or six of John II's nine children homesteaded in Cooper County, Missouri in the 1830's.
 - Son William died in the War of 1812.

- Son James married Margaret Murphy and had son William Langston Cordry. He was born on 1/15/1816 on the Red River Farm near Elkton, Virginia. He married Mary Ann Wear and they had five sons.
- Other sons of John II were James, Charles, John III, William, and Elizah.
- Tom's son Thomas II ("Indian trader") married Mary Lacewell (daughter of John Lacewell). He moved from Virginia to Georgia in 1759 and died around 1785. He was a Tory and fought for the British in the Revolutionary War. When the pro-British garrison of Ft. James, Georgia surrendered in 1781, he fled to St. Augustine, Florida.
 - His son Tom III (1762-1840+) married first a Cherokee Indian Sue Sonicodie and then an African-American. He was the great great grandfather of the famous Will Rogers.

According to the 1820 census, Noble and Thomas Cordery lived in Monongalia in the Western Division of Virginia.

Other Early Settlers

Following is information about people with similar names who may be related to us:

- William Cowdray/Cowdrey/Cordry (born 1602 in England and died 1687 in Reading, MA) came to Lynn, Massachusetts in 1630 (probably sent by the Massachusetts Bay Company). He also lived in Reading, Massachusetts. According to Robert Cordray, he may be a descendant of Falk de Coudray, who died in 1251 and was from either the St. Lou or Chinon area of France. "Deacon" Cordry was one of the earliest settlers in Reading. He served as the town clerk until his death. His wife Johanna died in 1666, leaving their sons Nathaniel and Mathias.
- Edward Cowdrey, a servant, was transported to Maryland on Christmas, 1662 with his passage paid by someone else.
- Liz Banks was married to a Cowdery and was transported to Maryland in 1676.
- In 1689, there is an order of the court on the Virginia Eastern Shore to take William Cowdroy into custody until he gives bond for his appearance at the next court to give account of his handling of the estate of the orphaned children of "Captain John" [perhaps Captain John Savage, son of Captain Thomas Savage].
- In the early days of Baltimore County, Maryland, there are records of James and Tom Cowdray. Tom was a vestryman of St. George's Parish. His brother James had a son James, who was married to Anne Green in St. John's Parish in Baltimore County in September 1723. James Cordrey was on the 1699 list of Taxables for Baltimore County.
- Also in Baltimore County, Mary Cowdrey married Joseph Yates on 11/5/1712, Anne Cowdrey married Thomas Dawney in 1730, and Mary Cowdrey/Caudry married Patrick Whealand on 1/26/1749.
- Ann Cowdrey, wife of Richard, was sentenced in February 1760 to "transportation" and was transported aboard the "Friendship" in March 1760, according to English Convicts in Colonial Maryland, Volume 1.
- Daniel Cowdry married Sarah on September 3, 1779 in Northampton County, Virginia.
- Savage Cowdrey had a father Tom, who died in 1743. Savage married Mary Barlour on 6/15/1758. He sold his Northampton County, Virginia property in 1768 and moved up to Accomack County, Virginia. He had a will recorded in Accomack County in 1783. His will mentions a wife Mary, a son Henry, and a mare named Fly.
- According to the Maryland Historical Magazine, Jacob Cawdry served under Captain Thomas Gillis in the Colonial Militia during the period of 1740-1748.
- An inventory for Arthur Cord was done in 1751 in Accomack County, Virginia.
- According to Revolutionary War Records – Virginia, John Cowdray, a private in the infantry, filed a claim for bounty land in 1835 for three year's service in the Illinois Regiment. The names of John E. Cowdery,

John Cowdry, and John Cowdrey [the same or a different person] are included in the Historical Register of Virginians in the Revolutionary War, with a record in Accomack County dated 7/29/1777.

- Oliver Cowdery/Cowdry was baptized and was one of the founders of the Mormon Church in Utah.
- William Cordray was born near Wheeling in what is now West Virginia. His son John Alex (1827-1894) fought in the Civil War. After the war, the son founded Cordrayville in Calhoun County, Georgia.

Delaware Cordry Line

General History of the Settlement of Sussex County, Delaware

According to Harold B. Hancock in The History of Sussex County, Delaware, “The first white settlers who came to Sussex County were attracted by its streams, its forest, its fertile soil, its vegetation, the fowl, fish and animals in abundance and the chance to become freeholders.” Richard W. Cooper in Wicomico County History, edited by George H. Corrdry, Jr. describes the first settlers to the Somerset County area of Delaware and Maryland as, having established themselves along the banks of rivers “and the myriad creeks and streams that fed them, found themselves with their backs literally against a wall of forest, with only the most primitive of trails leading to high land. Much of the shore was marsh, swamps, mud flats, and...wetlands.”

It is unknown at this time who was the first “Cordry” ancestor to arrive in Somerset County, Maryland, in what is now Wicomico County, Maryland and Sussex County, Delaware, and when that individual or group arrived. However, the first documented “Cordry” in the area was John Cordry, who was born in the area in 1662. Since the first white settlers arrived in Sussex County in 1631, the Cordry’s were among the first settlers.

Hendrick Hudson discovered Delaware Bay and River in 1609 for the Dutch. Delaware Bay was named in 1610 for Lord De la Ware, governor of the Virginia Colony. The Dutch West India Company granted to a group of investors a tract of land from the Broadkill River south to what is now Fenwick Island. This antedates by one year Maryland’s charter. Twenty-eight male settlers arrived in 1631 to establish a trading post at what is now Lewes, Delaware. All of them were massacred by the Indians. Another group of Dutch and Swedes had a settlement in the Wilmington area in 1638 named Fort Christina. In 1643 the New Sweden Company established settlements. In 1655 Fort Christina and New Sweden passed to Dutch control. Settlement of Delaware by the Dutch then got underway after 1655. In 1664 the Delaware colony and New Netherland were seized by the English. In 1674 the three counties on the Delaware became English possessions.

The first settlements of Delaware were in the east along the Atlantic Ocean and Delaware Bay coasts at Lewes and Cape Henlopen and along the waterways. The Cordry’s settled westward and inland from the Chesapeake Bay coast, first west of Salisbury along the Wicomico River. They then moved north to the area of Laurel and Bacon, Delaware near Broad Creek and Little Creek, that flow into the Nanticoke River, and along other creeks that flow into the Wicomico River, both of which end up in the Chesapeake Bay. Although Lewes on the Atlantic coast was the center of the county’s early development, the Cordry’s remained along the rivers and creeks of the Chesapeake Bay’s watershed, farming in what was forest, swamp, and Indian territory.

The Nanticoke Indians lived in western Sussex County and adjacent areas of Maryland, with settlements along the Nanticoke River and its tributaries. The State of Maryland gave the Nanticoke Indians tracts of land along Broad Creek in the Laurel area. White settlers tried to gain control of this fertile land, and there was conflict. The first settlers, probably including Cordry’s, lived in isolated cabins in the woods of Indian territory. In 1680 the Nanticoke Indians became subject to the Iroquois. In 1742, they began to move to Pennsylvania and merged with the Iroquois.

Originally, Delaware (founded in 1631) consisted of two counties—Whorekill County in the south and New Castle County in the north. Somerset County, Maryland was founded in 1661, 30 years after Delaware, and included the current Wicomico County, Maryland and Sussex County, Delaware where the Cordry's settled. Therefore, no Cordry or anyone with a similar name was listed in Delaware censuses for 1665-1697. In the 17th century, Somerset County was divided into "hundreds"--Nanticoke, Baltimore, Pocomoke, Bogerternorten, Mattapany, Wicomico, Monie, Manokin, and Annamessex. They varied considerably in size. A hundred was a traditional division of a county in England, probably going back to Anglo-Saxon times. Its meaning and origin have varied explanations, the most logical being that it was an area where 100 warriors or 100 landowners lived. The Cordry's mostly settled in Nanticoke and Wicomico hundreds near rivers of the same names.

Colonel Scarsburgh of Northampton County, Virginia, was instrumental in the founding of Somerset County. He was appointed to the office of Surveyor General of Virginia by the Crown. He was in command of all the military on the peninsula, and was simultaneously a Virginia commissioner and a Maryland commissioner.

In 1664 during the Dutch-English war, the English under the James Stewart, the Duke of York and the Lord High Admiral of the British Navy, took possession of the Dutch territory along the Delaware River and also took control of the present New York State. Lord Baltimore disputed the Duke of York's claim to the "Three Lower Counties on Delaware," and established Somerset County, Maryland in 1666. When the Dutch regained New York from the English in 1673, they reasserted their claim to the settlements on the Delaware River. As part of the peace treaty between England and Holland in 1676, England regained the settlements along the Delaware. Many land patents were granted during the 1670's by the Duke of York along the coast or close to rivers. Purchase from the Indian owners was also frequently required. When William Penn obtained Pennsylvania in 1681 to settle a debt owed to his father, he persuaded the Duke of York in 1682 to include the Delaware counties in the grant. The borders of the land grant were vague. King Charles II urged Lord Baltimore and the Penn family to compromise any conflicts they might have. Even though Lord Baltimore had tried to colonize the lands along the Delaware, such scattered settlements as there were at this time were actually in the hands of the Duke of York. When his brother King Charles II died in 1685, the Duke of York became King James VII of Scotland and King James II of England. The Governor of Pennsylvania was the Chief Executive of Delaware until 1776, although Delaware since 1704 had a separate legislature.

In 1681, the residents of northern Whorekill County petitioned the Governor to found a new county with its county-seat at the present Dover. The request was granted. Southern Whorekill County (northern part of current Sussex County) became Deale County, and northern Whorekill (present Kent County) became St. Jones County. The lower county was renamed as "Sussex." By 1700, the population of Sussex County was probably less than 1,000 persons.

Worcester County, Maryland was formed in 1742 from part of what was previously Somerset County, Maryland, with parts remaining as Somerset and parts as Sussex County, Delaware. The present line between Delaware and Maryland was adopted in 1767. In 1867 Wicomico County, Maryland broke off from Somerset and Worcester Counties, as the next to the last county formed in Maryland.

The new Sussex County also was divided into "hundreds." The Cordry's lived in Little Creek Hundred, which was one of five new hundreds established by the state's legislative assembly in 1775, after lands formerly held by Somerset or Worcester County, Maryland were transferred to the ownership of Sussex County, Delaware. In the first tax list of Little Creek Hundred in 1775, John Cordry (#111) (John III 1716/1722-1783) was included as a household head with his sons John, Jr. (11) (John IV 1750-1820) and Elisha (1756-1781) living with him. As the county grew during the 18th century, most of the new arrivals came from the British

Isles, including Scotland and Ireland. One scholar estimates Sussex County's population as 13,928 in 1775, including about 700 black inhabitants (free and slave).

In the 17th and early 18th centuries, tobacco was grown in Sussex County. The soil and climate were also suitable for growing corn, wheat, rye, vegetables, and fruit. Most of the land was covered by forest. Settlers farmed their land using their own labor and that of their family. Some settlers had indentured servants, apprentices, and slaves. Census information shows single people living with families, probably providing their labor in return for room and board. More class distinctions appeared in the 18th century. More slaves were used for farming. Occupations besides farming developed—trades, lumbering, grist and saw mills, tanning, shipyards, and manufacture of iron or salt. One Cordry was listed in a census as a tailor, and other Cordry's had a grist mill.

During the Revolutionary War, many inhabitants of Sussex County remained loyal to the mother country, although before the war they opposed British taxation and the Stamp Act. There was much disagreement in the county. A number of Cordry's enrolled in local militias of the Revolutionary Army, and some served in the navy or with its associated privateers. There were also disagreements during the Civil War, when large numbers of the population supported the Confederacy, particularly in the western part of the county. The county had much in common with the South, with its dependence on agriculture and lack of industrialization and urban areas. Much of the labor for agriculture came from slaves or free blacks. The 1840 census for Little Creek Hundred reported 605 white males, 575 white females, 455 colored males, 393 colored females, 14 male slaves, and 8 female slaves. On the eve of the Civil War, there were 1,341 slaves in Sussex County, working as household servants or farm laborers.

Lewes was the only town of any size before the 19th century. Laurel was laid out in 1802, on land once provided by Maryland to the Nanticoke Indians. Construction of the Delaware Railroad during the 1850's stimulated towns. Laurel became a trade center, with the railroad passing through it.

By the Civil War, the soil in Sussex County became exhausted due to lack of crop rotation and poor farming techniques. Many inhabitants sought opportunities in new professions or new geographic areas. Some Cordry's moved west. William Derrickson Corddry, Sr. moved to Snow Hill, Maryland as an orphan around 1853, beginning a new line.

John I Cordry (Cordery, Cordrey, Cowdry, Cowdrey, Cawdry, Cauthrey, Coadry)--Beginning of the Delaware and Snow Hill, Maryland Lines

Born about 1662 in Somerset County, Maryland (now Wicomico County, Maryland)

Died August 3, 1722 at his home "Long Acre" in Nanticoke Hundred, Somerset County, Maryland

John Cowdry married Mary Nuttley (1660/1665 – 1736 in Somerset County) on 1/8/1683/1684 in Somerset County, according to Maryland Marriages 1634-1777. There are also records that John married Mary Nutter (2/17/1672-12/2/1702 or 1736). Are they the same or a different person? If different, which woman is the mother of the children? Mary Nutter was born at Manoakin Plantation in Manoakin, Somerset County per Maryland, Births and Christenings Index 1662-1911. Her parents were William "Christopher" Nutter (born 1636/1640 in Lancaster, England and died 1702 in Princess Anne, Somerset County) and Mary Loftland Dorman (born 3/28/1645 in Manokin, Somerset County, MD and died 12/2/1702 in Princess Anne, Somerset County). Her father was an Indian interpretator. Mary Nutter married a second spouse Captain William Piper (1674-1707) in 1694. Church records have that Mary Nutter, child of Christopher Nutter, was baptized on 2/13/1676 at Sowerby, St. Peter and Others, Yorkshire, England.

Children: [various dates are given for their births and deaths] born in Somerset County

Abraham (heir) (1684/1690-1741)

Jacob (1684/1689 – 1750)

John II (1681/1684/1689-1730/1739/1741)

Edward III (1684-1748)

Isaac (1690 – 1722/1735) (possibly unmarried)

Daniel (1694-c.1748)

John I lived near the mouth of the Wicomico River by 1684 in what was then Somerset County, Maryland, now Wicomico County, Maryland. Maryland Marriages – 1634-1777 by Robert Barnes records that John Cawdry married Mary Nuttley on 1/8/1683 or 1684 in Somerset County. John's faith was probably the Church of England, as was his children's and grandchildren's until the Methodist Church separated from the Church of England in 1784.

John had a brother Dan (born in 1680), and either a sister or first cousin Helen (1672-1739). Dan had a son David of Rehoboth Hundred, who was an overseer of roads. David had a son Jacob, who died in 1787.

By 1675 John was a servant of George Johnson of Annessex, Somerset County, because on 11/10/1675 he presented John at court to have his age determined (13) in order to determine the length of his servitude. Probably the first property acquired by the Cordry's in Maryland was "Long Acre" (200 acres), west of the current Salisbury. It was conveyed on January 18, 1699 to John Cawdry (planter) by Thomas Walker, Jr. (planter) and Nicholas Evans (planter whose daughters Ann and Rachael were the first two wives of John's son Daniel). [We have a copy of this deed.] This land became John's home plantation. According to Charlie Truitt's Historic Salisbury Updated (page 10), Long Acre was previously bought by David Williams (Williamson) from James Jones in August 1674 (whose initial warrant was dated 10/23/1672 and whose patent for Long Acre was dated 8/1/1673).

[Is this James Jones the same James Jones (1640-5/12/1719) who was the father of Hannah Jones (1669-1704)? Hannah Jones was married to John Corderoy, son of Edward Corderoy, and who then married Samuel I. Northington (1667-1700/1704) in 1691 after John died between 1682 and 1691. This Edward Corderoy and William Corderoy had a lot of land transactions in Gloucester County, Virginia during the period that Anna Corderoy Bernard and her relatives were settling there. This William Corderoy was married to Johanna Jones. The identities of these people are uncertain; however, numerous members of the Corderoy family married with the Jones family.]

James Jones was identified by Truitt as the first settler in the area that is now Wicomico County, Maryland. Truitt describes Long Acre as "back in the woods on the north side of the Wicomico River, about seven air miles from today's Salisbury." Long Acre is described in land plat records as about a mile in the woods on the northwest side of the Wicomico River. In another deed, Long Acre was described as "lying by Little Creek," a branch of Broad Creek. It was near the mouth of the Wicomico River and in the general area of other future Cordry properties, including "Goddard's Lot." James Jones (gentleman) purchased Long Acre on August 1, 1673. He sold it to David Williamson on August 10, 1674. David Williamson died intestate and the courts had to settle ownership of Long Acre. He, his wife, and four small children were murdered there in February 1678. Indians were suspected and the sheriff called upon the Governor for aid. Troops were dispatched to the Indian village of Chicone on the Wicomico River where the "emperor" of the Nanticokes was seated. The emperor surrendered the suspected killer, who escaped but was later captured and executed.

Another tract in the same Little Creek area was "Gabrell's Denyall" ("Gabriels Denial"). The property was 300 acres lying by Little Creek, granted to John Cawdry/Cordray on May 6, 1694 by a bond of obligation

for “8 thousand 400 pounds good sound, marketable leafe tobacco” from the widow of Edward Day (“belongs to the heir of Edward Day, but the widow refuses to pay rent”). This was part of a 745-acre property “Coxes Discovery” for which Edward Day obtained a warrant May 10, 1688 and a patent December 4, 1688. “Rhodes/Rhoades Lot” was also part of that property. Coxes Discovery was by a glade of marsh near the side of Little Creek Branch out of Broad Creek.

On 6/4/1721 John I purchased from John Caldwell 100 acres of land in Somerset County that he called “Caudery’s Beginning.” This land adjoined “Long Acre,” and both properties were probably in the vicinity of Rockawalkin Creek. The patent for “Cordry’s Beginning” was issued in 5/8/1723 after John I’s death. According to Sussex County Land Certificates V. 20 for the 1700’s, John Cordrey [John I or II?] purchased “Opportunity” (page 181) and Jacob Cordrey [John I’s son?] purchased “Honesty” (page 181).

John died at Long Acre. John Coadry’s (Cawdry/Cordrey) will (made 1/13/1721 and probated/recorded 8/3/1722) named his wife Mary and his son Abraham as the executors. The 1722 inventory divided his property among his widow Mary and his six sons. It confirmed his deed of gift dated 2/6/1719 and recorded 3/20/1720 (deed IK-014-35) of the home place, a 200-acre plantation, including a new dwelling, known as “Long Acre,” to his oldest son, Abraham, “loving son,” to operate “if he satisfies previous deed of gift” by having heirs, and with it going to Abraham’s brother Isaac otherwise. Besides the farm, Abraham got the new dwelling on the property. John willed “Coadry’s Beginning” (100 acres) to another son Jacob; a feather bed and furniture to John II; a cow and lamb to Edward III; one cow to Isaac; and one shilling to Daniel. Presumably, these were in descending order of birth. His widow Mary received his personal estate. On 7/6/1724, there is an account from John Cordry’s will by the will’s executors his wife Mary and son Abraham, which was paid to John’s other sons John II, Edward, and Isaac. Then on 7/1/1741, Abraham Cordray (planter) sold “Long Acre” to Robert Graham (merchant) for 225 pounds. Widow Cordry is on the 1727 tax list for Wicomico Hundred in Somerset County. On 6/20/1726, Mary and Abraham, as executors of John’s will, filed a list of payments to Abraham’s brothers Edward, Isaac, and John II. These were mostly livestock—a cow and calf, ewes, lambs, etc.

Abraham, son of John I, (1684/1690-c.1741) was married to Martha. He was deeded “Long Acre” by his father. He and his brother Daniel were shoe-makers/cordwainers. In 1725 he served as constable of Wicomico Hundred. He served as a grand juror in Somerset County on 11/20/1734. In 1739 he lived next to his brother Daniel. On 7/1/1740 he bought land from Robert Graham. In 1741 he sold “Long Acre” to Robert Graham and moved to the Pocomoke River, possibly near its mouth. On 6/30/1741 Abraham Cawdry bought from Saul Townsend “Cawdreys Delight,” 134 acres on the north side of the Pocomoke River at the upper end of Nasswattux Neck.

- Abraham II Cordrey (son of Abraham, son of John I) married Elizabeth/Liz Furnis/Furniss on 7/16/1752 in Coventry Parish of Somerset County. They had James on 5/10/1753, William on 10/19/1754, Jonathan on 10/28/1756, and Mary on 4/18/1759. Deeds were recorded for Abraham Cordry with Robert Graham and Saul Townsend. In 1781(?), Abraham purchased “Cordery’s Security” in Worcester County, Maryland. Either Abraham the father or the son was in debtors’ prison. Abraham Cordray/Cordrey was a private in the Worcester Militia in Captain John Martin’s Company 1780/1781 during the American Revolution.
 - James, son of Abraham II, was born in Coventry Parish on 5/10/1753. James Cordery (S9266) fought in the Revolutionary War, according to Index to Delawareans in the Index to Revolutionary War Pension Applications. A James Cordray was chief mate on the ship Defence on 9/19/1776, after serving as 2nd mate. Captain James Cordery was captain of the privateer Buckskin in 1776.
 - William Cordray/Cordry/Caudrey/Caudry took the oath in 1778 to serve in the Revolutionary War militia. He served as a private in the Worcester Militia Sinepuxent Branch under Captain John Rackliff’s Company in 1779 and 1780.

Edward III, son of John I, (c.1684-c.1748) was married to Sarah Ann and had sons David and Isaac.

- Isaac is first listed in the Somerset County 1724 tax roll as living with his father and is listed in the 1733 tax roll as his own head of household.

Jacob, son of John I, (1684/1689-1750) married Sarah, who was previously the wife of Robert Jones. [Is he related to the previously mentioned James Jones, the original owner of “Long Acre”?] Jacob had the account in the will dated 6/20/1726 of Robert Jones, and Sarah was the administrator with no distribution of heirs. Jacob later married Ann Bashaw. There is an orphan’s bond dated 8/22/1733 concerning the death of Thomas Bashaws, which bounds his children to Jacob and Paul Cordery and Moses Alexander. William Bashaw lived with Jacob according to the 1739 tax list. Jacob is included on a list of troops under Capt. Thomas Gilliss as of 6/30/1732. In 1747 he sold “Coadrys Beginning” to Robert Graham, who also bought Robert Graham.

Daniel Cordry, son of John I, (1694-c.1748) was a shoe-maker. He is frequently mentioned in records of the time. He is named by Torrence in Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore as one of the early settlers in Somerset County during 1666-1700. A levy list of Somerset County 1725 Accession #20398-2 mentioned a levy on Daniel Cordery for the Pocomoke ferry, and a payment to jurymen Daniel Cordery. Daniel was also on juries on 3/3/1733 and 8/21/1733. In 1728, the Orphans Court recorded for Daniel Cordry a “motion for allowance, etc.” In the early 1720’s he lived in Pocomoke Hundred, and by 1730 he had moved to Wicomico Hundred.

- Daniel’s first two wives, Ann Evans (1st wife, died c.1726-1731) and Rachael Evans (2nd wife, lived 1701-1775) were sisters. Rachael’s first husband was George Collier. The sisters were daughters of Col. Nicholas Evans and his 2nd wife, Rachel Battain. Their mother’s 1st husband was Rev. John II Huett (1640-1698), who was the first real minister (Church of England) in Somerset County, Maryland. He arrived from Wales around 1686 after his father John I Huett was beheaded by Thomas Cromwell. [On 12/28/1728, Daniel Cordry married the widow Jane Cale. (?)]
 - In 1731 Daniel Cordry and his 2nd wife Rachael accounted for administering the estate of George Collier, Rachael’s 1st husband.
 - In 6/1734, Daniel Cordrey asked for a commission to be appointed because the boundaries were almost decayed for a tract of land called “Jones’ Hole.”
 - Daniel and Rachael Cordry had a deed recorded on 4/9/1740 for about 200 acres bought by Levin Gale for 150 pounds. Rachael had secretly examined the deal apart from her husband. This property was on the Wicomico River and was part of “Jones Hole.”
 - In April 1742, Daniel Cordry conveyed several items to George Dashiell because Rachael had mortgaged her interest in her home lands.
 - In 1742/1743 Levin Gale purchased land near White Haven Town from Thomas Walker and also “Privilege” adjoining it. This land was formerly sold to Edward Day [previously mentioned] and was adjacent to land “devised” by Colonel Evans to his daughter Rachel, married to Daniel.
- Daniel and Rachael’s daughter Elinor was born on 1/17/1737 in Stepney Parish, Somerset County, as reported in the records of All Saints Church (Old Monie). They also had a son Daniel II who died in 1787, leaving his estate to his wife Betsy/Rebecca Acworth for her lifetime and afterwards to James Acworth (son of James), according to his will dated 11/1/1785 and probated 8/10/1789. Daniel II may be the Daniel Cordrey included as #57 on the 1757 tax list for Pocomoke Hundred. Daniel Cordray/Cordry/Condry was a private in the Somerset Militia, Salisbury Branch, under Captain Joseph Venables’ Barren Creek Company 1778/1780.
- Daniel married his 3rd wife Rachael Howe around 1742 even though his 2nd wife Rachael Evans was still alive.
- Rachael Evans intentionally disinherited her children by Daniel--Elinor and Daniel II, and stated that only her children by her first husband George Collier would receive any of her estate. Rachael owned properties.

She donated a silver cup to a local church of the Church of England. After her estranged husband Daniel Cordrey died in 1748, Rachael requested to be buried beside her first husband George Collier. Rachel received “Can’t Tell,” from Lord Baltimore on 6/15/1764 for “5 shillings and **love and affection.**” It was a parcel of 91 acres in Somerset County on the north side of the Wicomico River. In her will made 3/18/1770, probated 6/7/1770, and dated 8/20/1771, Rachel left for a slave named Caesar/Seacar 4 chairs, 2 pot hooks, 4 pewter plates, and 15 pounds of old feathers. She left to her son Nicholas Evans Collier land that was mortgaged by Daniel and herself to Levin Gale. She left a cow to her daughter Jane Anderson and 5 pounds to her granddaughter Priscilla Collier.

- There is a record of Elinor, the daughter of Daniel and Rachel Cordrey, receiving “Can’t Tell.”

In the Somerset County, Maryland tax list for 1724, the only Cordrey’s were the five living sons and a grandson of John I. In Wicomico Hundred, there were Abraham, Edward, Edward’s son Isaac, and John II (also listed in Nanticoke Hundred). Jacob was listed in Nanticoke Hundred with one slave. Daniel was listed in Pocomoke Hundred. Also listed in Pocomoke Hundred was Densil Cordry [?] with his wife Virgin Moses.

The 1727 Somerset County tax list includes three sons of John I—Daniel in Pocomoke Hundred and Abraham, Edward, and John I’s widow in Wicomico Hundred.

In the 1733 Somerset County tax list, the only Cordry’s/Cordrey’s were the five living sons of John I: Abraham with 200 acres in Wicomico Hundred, Daniell with two slaves and 291 acres in Wicomico Hundred, Edward and his son David in Nanticoke Hundred, Edward’s son Isaac in Nanticoke Hundred, Jacob with 170 acres in Wicomico Hundred, and John II with his son Morgan and 100 acres in Wicomico Hundred.

The 1739 Somerset County tax list includes five Cordrey’s: three sons of John I—Abraham, Daniel, and Jacob—and two grandsons—John III and David. Abraham was the head of household #848 in Wicomico Hundred with Daniel Dury. Daniel was the head of household #847 in Wicomico Hundred with N. Evans Collier (which is the last name of his 2nd wife Rachael Evans’ 1st deceased husband, so may be her child Nicholas by that marriage), a male slave Samson, and a female slave Sibb. Jacob was the head of household #947 in Wicomico Hundred with William Bushaw, an orphan bound to him. John III was the head of household #681 in Wicomico Hundred with his son John Jr. IV. David was the head of household #1930 in Baltimore Hundred with his brother Morgan.

The Somerset County tax lists for 1730, 1733, 1744, 1748, and 1753 include Abraham, John, and Morgan Codry; Edward Cordry; and Daniel, Isaac, and Jacob Cordrey. The Somerset County 1757 tax list includes the following Cordry’s: David, Henry, John, Morgan, and Windo [?].

Included on the 1783 tax lists for Somerset and Worcester County, Maryland are:

- In Acquango Hundred: John Cordrey for 100 acres adjacent to Broad Neck and for “Hog Quarter” 80 acres, totaling 186 ½ acres on which lived 4 males and 3 females
 - In Buckingham Hundred: Jonathan Cordrey for “Adventure” as an addition to “Wharton” with 100 acres and no inhabitants
 - In Nanticoke District: Henry Cordray for “Turnstile” with 70 acres on which lived 5 males and 2 females
 - In Rewastico District: Daniell Cordry for “Quierson Neck” with 50 acres on which lived 2 males and 3 females; Thomas Cordry for “Wilson’s Discovery” with 75 acres on which lived 4 males and 6 females

John II Cordry (son of John I)

Born 1681/1684/1689 in Somerset County, Maryland

Revised 2 9 2023

Died 1730/1739/1741 in Somerset County (his estate was taxed in 1729 and 1730 and abated in 1731; he might have died without a will in 1739)

In 1711, married Mary Isham Colston Thomas (born in 1690 and died in Somerset County before 1739 when John II died; her father was Lambrook Thomas (he died in 1713). Mary Cadrey, wife of John Cadrey, is mentioned in the will of Lambrook Tomos, that the couple was to get his water mill property in their lifetime and then the property went to their daughter Mary)

He then married Liz/Elizabeth [Hitch?] (died 1741), who survived him.

Children with Mary: Mary (born 1712)
Morgan (born 1713/1714; died after 1753)
David (1714/1717-1776)
John III (“the Planter”) (1716/1722 - 1783)
Henry (born 1718/1730/1735/1737; died 1797)
Jacob (died 1787): administration of Jacob Cordrey’s will by Job Gozle and his wife Edy was granted on 9/5/1787.

Children with Liz/Elizabeth: Liz (Elizabeth). Elizabeth Cordery in her will dated 3/16/1741 left her “best” feather bed to her daughter Elizabeth, as witnessed by her step-son Morgan M. Cordery. Her will did not mention her stepsons by John II.

Adam Heath/Hitch surveyed “Come by Chance” (560 acres) in 1707 and bought “High Suffolk” (1,450 acres) from Tom Walker in 1707, who had it previously surveyed in 1677. These properties were on the north side and near the mouth of the Wicomico River (then called Rockawalkin) at the head of a mill dam branch known as Cottinghams Creek (Mill Creek), next to “Long Acre” and west of the current Salisbury. These properties were purchased by John II Cordray, Jr. (Cordry, Cawdry, Caudrey, Codery) at age 30 from Adam and Ann Heatch/Hitch/Heath [parents of John II’s 2nd wife Elizabeth/Liz?] on February 8, 1721 for 10,000 pounds of tobacco. The properties are among a cluster of properties owned by the Hitch family. A property called “Caudery’s Beginning” was near Rockawalkin in Somerset County, Maryland. In 1730 and 1739 John II is on the tax list for Wicomico Hundred, where he lived until his death.

There is an indenture dated March 22, 1724 related to “Long Acre” between John Cordrey and other parties. [We have a copy that is difficult to read.]

A warrant from 1727 for a property called “Meadow Fields” mentions that it is on the east side of the Nanticoke River about 0.5 miles east of John Cordray’s mill on Tussocky/Tursecky Branch, west of what is now Laurel, Delaware and north of what is now Salisbury, Maryland.

When the family moved north to the Laurel, Delaware area, John II’s sons Morgan Cordery (Cordray) and John III Cordery (Cordray) sold to Dennis Dulany (tailor) on January 1, 1746 “Come by Chance” (70 acres) and “High Suffolk” (30 acres). On January 31, 1746, Morgan and John III Cordery borrowed 40 pounds from Dennis Delaney for “moving.”

The 1753 tax list for Nanticoke Hundred in Somerset County, Maryland has John II’s sons Morgan Cordry as # 737 and David Cordry as # 772. The 1757 tax list for Nanticoke Hundred has John III Cordry as # 1118 and also David, Morgan, and Windo [?] Cordry.

No mention was made in John II’s will of Mary, his daughter. However, an indenture dated March 8, 1730 records the sale of a grist mill and other properties in Somerset County on Cottingham’s Creek (now Rockawalkin Creek) to Levin Gale by Mary Cordery, “daughter of John Cordery of same place, planter.” [Mary used her mark as signature. We have a copy.] Included were Rockawalkin Mill (formerly known as Hitches Mill), lands, tenement houses, and water courses. The indenture stated that Mary owed money to Levin Gale “in

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consideration of moving and the loan of fifteen pounds.” This indicates that she had changed her residence and, therefore, incurred some expenses. The deed states that Mary had secured the mill and other properties from her grandfather Lambrick (Lambrook) Thomas, who died in 1713. The mill site later had a Presbyterian church built on it, after Gale conveyed that land on 8/19/1742 for a house of religious worship. Levin Gale was appointed by the Assembly in 1733 to establish a town at the head of the Manokin River.

David Cordry (1714/1717-1776) (son of John II)

Born 1714

Died 1776

Married to Elizabeth/Betty Cooper, daughter of Gabriel Cooper (1666-1737) (described as “the bastard”) of Barren Creek. She was the widow of Jonathan Huttington (death c. 1741).

Children: Iceathal/Selathel/Salathiel (dead by 1774 so his son John was mentioned in his grandfather David’s will)

Day (died in 1783 or later)

Jonathan (a Jonathan Cordray had a will in Worcester County, Maryland dated 4/10/1790, which mentioned his wife Mary)

Thomas (died in 1788; lived in Nanticoke in Somerset County, Maryland)

- Isaac (lived in Dorchester County, Maryland and fought in the Revolutionary War). On 5/28/1768 a deed was recorded in Somerset County of land sold for 80 pounds by Isaac Cordery and his wife Elizabeth with William Willey and Joshua Hudson. The 100-acre tract was in the Cedar Creek forest adjacent to Bowman’s Branch and was owned by Bridget Smith (deceased, who was the mother of Elizabeth and five others). Isaac Cordery enrolled in the Dorchester County militia on 8/8/1776 during the American Revolution.

On 4/14/1741 David Cordery/Cordary and his wife Elizabeth/Betty accounted for administering the estate of Jonathan Housington. In 1748, John Houffington’s will gave “Ill Neighborhood” to David. On April 5, 1759, David Cordry acquired from Ephraim King a 100-acre tract on the south side of the Nanticoke River “back in the woods” and called “The Neighborhood.” This property was on the east side of “Cordry’s Plantation” and was probably close to “Goddard’s Lot” (purchased by his brother John III in 1755). The Cordrays settled close together. In 1759, David Cordry also purchased “Friendship” north of Barren Creek in what is now Wicomico County, Maryland. It is described as by the side of “Cordry’s Plantation.”

David had one will dated 9/9/1774 and another will dated 1/23/1776 [we have a copy]. According to David’s will of 1/23/1776 (for which his son Thomas was the executor), David’s widow Elizabeth/Betty received one-third of the estate and the rest was received by sons Thomas, Jonathan, Day, and Isaac; grandchildren Sarah, Rhoda, and Anselley Cordrey; and John Cordrey son of David’s deceased son Salatheiel. The lands were divided equally among his sons and grandson; and the moveable estate was also shared with the grandchildren.

David’s son Thomas received 25 acres as part of “Wilson’s Discovery” in the will of Jacob Quinton on 1784/1788. Thomas co-owned a boat. A Thomas Cordray/Cordry/Condary [and also Daniel Cordray/Cordry (?)] was a private in the Somerset Militia, Salisbury Branch, under Captain Joseph Venables’ Barren Creek Company 1778/1780. According to Thomas’s will recorded on 9/9/1786 and probated on 8/25/1788, he left to his son Henry 70 acres on the Nanticoke River, which would go to another son Salathiel if Henry had no issue. He left a cow to his son David II and his moveable estate to his three younger children (Salathiel, Prissa, and Charles) and his unnamed wife.

On 1/11/1815, David II Cordry sold for \$100 half of “Partners Conquest” to Isaac Kennerly (deed JP2-043-381). David II Cordry’s will recorded 9/14/1820 and probated 10/4/1820 left all of his lands to his friend Matthias Dashiell—“Wilson’s Discovery” and “Partners Conquest” and also his personal estate of 2 feather beds, 2 counterpanes, 4 sheets, 2 bedstead mats and cords, 4 head of cattle, 8 head of hogs, 1 cart, 1 plow, and 1 harrow.

Henry Cordry/Cordray (son of John II)

Born 1718/1730/1735/1737

Died 1797

Married to Elizabeth

Children: Covington Cordray (married Ann Winright on 12/20/1797 and Priscilla Dun on 1/24/1798; no recorded children)

Doughty/Dowty Cordray (married Elizabeth (Betsey) Collier on 2/13/1816; died 1843; children James, Henry, Isaac, Elizabeth, Sarah, Maria, George Washington, and Mary)

Daughter

Henry Cordry settled in what is now Wicomico County, Maryland and his family remained there, not moving with the rest of the Cordry’s north to the Laurel, Delaware area. At some point, he started spelling his family’s name as “Cordray.” Henry Cordray purchased “Turnstile” on the east side of the Nanticoke River from John Willing. In 1753 he lived with his aunt Rachael Cordry, widow of Daniel, in Wicomico Hundred. The 1757 tax list for Monie Hundred includes Henry Cordrey as # 19 living in the household of Even Collier. On 1/7/1768 John Finch sold to Henry Cordrey for 55 pounds “Bedford,” containing 80 ½ acres on the easternmost side of the Nanticoke River at the head of Barren Creek. Then in 1771, Henry Cordry sold “Bedford” to Isaac Cooper for 75 pounds. The 1783 tax list for Somerset and Worcester County, Maryland specifies that in the Nanticoke district, Henry Cordray owned “Turnstile” comprising 70 acres, on which lived 5 males and 2 females. In 1792, Henry Cordery purchased “A Joke” in what is now Wicomico County, Maryland. Henry Cordray/Cordry (if the same Henry) was a private during the Revolutionary War in the Somerset Militia, Salisbury Branch, under Captain John Span Conway’s Nanticoke Point Company in 1778/1780.

The will of Henry Cordray was recorded on 12/11/1797 and probated on 6/9/1800. He left all his lands to his son Covington.

Henry’s two sons were Covington and Doughty (Dowty). They also had a sister. Covington Cordray bought land on 8/3/1799 on Tyaskin Creek on the south side of the Nanticoke River. On 11/2/1805 Covington bought “Mount Hope” from James Ritchie and also sold “Turnstile” on the east side of the Nanticoke River to his brother Dowty Cordray for 75 pounds (deed 0-037-92). Then on 5/1/1816 Doughty Cordery (Cordray) conveyed “Turnstile” and part of “Mount Hope” to John Jones (indenture JD1044-427). [Another Jones involved with the Cordry’s.] Covington sold “Shadwell” (95 ¾ acres) to John Laramore for \$400 on 1/15/1827 and “Cannon’s Shot” (89 acres) to Levin Wainright on 11/11/1833 for \$400 (after buying it from him on 6/28/1832). [Was he Covington’s father-in-law or brother-in-law?]

Covington Cordray married Ann Winright on 12/20/1797 in the parish of Somerset and then married Priscilla Dun on 1/24/1798, according to Maryland Eastern Shore Vital Records, 1776-1800. There is no record of offspring from Covington. Covington Cordery is recorded as owning seven slaves in 1798. The Somerset County, Maryland, Orphans Court recorded that in 1821 Covington Cordray and George D. Walter divided Negroes from the estate of Richard Dunn [was he related to Covington’s second wife?] between his widow and representatives.

Henry's other son Doughty married Elizabeth Collier on 2/13/1816. His will recorded 12/23/1843 and probated 5/21/1846 lists their children as James, Henry, Isaac, Elizabeth, Sarah, Maria, George Washington, and Mary. There is also a reference to the "rights of deaf and dumb children," which indicates that he had more than one child so afflicted. He left to his wife "Betsy" all his personal estate, and left his right in personal estate to his brother Covington for his wife's lifetime and afterwards to be divided among their children. All land in Nanticoke Point was "to be sold and the money used to pay for farms on which my brother Covington lived and died [in 1845?] provided my sister [name?] takes it and deeds it to my son George W. Cordray and my deaf and dumb children have a home on it."

On 1/15/1845 Covington Cordray's estate valued at an estimated \$1,183.75 was bought [?] by his widow Elizabeth, and the cash was distributed to his heirs. (Nancy A. Cordray, widow, was involved.) On 11/20/1845 Elizabeth sold this property for \$1,183 to her sons George W. and James H. On 5/1/1845 Elizabeth sold to William Walter for \$20 "Wallace's Adventure" at Nanticoke Point, which was owned by her deceased husband.

Mrs. Margaret S. MacLeod wrote to Charles Corddry, Jr. in 1980 of her great grandmother Maria Corddry Barkley and her brother George and their deaf, unmarried siblings Sarah, Liz, and Jim. They lived in Snow Hill, Maryland. They were children of Henry's son Doughty. This family broke apart during the Civil War, with George calling Maria "a secession bitch." Maria's daughter Mary Jane Barkley White with her husband and six children in 1888 moved from Snow Hill back to Bridgeville, Delaware.

There is little record of recent descendants from Henry's branch of the family, except through Doughty's son George Washington. On 3/24/1846 George W. Caudray of Tyaskin (who had a farm behind St. Mary's Church) married Mary E. Sapp of Delaware after the death of her first husband Levin W. Stanford in 1845. The 1850 census for Tyaskin reveals the following: George W. Cordray 25, Mary E. his wife 28, Mary E.S. 8, and Isaac W. 6. On 10/26/1853 George W. Cordray and his wife Mary paid \$30 to Henry Hardy for living on a plantation formerly belonging to Covington Cordray, his uncle. In 1860, the census does not show their children Mary E.S. and Isaac W., but does show a new child George Henry 6. According to Ms. Adgie Stanford Wilson of Silver Spring who has researched this segment of the family, Isaac W. did not appear in the record again until his marriage in 1866. She said that George Henry had no children. She seemed to think there were descendants through James and Isaac, other sons of Doughty.

The last of the Cordray's in this line shown in the records at the Wicomico courthouse was George Henry. He was often referred to as "the best educated man on the west side," probably self-educated.

There is a record of a mortgage dated 4/5/1907 involving Allen S., Odell, and Edward P. Cordrey. However, their origin and connections are not known.

John III Cordry (Cordray), The Planter (son of John II)

Born about 1716/1722 in Somerset County, Maryland

Died March 1783 at "Goddard's Lot" in Little Creek, Sussex County, Delaware; his will was made on 2/6/1783 and went through probate on 3/7/1783

Married to Rachel Hitch/Heatch (1725-1816) in 1745; she was born in Sussex County, Delaware to William O. Hitch/Heatch (1687-1730) and Rachel Humphreys (1700-1790).

Children: born in Sussex County, Delaware

Mary: (1736-1793) married William Polk.

Jane: (born 1740) married John Williams.

John D. IV: August 4, 1750 – December 21, 1820 (from whom the Delaware line of Cordry's is descended) (heir); married to Jane Sirman

Josiah: (born by 1751 and died 1783/1785) In 1783, Josiah petitioned the court to appoint a guardian. A court in 1784 reported on the survey of his lands. He perhaps had a son Belby who was born by 1764. Belby paid taxes in 1785 in Little Creek Hundred, Sussex County. Jackson of the Laurel area may be Belby's brother or son.

Elisha: (1756-1781) [from whom the Snow Hill, Maryland Corddry line is descended]; married to Betty King; they had a son Josiah (1775-1850), who is the grandfather of William D., founder of the Snow Hill line of Corddry's.

Sarah: married to William Polk of Laurel (son of John Polk who sold "Goddard's Lot" to Sarah's father John III and died in 1784)

Day: (died 1783)

Salathiel: (died 1774)

Thomas: (died 1788)

Elijah (born 1750)

This is where the better documented family trees begin, with John III. Most of the Corddry's today around Laurel in Sussex County, Delaware and in nearby areas, and those who have more recent roots in Snow Hill, Worcester County, Maryland can trace their ancestry back to this person called in early records "John Cordry, planter."

In 1746 John III, planter, and his brother Morgan sold their properties of "High Suffolk" and "Come by Chance" (a total of 100 acres), which devolved to them from their father John II. They were near the mouth of the Wicomico River in Somerset County, Maryland, in what is now the Salisbury area of Wicomico County, Maryland. They moved to the Laurel, Delaware area and started buying land there. John's sons Elisha, John IV, and Josiah are the three brothers who moved from Somerset County, Maryland to Laurel, Delaware.

According to the Maryland Historical Magazine, John Cordery served under Captain Nathaniel Waller in the Colonial Militia during the period of 1740-1748.

John III bought "Goddard's Lott" (100 acres) for 15 pounds from "John Polk, cooper" (the father-in-law of his daughter Sarah), with the agreement dated 10/11/1755 and the deed recorded on 11/19/1755. This property was part of a 1,000-acre warrant granted by Charles Lord Baltimore to John Caldwell on 4/1/1730. [We have what appears to be the original of this grant from Charles Absolute Lord and Proprietary of the Province of Maryland and Avalon Lord Baron of Baltimore.] The original 100-acre property was then assigned by John Caldwell with a patent to George Goddard (cooper) for 45 pounds on 8/2/1732, who with his wife Mary sold it to John Polk on 10/10/1735 with the deed recorded on 11/19/1735. John Caldwell sold portions of his large 1,000-acre grant to pay off debts he incurred by bringing people over from England. Goddard's Lot was described in the 1730 and 1732 deeds as containing 100 acres "lying in Somerset County [now in Sussex County, Delaware] back in the woods on the N side of a small branch of Little Creek that comes by Mathew Parimore's [Parramore] house bounded as followeth—Beginning at a marked white oak standing on the N side..." The deeds include latitude and longitude, pole markings, and a folio number. Little Creek flows into Broad Creek and eventually into the Nanticoke River. In 1730, Broad Creek was the northern limit of Somerset County (Maryland). The town of Laurel (now in Delaware) was established on its south bank some ten miles north of Goddard's Lott. (Goddard's Chapel, the first "chapel of ease" for Stepney Parish, was built in 1710 on a site owned by George Goddard near what is now Allen in Wicomico County, Maryland, south of Salisbury.)

In the meantime, Worcester County, Maryland was established in 1742, taking much of the northern and eastern part of Somerset County. The present border between Maryland and Delaware was surveyed in the 1760's, separating the possessions of Lord Baltimore and William Penn. At that point, John Cordry's lands fell under the rule of William Penn and eventually became part of Sussex County, Delaware.

On 6/30/1769, John III Cordray/Caudrey (planter) purchased for 35 pounds from John Stilley (planter) 50 acres of "Priviledge"/"Privilege" [previously mentioned] and 50 acres of "Callaways Delight" adjoining, near Broad Creek. "Privilege" was on the south side of Broad Creek and on the west side of Little Creek back in the woods from the water side, on the head of land called "Poplar Neck" of James Quatermas/Quatermus, and on the north side of a house about 100 yards from it. Spencer Waters obtained a warrant on January 11, 1753 for "Privilege" and assigned it to John Stilley (Stilly/Stelly) on March 1, 1753. "Callaways Delight" was a total of 123 acres on the south side of Broad Creek and on the east side of "Stilleys Cost." William Polk (married to John III's daughter Sarah) obtained a warrant on March 31, 1760 for 801 acres of Callaways Delight and assigned it to John Stilley on April 8, 1760. On April 8, 1769, bond GH224-015 was recorded from John (336 acres). The survey was conducted when his land fell in Sussex County, Delaware upon re-establishment of the Delaware-Maryland border. [We have a copy of one of these documents from 1769 of John III's purchases from John Stilley.] "Cordrays (Cordreys) Venture" (336 acres), "Callaway's Delight," "Privilege" (Stilleys Privilege) (336 acres), and probably other properties were resurveyed for John Cordry in 1776. Goddard's Lott and subsequent acquisitions totaled 772 acres, according to one account. He evidently acquired more property before he died in 1783 at "Godard's Lott."

The will of Job Sirman, planter, of Somerset County, dated 12/18/1772, was witnessed by Elisha and Josiah Cordry, sons of John III Cordry. John III's other son John IV was married to Jane Sirman, who was Job/John Sirman's daughter.

The first tax list of Little Creek Hundred in 1775, after its transfer from Maryland to Delaware, includes John III Cordry rate 4 and his sons John IV Cordry Jr. rate 4 and Elisha Cordry rate 4.

Will Record D No. 4 for 1778-1794 records that John Cordrey died in 1783 while living at Goddard's Lot. The will of John Cordry, planter, was executed on 2/6/1783 when he was very sick and weak, and the will was proved/probated on 3/7/1783. A settlement of the estate was recorded with the court in 1784. His heirs were his wife Rachael, son John IV, grandson Josiah (son of his deceased son Elisha), and Betty (Elisha's widow). His son John IV was the will's executor. The will also mentions his daughter Sarah and Nancy Cordry [?]. He left to his son John IV a portion (50 acres) of "Stilley's Priviledge" where John IV lived and also 50 adjoining acres of "Callaway's Delight" near Little Creek in Sussex County, formerly Somerset County. John III's wife Rachel and his son Elisha's widow Betty were provided for during their lifetimes. He left to his wife Rachel all of his personal/"moveable" estate for life, which would then be divided equally between his son John and the heirs of his son Elisha. Provisions were even made in case of a dispute between them.

Elisha's son Josiah (grandfather of William D. Corddry who started the Snow Hill line) received from his grandfather John III's will the family's dwelling plantation "Goddard's (Godard's) Lott" (100 acres) and also "Friend's Advice (Advise)" (30 acres), both properties in Sussex County, formerly in Somerset County. But these properties were to be divided with half to John III's widow Rachael and half to his son Elisha's widow during their lifetimes. Friends Advice was on the north-most side of Little Creek out of the south-most side of Broad Creek. He left to William Polk (husband of John III's daughter Sarah), who was a witness for the will, 75 acres of a resurvey of "Stilley's Priviledge." Apparently, John III had not paid for all of Stilley's Priviledge, so part of it had to be conveyed back to Elizabeth Vaughn and John Rhodes.

Josiah, son of John III, is not mentioned in his father's will. He may have moved elsewhere during the 1772-1783 era. Belby, who may have been Josiah's son, may have gone with his father, then returned to the Laurel area where he paid taxes in 1785.

John IV Cordry (son of John III, The Planter)

Born August 4, 1750 in Sussex County, Delaware according to the Bible record of his grandson
John Cordry

Died December 21/22, 1820 in Sussex County, Delaware

Married to: 1st wife Jane Sirman/Serman: born 1755 in Sussex County and died there around
1810/1816. Her father was Job/John Sirman/Serman (died 1772), “Planter,” and her
mother was Abigail.

2nd wife Bridget Bounds: daughter of William Bounds and Mary Collier and widow of Anthony
Collins; died in 1835 when an inventory was filed for her personal estate; she was much
younger than John and probably had no children with him.

Children: Eunice/Unicey/Unicy (1/20/1774-1794): married Isaac Adams (born 10/5/1763) on 4/10/1794;
(he was born 10/5/1763)

Spencer M. (1775-3/19/1852) [see details below]

John (V) D. (born before 1784 in Sussex County and died there in March 1854): married Sarah
Sally Elliott; they had sons Jacob Dericson (born 3/11/1822), John K. (1836-1894), and
George E. (1839-1862); during the War of 1812 John V served as a private at Lewis
Town under Captain Rider in a regiment commanded by Colonel Davis; his will was
dated 4/4/1854 and was filed in Worcester County, Maryland; in 1860 John’s widow
Sally submitted a claim for bounty land for her husband’s service in the Volunteer Militia
of Delaware in the War of 1812; after submitting Bible pages to prove her claim, she was
granted 160 acres in 1871.

William Sermon/Sirman (6/17/1790-1833) [see details below]

Elijah A. (1794-10/23/1845) [see details below]

Isaac (born around 1797): married Sally Griffith and Lovey Henderson; on 5/19/1815, an Isaac
Cordrey was appointed Ensign in the 6th Company, 9th Regiment at Lewes Town; in June
1813, Spensor, John, and Isaac Cordry were on the company’s payroll [Are these the sons
of John IV?].

Milly/Millie (born around 1800): married William Adams, the brother of her sister Eunice’s
husband Isaac.

Sally M. (1800-7/27/1860): married Doughty Collins (died 1873) on 1/10/1822.

James C. (born between censuses of 1800 and 1810): married Leah P. Collins [sister of his
sister Sally’s husband?] on 3/1/1835. In 1833, James C. Cordry signed a Petition for
Another Justice of Peace.

Elizabeth (Betsey/Betsy) (born between censuses of 1800 and 1810)

Nelly/Nellie/Eleanor B. (3/15/1810-4/16/1887): married Thomas Phillips.
unknown child (born around 1802)

John I, II, and III were illiterate but John IV could sign his name, so presumably he had some schooling.

John IV Cordry was recorded in Delaware’s 1790 census as living in Little Creek Hundred, Sussex
County. He probably lived his whole life between Laurel and Delmar in Sussex County, Delaware, east of the
present Rt. 13. John had a large family. [It is unclear when he married each wife and which children were born
by which wife.] He was living on “Stilley’s Privilidge” and “Callaway’s Delight,” 100 adjoining acres near
Little Creek, when his father John III made his will and devised those tracts to him in 1783. He acquired
considerably more land, most of which he deeded his sons. He added “Poplar Neck,” “Cordry’s Venture” (also
called “Cordrays Adventure”), “Match and Take It,” and “Addition to Moore’s Lot” in Little Creek Hundred to
his inherited lands. On October 4, 1793, John Cordray obtained a warrant for 118 acres of vacant land on the
north side of the County Road from Tussecky Branch to the Broad Creek Bridge, which he later assigned to
John Dashiell as “Fair Play” (“Fare Play”) by a certificate on 5/ 3/1796. In 1795, John Cordry received a patent

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from the state for “Cordry’s Venture” (336 acres). On 9/2/1795, Levin Collins [father-in-law or brother-in-law of John’s IV’s children Sally and James? related to the first husband of John’s second wife?] obtained a warrant for 33 acres of vacant land, which he assigned to John IV Cordray (Cordry) on 9/10/1795 as “Opportunity.” It was near the northwest corner of John’s plantation where he lived in “Cordrays Venture” and also bordered “Callaways Delight” and “Match and Take.” In 1796, he received a patent from the state for ‘Opportunity’ (33 acres), then had the land surveyed. In 1796, “Poplar Neck” was deeded to him by Thomas Moore and his wife. In 1812 he deeded to his son Spencer 123 ¾ acres of “Poplar Neck,” “Cordry’s Venture,” and “Match and Take It,” adjoining each other in Little Creek Hundred. He and his wife Bridget gave his son John V 48 ½ acres of “Cordry’s Venture” in Little Creek Hundred adjoining Spencer’s property. They gave his son Elijah 47 ½ acres of “Addition to Moore’s Lot,” “Callaway’s Delight,” and “Stilley’s Privilidge.” In 1835, John IV’s son James Cordrey deeded to Norman Phillips “Calloway’s Delight,” given to him by his father.

John IV was a member of the Church of England until 1784, when the Methodists separated from it. In 1781, John Cordry is listed as a member of the first board of trustees for Elzey Moore’s Meeting House/ Moore’s Chapel (originally called Mt. Pleasant and later called Wesley Chapel). It was the first Methodist Episcopal Church in Little Creek Hundred, the first in Sussex County, and the first south of Barrett’s Chapel. It was located about five miles from Laurel and south of Portsville on the Tusscky Branch. In 1795, John Cordry and other church trustees received a deed for a church from William Moore.

In 1789, John Cordry signed a Petition to Move the County Seat to Center of the County. The Delaware census for 1790 had a John Cordry living in Little Creek Hundred of Sussex County.

In 1798, Spencer Cordry and Isaac Cordry, sons of John IV, were included among the signers of a petition to the General Assembly of Delaware to have Sussex County keep in repair the bridge at Laurel.

One of John IV’s sons founded the village of Cordreyville in the Laurel-Portsville area of Sussex County, Delaware, about three miles from Laurel. It no longer exists.

Will Record G No. 7 for 1813-1827 records on page 194 in part 4 that John Cordery/Cordry had a will dated for 1816. After executing his will on July 17, 1816, when weak and low in body, he died on December 21, 1820 about 11 a.m. at 70 years 5 months and 17 days. His will, probated on 1/2/1821, names all of his 11 children as his heirs, but does not mention his surviving wife Bridget. His sons John V and Spencer were the will’s executors. An inventory was made of his personal estate on January 5, 1821. He left children Milly, Spencer, Unicey, and Isaac one shilling and “no more” of his estate. John V received 25 acres “adjoining a tract which I have deeded to him to be laid of beginning at the county road opposite the lane that leads to my house and a small distance from a school house...” William received “one featherbed, one cow & calf and one half part of the residue of my lands which I have not divised or deeded away.” James was left the other half of the residue of his lands; and those lands would go to William if James died “without issue.” Elijah received 10 acres “joining a tract which I have deeded to him to be laid off with lines of the lands of the heirs of Anthony Collins [his second wife Bridget’s first husband, so probably her children] also one featherbed and one cow & calf.” His youngest children Sally, Betsey, Nelly, and James were left “the residue of any personal property.” His second wife Bridget contested the will, demanding the widow’s dower, and was awarded one-third of each of the sons’ lands. Son William Serman became the guardian of his three youngest siblings James C., Betsey, and Nellie

Spencer/Spenser M. Cordry/Cordrey (son of John IV)

Born 1775 in Sussex County, Delaware

Died March 19, 1852 near Laurel in Sussex County, Delaware

Married around 1800 to Margaret Freeman

- Children: Jane (1806-1897): married C. Washington Henry; died near Laurel, Delaware when almost age 91.
- William B. (1811-1866) (heir): farmer; married Elizabeth Ellen Williams (1828-1904) [we have a photo of them]; according to the 1850 census William B. Cordry age 39 farmer and Elizabeth age 22 lived with Spencer Cordry (his father) age 75 farmer; according to the 1860 census William Cordry age 48 farmer lived in Little Creek Hundred with his wife Elizabeth age 29 and their children Eliza F. age 9, Augusta age 7, William age 5, Curtis M. age 2, and Harvey age 8 months; they also had children Washington, Polk, and George; he died near Laurel, Delaware at about age 51; he was buried in the Portsville Methodist Church Cemetery; his son Curtis Monroe lived 1857-1921; Curtis's son Elvey Curtis lived 1884-1949 and married Eva Hester Watson; Elvey's daughter was Agnes Tyndall (born 1923), a family genealogist who communicated with George H. Corddry, Jr.
- Spencer M. II: farmer; married Patsey Elliott on 2/5/1833; died near Salisbury, Maryland when almost age 90; according to the 1850 census Spencer M. Cordery age 41 farmer lived with Patsy age 40, William age 17, Solomon age 14, John age 11, Edward age 9, Benjamin age 7, and James age 2; according to the 1860 census Spencer M. Cordry age 51 farmer lived in Little Creek Hundred with Patsy A. age 50, Edward age 17, Benjamin age 16, James age 12, and Josiah age 8.
- Elisha Cordray/Cordery (born around 1810 and died before 1849): farmer. According to the Isaac Sullivan Diary of Sussex County, Delaware, he married Nancy Sirman/Serman on 1/1/1829. Their bond is dated December 29, 1828 and co-signed by Elisha's brother, John D. Cordry. Her last name is the same as Jane the first wife of John IV. She died on 2/24/1831. He married his second wife Priscilla Badley on 4/29/1833. According to the Somerset County, Maryland land records #7 p. 442, Elisha Cordry and wife Priscilla Badley bought land on 9/30/1834. They transferred property to William Badley [her father or brother?] on 7/26/1834. Priscilla sold to Clement Bradley [relationship?] on 1/20/1844 several parcels totaling 285 acres from Quantico to White Haven in Wicomico County. This Elisha was not the Elisha who was the father of William D. Corddry who began the Snow Hill, Maryland line. He died on the home farm before 1849 at about age 34. Priscilla Cordry's will recorded 1/22/1842 and probated 7/22/1846 leaves her estate to William and Margaret Bradley [relationship to her?].
- Margaret (died on the home farm before 1849 at about age 28).
- Kinsey A./Kensey/Kenzie (died near Millsborough, Delaware at about age 35): tailor; he had a marriage bond dated 5/4/1840 with Margaret Blizzard. According to the 1850 census for Dagsboro, Kinsey A. Cordery age 34 farmer lived with Margaret M. age 29, Josephine age 9, Emily age 7, Stephen A. age 4, Joseph B. age 3, and Louisa age 1.
- John D. (born 1818; died in Millsborough, Delaware in 1859): tailor; he had a marriage bond dated 7/11/1831 with Lovey/Lavinia West; they had sons John K. (1836-c.1899 who married Mary Pettyjohn and was a carpenter, millwright, general store manager, and apothecary), William (who drowned), George E. (killed in the battle of Antietam during the Civil War), and John who died young. According to the 1850 census for Dagsboro, John Cordery age 32 tailor lived with Lovey age 32, John R. age 14, George E. age 11, Rachael Carey age 67, Henry Hill age 1, and Sarah Waples age 16. According to the 1860 census for Dagsboro Hundred, Lovey N. Cordrey age 51 had living with her G.E. Cordrey age 20 and John R. age 22 house carpenter.
- Polly P.: Polly Cordry had a daughter born out of wedlock on 4/22/1823, with the father said to

be William Nelson; she married Nehmiah Morris on 9/3/1829; later, she married a man named Smith.

The State of Delaware's Biographical Encyclopedia describes Spencer as "a farmer of Sussex County, Delaware." Various deeds are recorded for Spencer Cordrey:

- 1812 from his father John IV Cordrey: "Poplar Neck," "Cordrey's Venture," "Match and Take"
- 1817 a deed from Isaac Cordrey, possibly his brother
- 1819 a deed from Levin Collins: "Poplar Neck" and "Match and Take"
- 1841 a deed to Thomas Phillips, Jr.

Elzey Moore's Meeting House, later called Wesley Chapel, was the first Methodist Church in Sussex County and the first on the Delmarva peninsula south of Barrett's Chapel. It was founded in 1787 with the name of Mount Pleasant. His father John IV was a member of the first Board of Trustees. In 1799, Spencer Cordry and Charity Moore were described as "spiritual children" of Thomas Dodson, a member of the Somerset Circuit of the Methodist Church. After 1832, Spenser M. Cordry was a church leader.

His will was made on 9/19/1849 and probated on 3/19/1852, according to Sussex County Wills and O.C. Records-Arch Vol. 66, folio 214. Will Record L No. 11 for 1851-1860 records a will dated 1849 on page 1 for Spencer Cordray. Spencer scrawled his name at the bottom of his 1849 will. He left all of his lands to William B. Cordry, his son, with the provision that these lands should go to his other son Spencer M. II if William B. died without children. He also gave to William B. "two beds and furniture first choice also one corner cupboard, one bureau and one mantel clock, one horse and six chairs and four beehives with bees in them and three sheep." Spencer's will mentioned his other sons John D. and Kinsey A.; his daughters Jane Henry and Polly P. Smith; and Jane's daughter Mary M. Henry. No reference was made to his son Elisha or his daughter Margaret. We may conclude, therefore, that they died before 1849. The assumption that Elisha Cordry, son of Spencer, died prior to 1849 jives with published biographical information about his nephew John K. Cordrey of Millsborough, Delaware, son of John D. Cordrey. This states that "Elisha, farmer, died on the home farm at about thirty-four years of age."

William Sermon/Sirman Cordry (son of John IV)

Born June 17, 1790 near Laurel in Sussex County, Delaware

Died 1833 near Laurel in Sussex County, Delaware

Married to Mary Smith on 6/5/1822 (When William S. died, she moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, married Philip Campbell, and then moved to a farm near Nauvoo, Illinois.)

Children: Lorenza Hamlin (born 11/28/1826 near Dover, Delaware and died 7/4/1852 in St. Louis, Missouri) (heir)

Elizabeth Jane: married Mr. Quint; they had children Abbey, Mellville, and Alice.

Eleanor Ann/Eliannor/Eliann (born 2/1/1832 in Laurel, Delaware): in 1851 she married Orlando J. Hall; they had children Wesley D., Adda, Melvin Cordry, Stella, and O.C. Hall; they lived in Navoo, Illinois, as did her mother.

William Sermon/Sirman was given his mother's maiden name as his middle name. He was a shipbuilder and contractor. His home was located about three miles from Laurel.

Will Record H Part 4 No. 8 for 1827-1836 records on page 208 that William Cordry died in 1833. The will of William S. Cordry was written on 8/3/1833 and probated on 8/30/1833. He left his gray horse to his widow, Mary. He left all his lands to his son, Lorenza, provided that he pay \$150 each to his two daughters. The residue of his personal estate was divided equally between his daughters Elizabeth and Eleanor. The crops

were to be applied to his debts and included in his personal estate. It is noteworthy that William S. Cordry signed his name to his will and that it was witnessed by his brother Elijah and by Henry Bacon, both of whom also signed their own names. Most planters of this period could neither read nor write, and saw no need for these skills. Some traced their names on documents or formed the letters from rote memory, being unable to read or write anything else.

Elijah A. Cordry/Cordrey (son of John IV)

Born 1794 near Laurel in Sussex County, Delaware

Died October 23, 1845 in Sussex County, Delaware

Married to Polly C. Collins on 1/17/1822 (who lived 1800-1845)

Children: John D. (born 1823): married Elisa E. Dashiell on 11/28/1849 and Keziah Windsor on 10/19/1859.

Hiram H. (born 1824; died 5/4/1899 in Jackson County, Indiana): married Nancy J. McCain; had children John and James.

Elizabeth A. Bidden (8/27/1825-8/6/1895): married James McCallister.

James C. (born 1830): married Sarah Ann Sally Mayham and Martha I. Windsor (on 4/7/1857).

Cyrus (died July 1830)

Asbury Barlow (born 8/15/1831; died 8/18/1913 in Mahaska, Washington County, Kansas): married Elizabeth Jane Robinson on 11/28/1854 and Eliza Jane Lindley (born Oct. 1832 in Indiana)

Jerutha/Jurutha Jane (6/21/1833-12/27/1898): married Elihu T. Hastings (1828-1913) on 10/30/1851; [Cindy Hastings Swift, whose husband Chuck conducts extensive genealogy research, is her descendant.] children: Elihu Thomas Hastings II (1860-1936) and Maria Katherine Hastings (4/7/1857 – 3/27/1928). Elihu T. II married his second cousin and had son Edgar Hastings (1887-1918). Maria Katherine Hastings married Joseph H. Cordrey (10/4/1852 – 6/29/1923), and they lived in Hebron, Delaware.

Mary E. (2/1/1834 - 4/30/1889): married Eli Hastings.

Perry W. (born about 1835): married Mary Ann Kinney and Sarah Greenley; the 1850 census has Percy W. Cordray age 14 living with Jonathan Cathel age 56 carpenter; the 1860 census has Perry Cordry age 25 farmer living in Little Creek Hundred with Mary A. age 20 and Theodosia age 2 months.

Elijah A. II (7/21/1838 - 10/31/1917 in Laurel): married Sarah; the 1860 census has Elijah Cordry age 23 living with his sister Jerutha J. age 26 and her husband Elihu Hastings age 32 farmer in Little Creek Hundred. He had a son William Harvey (1865-1924).

Lemuel Burton (3/18/1841 - 9/17/1923): married Sarah A. Kenney (who lived 5/6/1848-6/26/1903).

Joseph Edward (born 3/10/1844; died 5/21/1921 in Minneapolis, Minnesota): married Eveline Chase; according to the 1850 census for the Delaware 11th Subdivision, Joseph E. Cordry age 7 after his father's death lived with Doughty Collins age 55 farmer, who had married his father's sister Sally M.

According to Will Record K No. 10 for 1843-1851, Elijah Cordrey was born in 1794 and died on 10/23/1845. According to the State of Delaware Biographical Encyclopedia, Elijah A. Cordrey lived in Laurel. In 1816, Elijah Cordrey received from his father John IV Cordrey and mother Bridget the properties of "Callaway's Delight" and "Stilley's Privilege." Then in 1835, his brother James deeded "Callaway's Delight" to Norman Phillips, which was given to him by his father John IV. According to Sussex County Wills and O.C. Records U/206, between 3/13/1846 and 6/11/1846, there was a petition for the division of Elijah Cordrey's

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lands with his children named when he died without a will. Because nothing was allotted to his wife Polly, she might have died before him in 1845. Most of their children were minors when he died and so were raised by various relatives. They had nine sons, of whom one went to Indiana, one to Kansas, and one to Minnesota.

Elisha I CordryCordrey (son of John III) (the GGG-gf of George H. Corddry, Jr.)

Born 1756 in Somerset County, Maryland

Died 1781 in Sussex County, Delaware (before his father died in 1783)

Married to Elizabeth “Betty” King (1750-c. 1783). Her parents were Robert King (born 1730) and Catherine. Her second husband’s last name was Autridge.

Children: Josiah (1775-1850/1852/1856)

Nancy (died 1781/1782)

Sally

The children were under age 16 when Elisha died in 1781, before his father John III died in 1783. Therefore, his son Josiah inherited from Elisha’s father John III.

Josiah Cordry (son of Elisha I, son of John III)

Born 1775 in Sussex County, Delaware

Died 1850/1852/1856 in Sussex County, Delaware (Will made 9/18/1850 and probated 11/10/1856: Sussex County Wills & O.C. Records—L#11, p. 314)

Married to Elizabeth Betsey Gordy (1778-1860) in 1799. (Her sister Jennie married Isaac Sullivan, who kept a diary with genealogical information about the Cordry’s. There is a War of 1812 bounty land file for John Gordy.)

Children: Elisha II (born around 1800/1810 and died around 1845) (father of William D. Corddry, Sr. who started the Snow Hill, Maryland line).

William (born around 1801/1820).

Grace (1811-1886): married Daniel Hastings on 12/8/1831.

Aaron (1813/1814 – 1870): married Nellie Hastings on 11/2/1837. In 1843, members of the Little Creek O.S. Baptist Church in Sussex County, Delaware included Aaron Cordrey and Eleanor Cordrey [his wife?]. According to the 1860 census for Broad Creek Hundred, Aaron Cordry age 47 farmer lived with Eleanor age 42, Mary E. age 15, Mathias age 18, William T. age 14, Rebecca E. age 10, Joseph W. age 7, and Job S. age 5

John (5/1/1816-9/18/1878) (heir): married 1861; lived south of Laurel. [Maybe there were two sons named John, the 2nd son born in 1830, married in 1861, and died in 1878.]

Nancy (born 1820): married James Ward.

5 other sons, including one born 11/25/1818.

Josiah lived in Little Creek Hundred of Sussex County, Delaware. A bond to Josiah from William Polk (the husband of his Aunt Sarah) was recorded in 1780. William Polk transferred “Good Luck” (71.1 acres) to Josiah Cordray via bond on March 26, 1783 as “Cordrays Portion” (“Cordreys Portion”), which bordered Goddard’s Lot and Friend’s Advice and also Goddard’s part of “Goddards Hard Bargain.” The property was in Little Creek Hundred, beginning on the west side of the County Road which ran from Broad Creek to Salisbury. Josiah had the property surveyed in 1783. He also deeded land to Michell Lynch in 1797. In 1799, Josiah received from the state a patent for “Cordry’s Portion” (71 acres).

Sussex County deeds, W-21, p. 698, dated September 6, 1797, show that Josiah Cordry deeded to John Bacon (perhaps for whom the area’s railroad town Bacon’s Station is named) 13 ½ acres in the center of “Goddard’s Lott,” deeded to Josiah by his grandfather John III Cordry (The Planter) in his will. Josiah had his

lands resurveyed in May 1838. [We have this original survey map on the back of letterhead for the O. Cordrey & Co., Inc. of Laurel, Delaware.] Besides the inherited 100-acre "Goddard's Lot" (dated 1730) (which appeared at the center of his lands) and 30-acre "Friend's Advise" (dated 1713), he had "Cordrey's Portion" by this time, a total of 204 consolidated acres. One boundary was marked by a red oak and another by a persimmon tree and Spanish oak. A state road to Salisbury runs near the east side.

According to the census, Josiah was at the U.S. army soldier systems center in Middlesex, Massachusetts in 1810. He served in the military in 1812 during the war of that year. According to the U.S. appointments of postmasters, he had such an appointment in Dagsboro, Delaware on 12/15/1846.

The 1810 census reports that 7 persons lived in the Little Creek Hundred household of Josiah Cordry, the 1820 census reports 13 persons, and the 1830 census reports 12 persons in the household. The 1850 census reports that Josiah Cordry/Codery age 75 lived with his wife Elizabeth age 72 and their children William age 30, John age 28 (actually age 34), and Nancy age 22. Also living with them of unknown parentage were John age 12, Sarah age 8, and Joseph age 3. Sarah may be the daughter of Josiah's son Elisha II Cordrey who died around 1845. She was the sister of William D. Corddry, Sr., founder of the Snow Hill, Maryland line.

Will Record L No. 11 for 1851-1860 records on page 314 that Josiah Cordry had a will dated 9/18/1850. His wife Betsy and son John were the executors. Josiah's 1850 will lists his children as Nancy, John, William, Grace, and Aaron. Elisha II is not mentioned because he died around 1845. His will provided \$100 each to his daughters Nancy and Grace, \$100 to his son William, and \$50 to his son Aaron. The residue of his estate of real and personal property was bequeathed to his "beloved wife Betsey," to descend at her death to their son John, presumably the eldest living son.

The 1860 census reports that Josiah's wife Elizabeth aged 75 (incorrect age) lived on the Little Creek Hundred property with her unmarried son John Cordry age 40, farmer. Living with them were Sarah age 17 and William age 7, also of unknown parentage, as well as a farm laborer Paynter Elliott age 18/24. Perhaps this Sarah, again, was the daughter of Josiah's son Elisha II, and this William was the son of Josiah's brother William.

John Cordrey (son of Josiah, son of Elisha I, son of John III)

Born 5/1/1816 in Sussex County, Delaware

Died 9/18/1878 in Sussex County, Delaware

Married to Elizabeth W. Johnson on 11/13/1861 in Hilton when he was aged 45 and she was 17. They had at least 10 children.

Children:	Joseph E.	born 10/13/1862; will dated 1906
	Mary E.	born 12/22/1863
	John R.	born 8/21/1865 (had a son Oliver; buried at the cemetery for Marks Episcopal Church between Laurel and Salisbury)
	David B.	born 6/12/1867
	George H.	born 1/26/1869
	Zorah/Zora	born 11/15/1870 (married to Mamie, who lived 2/23/1876-2/21/1913)
	Oliver/Oloway	born 7/12/1872 and died 1929 (married Hannah; buried in the Wicomico Cemetery)
	Baby son	born 10/9/1874
	Martha Jane	born 2/29/1876 and died 10/3/1877
	Clara E.	born 12/5/1878 (married a King. Her descendent Elizabeth King had a lustre pitcher heirloom.

Lizzie

Although the Snow Hill Corddry's are probably related to all of the Cordrey's of Sussex County, Delaware, our closest known relatives are the descendants of this John Cordrey.

At this point, we know little of the other children of Josiah, but we do know that John, born in 1816, occupied the house behind which his gravestone stood. It is presumed that Goddard's Lot is that property where he is buried. In 1980, Robert Cordray wrote George Corddry that a relative Agnes of Winchester found John's gravestone in a corn field behind a pig pen in back of John's house. It had fallen and was in pieces. Someone had "sort of propped up the pieces. It's virtually destroyed. Nearer the house are the graves of one Liz [maybe John's mother] and another Liz [maybe John's wife]."

John had not married up to 1861 when he fell in love with Eliza Johnson, aged 17. Eliza was counseled by her family to marry Mr. Cordrey, who was 45 at the time, in order to "live a life of ease." She did so and bore the first child of this union the following year. Their 10th child arrived the year of John's death in 1878.

Eliza once said, according to family tradition, "I lived a life of ease, all right. All I ever did was rock a cradle." This was reported by Mrs. Mary Bennett, daughter of John and Eliza's son John R. During her childhood, Mrs. Bennett lived in one of the Cordrey houses near Bacon (near Laurel, Delaware). When she was a young girl, there were five houses close together occupied by Cordrey's on Cordrey lands.

The 1870 census reports that John Cordry age 40 lived with his wife Eliza age 26 and their children Joseph age 8, Mary age 6, David age 5, John age 3, and George age 1. William age 18, a nephew of unknown parentage lived with them, who also lived with John and his mother as of the 1860 census and may have been the son of John's Uncle William.

Will Record O No. 14 for 1877-1884 reported on pages 60 and 61 that John Cordrey had a will dated 1871. His will mentioned all of his children. It granted his daughter Mary a hive of bees. It also mentioned the nephew William.

Many of the Cordrey's of Sussex County, Delaware, are descended from John and Eliza. A family bible, in the possession of Virginia Cordrey of Salisbury (divorced wife of the late Randall Cordrey, who was a son of John and Eliza's son Oliver), lists the birth dates of John and Eliza's children. Although John and Eliza had 10 children, there are apparently few survivors of this branch—among them sisters Blanche and Mary Bennett of Laurel (who married brothers); Joyce Cordrey Kershaw of Dover, Delaware; Kenneth and John Cordrey, brothers of Joyce, who lived near Laurel, Delaware; James and Robert Cordrey, great grandsons of John R. who lived in New Jersey; and Randall Cordrey, grandson of Oliver, who lived in Florida. Sisters Mary and Blanche Bennett, granddaughters of John Cordrey and daughters of John R., who had lived in the old Cordrey home at Bacon, knew William D. Corddry, Sr. of Snow Hill as "Cousin William" and his sister as "Cousin Sarah." They also knew that William D. and his wife visited John (his uncle) and Eliza Cordrey fairly frequently and were close with them.

Laurel in 1888 by I.J. Wooten listed J.R. Cordey and Oliver Cordey, sons of John Coirdrey, among farmers in the Laurel area. According to the State of Delaware Biographical Encyclopedia, J.R. Cordrey and Oliver Cordrey lived in Laurel. In 1896, there was an ad in the Sussex Countian for Oliver Cordrey, "The Up-to-Date Clothier and Gents Furnisher" in Laurel. On July 8, 1899, among the properties lost in a Laurel fire was the clothing store of Oliver Cordrey, with the loss of the store and goods valued at \$3,000. The Delaware State Directory 1899-1900 mentions as living in Laurel: Oliver Cordrey clothier and William E. Cordrey mail carrier. In 1899, the Laurel Morning News mentions that the canning factory of George Cordrey of Bacons

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burned down, 3 miles south of Laurel. It was insured for \$3,000. In 1899, Zorah Cordray was listed as a member of the Laurel Fire Department.

Oliver Cordrey, son of John Cordrey, was known to be a close friend and cousin of William D. Corddry, Sr. We have a letterhead of "O. Cordrey & Co., Inc.: dealers and shippers of domestic fruits, produce, fertilizers, and fertilizer materials; our specialties strawberries and kindred sweets in car lots or less, brokers and dealers: strawberries, blackberries, potatoes, cantaloupes, watermelons, sweet potatoes." It shows that this Delaware cousin of William D. Corddry dealt in domestic fruits, produce, fertilizers, and fertilizer materials. The date-line is Laurel, Delaware...191[??"]. Oliver eventually moved to Salisbury, Maryland, where he died as the result of a train accident in 1929. His widow, Hannah, maintained a relationship with the Snow Hill Corddry's. She remarried about 1960 when past the age of 80.

Randall Wimbrow Cordrey (grandson of Oliver Cordrey) and his wife Judith Carroll Cordrey sold a 128-acre property called "The Nassawango Creek Cordrey Tract" outside Salisbury, Maryland to the Nature Conservancy in June 2008. It was what remained for Randall as the heir after sections were sold off over the years of a property of over 400 acres given or awarded to Colonel Peter Wimbrow "for his service in the war of independence." Randall lived in Salisbury but never lived on this family property. His children live in South Carolina. The property is at the headwaters of Nassawango Creek. The Nature Conservancy purchased this and other properties along Nassawango Creek, which flows into the Pocomoke River below Snow Hill. A house on the property was removed in 2016, but remains of buildings poke out from the undergrowth. The property is listed as part of the Old-Growth Forest Network, which "connects people with nature by creating a national network of protected, publicly accessible forests." [For more information on the network and directions to the Nassawango Creek Cordrey Tract, see www.oldgrowthforest.net.] Randall's divorced wife Virginia Cordrey was said to have a Cordrey family bible.

Elisha II Cordrey/Cordry/Codery (son of Josiah, son of Elisha I, son of John III)

Born around 1800/1810

Died around 1845

Married to: Nellie/Elenann/Ellen Ann Hearn on July 30, 1834

Children: William Derrickson Corddry, Sr. (5/30/1835-11/28/1911) (founder of the Snow Hill, Maryland line)

Sarah Tull (born 1842)

possibly other children, perhaps someone known as Mrs. Raddish/Reddish

Because Elisha II died before his father Josiah, Josiah's will of 1850 does not mention him or his minor children. Josiah's extensive land holdings were left to his son John (1816-1878). Elisha II's daughter Sarah was raised in the home of her grandmother Elizabeth and her bachelor uncle John (who married relatively late in life).

The fact that there were two Elisha Cordry's, from two branches of the same family, at the same time in the Bacon area of Delaware caused some confusion about who is the direct ancestor of the Snow Hill Corddry's. Both Elishas married then died in their 30's. Sufficient evidence indicates that William Derrickson Corddry's father Elisha was a son of Josiah rather than a son of Josiah's first cousin Spencer.

The death certificate of William Derrickson Corddry, signed by his son, William Dickerson, Jr., lists the names of his parents as Elisha Corddry and Nellie Hearn. The only Elisha of the proper age known until recently was a son of Spencer Cordrey, who died on the home farm at the age of 34. However, Josiah, first cousin of Spencer, had a son Elisha who evidently died at an early age, also. The strongest single bit of evidence to this effect is a memorandum secured from Mollie Corddry Parsons stating in part: "Oliver

Cordrey's father was a brother to my grandfather who married Nellie Hearn." Since Oliver Cordrey's father John was a son of Josiah, this seems to establish Elisha II as a son of Josiah, son of Elisha I.

A marriage bond, signed by Isaac Hearn (son of Samuel) and dated June 19, 1833, names Nelly (Nellie) Hearn as his prospective bride. Her brother had the same name as her prospective husband. However, another marriage bond, dated July 30, 1834, signed by Elisha Cordry with his mark and co-signed by William Gordy, names Elenann/EllenAnn Hearn as Elisha's intended bride. [Elisha's mother was a Gordy.] William D. Corddry's birthdate was May 30, 1835, 10 months later. Although only a little more than one year separates the dates of the two marriage bonds [and presumably the church marriages soon afterward], and the fact that the first names of the women are given differently, the conclusion is still inescapable that the two brides must be the same person. As further support for this conclusion, William Hearn, the father of Nelly and Isaac, had several other daughters, but no Elenann. The husband of William Hearn's daughter Patience was William Gordy, co-signer of the marriage bond of Elisha and Elenann. This was usually the responsibility of a close relative. Nellie Hearn's brother Isaac apparently never married, because his will dated 11/2/1871 leaves property to his nieces and nephews including William Cordrey (perhaps the son of Elisha II and Isaac's sister Nellie Hearn.)

The conclusion that Nelly and Elenann Hearn are the same person may not seem so far-fetched when we consider that Nelly (or Nellie) is usually a nickname or variant of the name Ellen. "Elenann" may have been Nelly's real name or a fancy variation selected to fit the occasion. Only in fairly recent times have births been recorded as a legal requirement, so that the spelling of names became fixed by law. Since the dates of the two marriage bonds were so close together, and divorces were extremely rare, we must assume that Isaac Hearn (son of Samuel) died soon after his marriage to Nelly Hearn. Sudden death was not unusual in those days of poor sanitation and few effective medicines.

Since William D. Corddry moved to Snow Hill, Maryland at the age of 18 and had little contact with the Delaware line after his move, he was probably an orphan. A strong indication that Elisha II, and probably Nellie as well, died young lies in the fact that census records for 1850 show a Sarah Cordrey, age 8, living with Josiah and Elizabeth Cordrey, aged 75 and 72. Since these were undoubtedly her grandparents, her parents were probably already dead. Sarah Tull was known to be a sister of William D. They may have had other brothers and sisters, though only she was mentioned in his obituary. The children may have been scattered among family homes after the early death of their parents. A Mrs. Raddish/Reddish who lived in the Delmar area was said to have been a sister. According to George H. Corddry, Jr., "Aunt" Sarah once explained to him that a great sunken cavity in her skull above her temple was the result of being accidentally shot as a young girl by a brother as she rounded the side of a house. Both sisters lived until quite old. Sarah Tull eventually went to the state home for the elderly in Smyrna, Delaware, where she died.

George H. Corddry, Jr. inherited the spinning wheel given by Isaac Hearne to his sister Nellie Hearne when she married Elisha II Cordrey. [We still have this.] The couple lived on the family "entailed estate" near Laurel, Delaware in the section (perhaps "Goddards Lot") which was still owned by the family at that time.

More Information About Properties Owned in Sussex County, Delaware

John III Cordry's acquisitions, or at least a large part of them, remained in Cordry hands for almost 200 years. As time went on, many descendants left the land and became shopkeepers, tailors, etc. Still, the core land holdings remained in the family's possession and were farmed by the family. The two main branches of the Delaware Cordry's descending from John IV and his nephew Josiah (son of Elisha) lived side by side. The properties were finally sold about 1925.

It is not known how many houses were erected on Cordry lands. However, there were five houses still standing and in use in 1978 that could be identified as having been lived in by Cordry's. These were substantial houses, without architectural distinction, comparable to the farmhouses of the region and period.

The Cordry lands were east of what became "Bacon's Station" when the railroad came, roughly ten miles south of Laurel. Although Deed Book Records in Delaware State Archives shows Goddard's Lot deeded by Josiah Cordrey (son of Elisha, son of John III) to John Bacon in 1797, this property appears at the center of Josiah's lands in a survey dated May 1838. It is presumed that Goddard's Lot is the property on which Josiah's son John is buried. Page 77 of the Atlas of the State of Delaware by D.G. Beers (Beers' Atlas) (1868) shows a house as being occupied by "J. Cordray" in District N •148 east Bacon's Station [we have copies]. This "J. Cordray" may be John Cordrey (1816-1878) (son of Josiah), whose gravestone stood in a ploughed field behind the house. Neighboring property was owned in 1868 by W. Gordy, I. Hearn, and A. Adams. The Gordy property was across the road from the Cordray property. Josiah Cordry's wife Betsey was a Gordy. The wife Nellie of Elisha II (a son of Josiah) was a Hearn and her brother was Isaac.

The Cordry house of J. Cordray stood in a dilapidated condition on a narrow macadam surface road less than half a mile east of Rt. 13, when George H. Corddry, Jr. visited the property in the winter of 1977-1978. Then, a family named Gravenor owned the property with the old main house, which was previously owned by Elizabeth and Mary Johnson. (The Oliphants owned most of the rest of the Cordrey land.) He observed bales of hay stacked along the house's open northwest foundation as a rough protection, a reminder that people once lived without insulation and expected to be warm in winter only when next to a roaring fire. There was [and perhaps still is] a small family plot with gravestones at this location on Delaware Rt. 451/Salt Barn Rd., which is off Rt. 13 just north of Rt. 30 (south of Laurel, north of Delmar, and slightly east of Bacon's Switch). The plot was/is on the right side of Rt. 451 from Rt. 13 in cornfields before the crossroad with Rt. 70/Old Stage Rd. 38•30'. George Corddry wrote, "The property lies on a service road which extends from just north of Bacon Switch across the dual highway Rt. 13 east. The old house is about 4 miles east of the main highway. The service road parallels Rt. 451, a wider macadam road which runs from south of Bacon across Rt. 13. The two roads are about ¼ mile apart. Little Creek drains into the Nanticoke River, and the small creek leading to it passes right by the Cordrey property as described in the old deeds and surveys."

In June 1980 Agnes Tyndall (great great granddaughter of Spenser, son of John IV) wrote George H. Corddry, Jr. that she found a family cemetery with John's gravestone about 50 to 75 yards southwest of a house in a cornfield directly behind a pig pen on the property. Pigs had been rooting up and breaking gravestones. The gravestone had fallen and was in pieces and virtually destroyed. Someone had propped up the pieces. Nearer the house were graves of Elizabeth E., who died in 1863 and was the wife of P.P. Johnson, and of Elizabeth E., daughter of P.P. and E.E. Johnson. An Indian cemetery was in the woods.

After the Cordry's settled in Wicomico County, Maryland and then in Sussex County, Delaware, they continually bought farm properties. They ended up dispersed to other states or involved in trades other than farming. A reason for this seeming abandonment of farming in Sussex County may be because the sandy soil was rapidly depleted of nutrients by poor farming practices. Louise D. Harcum in Wicomico County History states, "Early nineteenth century accounts by persons traveling through the Peninsula indicated that the land and inhabitants had fallen into dilapidation, leaving a dreary and...uncultivated waste...most farmers practiced the method of wear-out and clear-up...it was easier and cheaper to clear new land than to attempt to rebuild the soil. The worn-out land was allowed to grow back in timber."

Other Cordry's in Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia

- Ann Cordery and her daughter Elizabeth (Liz) immigrated/were "transported" to Somerset County in Maryland from England in 1668, according to The Early Settlers of Maryland and the Index of Early

Settlers from the Hall of Records in Annapolis, Maryland. She was likely not a widow at the time, but may simply have come over to join her husband. **Ann received 100 acres from Lord Baltimore.**

- Barbara Cordery is mentioned in Henrico County, Virginia in the 1600's. Barbara Corderoy recorded a land transaction in 1671.
- James Cannon of Nanticoke, Maryland, lived in Dorchester County around 1683 and died in 1711. He has descendants in Maryland and Delaware including Cordry. (FHL US/CAN Film 0,928,964 in the Mormon Library in Salt Lake City)
- On 12/3/1726, Thomas Cordrey married Mary Matthew in New Castle County, Delaware.
- On 12/28/1728 Daniel Cordry married Jane, widow of Thomas Cale, Jr. in Somerset County.
- On 4/21/1730, Josias Cordry died without issue so his 700 acres in Somerset County went to his oldest brother William Cordry/Cordy.
- Sarah Cordrey married William Townsend on 12/9/1748 in Somerset County at Coventry PE Church.
- John Caudry had a will in Worcester County, Maryland dated 1/1/1813.
- Jacob Cordery served as a private in the Kent County, Delaware militia during the War of 1812, and his absenteeism was noted.
- On 8/4/1830 Nathan Cordrey married Rebecca Allen in Kent County, Delaware.
- On 12/22/1830 Eleanor S. Cordry married Thomas Phillips.
- On 5/14/1832 Sarah Cordery married William C. Anderson, Jr. in Sussex County, Delaware.
- On 2/6/1833 Martin Cordry married Hattie Elliot.
- On 11/28/1837 Carrington Cordray married Nancy Jones.
- On 5/4/1840 Samuel Cordrey married Mary Hearn; then on 2/10/1845, Samuel Cordrey married Mary Williams. On 4/20/1849 Samuel Cordery and his wife Margaret sold "Sally's Lot" to William Bacon for \$200. Samuel Cordrey died on 10/11/1905.
- On 12/18/1843 Benjamin Cordry married Nancy Phillips in Sussex County.
- On 12/20/1843 William Cordry married Margaret Wooten.
- Nancy Cordray's will recorded 2/12/1846 and probated 12/22/1846 leaves all her property to her sister Sally Walter. Her Negro slaves were left to cousins.
- In 1850, Elisha Cordry age 40 farmer (born around 1810) and Elisha Cordry age 17 farmer (born around 1833) lived with Alford Adams in Dagsboro Hundred, according to the 1850 Sussex County census. On 8/7/1856, Elisha Cordra (born circa 1833) married Hester Moore, according to marriage records for Sussex County, Delaware in the Dover, Delaware archives.
- According to the 1850 Sussex County census:
 - B.L. Cordry aged 9 and Priscilla Culver age 15 lived with John B. Collins age 64 farmer.
 - Elizabeth Cordry age 40 and 11 others lived with Thomas W. Ruords age 43 farmer and his wife Elizabeth age 43.
- According to the 1860 Sussex County census:
 - In Little Creek Hundred:
 - Elisha Cordry age 46 (born around 1814), farmer, lived with his wife Esther age 35
 - Sarah A. Cordry age 9 and Benjamin Hearn age 17 lived with Elijah Wootten age 36 farmer
 - John Cordry age 40 farmer lived with Elizabeth age 75, Sarah age 17, William age 7, and Paynter Elliott age 24 farm laborer
 - Perry Cordry age 25 farmer lived with Mary A. age 20 and Theodosia age 2 months
 - Elijah Cordry age 23 lived with Elihu Hastings age 32 farmer and Jerutha J. age 26

- Spencer M. Cordry age 51 farmer lived with Patsy A. age 50, Edward age 17, Benjamin age 16, James age 12, and Joseph age 8
- John Cordry age 20 farm laborer lived with Isaac Giles age 56 farmer
- William R. Cordry age 48 farmer lived with Elizabeth age 29, Eliza F. age 9, Augusta age 7, William age 5, Curtis age 2, and Harvey age 8 months
- In Broad Creek Hundred:
 - Henry C. Cordry age 9 lived with John (age 23 farmer) and Amanda Collins
 - Aaron Cordry age 47 farmer lived with Eleanor age 42, Mary E. age 15, Mathias age 18, William T. age 14, Rebecca E. age 10, Joseph W. age 7, and Job S. age 5
 - Benjamin Cordry age 43 farmer lived with Nancy A. age 38, Sarah E. age 16, Margaret A. age 14, Jacob B. age 8, Joseph J. age 5, and Rachael M. age 7 months
 - According to records of the Line Methodist Church Cemetery in Whitesville, Delaware, Nancy Ann Cordrey, wife of Benjamin Cordrey, died on 8/26/1880 at about the age of 64.
 - William Cordry age 36 farmer lived with Rachel E. age 19, Joseph E. age 12, Elijah W. age 5, and Samuel H. age 1
 - Eleanor Cordry age 42 lived with Mary E. age 15, Martin H. age 18, William T. age 14, Rebecca E. age 10, Joseph W. age 7, and Job age 55
 - Elizabeth Cordry age 9 lived with Elijah Wooten age 36 farmer
- In Broadkiln Hundred:
 - Josephine Cordrey age 19 domestic lived with Peter Rust
- In Dagsboro Hundred:
 - Lovey N. Cordrey age 51 lived with G.E. Cordrey age 20 and John R. Cordrey age 22 house carpenter
- According to the State of Delaware Biographical Encyclopedia, C.S. Cordrey lived in Delmar in Little Creek Hundred and John K. Cordrey lived in Millsboro.
- According to the U.S. Civil War Pension Index 1861-1934, John K. Cordrey, soldier, had a Civil War pension. His wife was Mary.
- The Delaware State Directory 1874-1875 lists John Cordry and Soloman A. Cordry as farmers and fruit growers.
- In March 1880, Emma Cordrey age 22 died of consumption, according to the Mortality Schedule of the Eastern Shore of 1880.
- As of 1888, Jackson Cordry, Josiah Cordry, Robert Hitch, Job Hastings, William and Moses Hastings, William Hearn, and William Ellis lived in the Little Creek area near Nathaniel Horsey's mill, Mitchell's pond, Polk's forge and mill, Trussum's mill, George and Joseph Hearn's mills, Kinney's mill pond, and Tussecky Branch.
- According to Will Record Z No. 25 p. 306, there was a will dated 1889 for William E. Cordrey.
- According to Will Record Q No. 16 p. 126 for 1888-1893, there was a will dated 1890 for Laura C. Cordrey.

- In 1890 a Cordray remodeled and opened the high-class, 1,400-seat Cordray's Theatre on Madison Street in Seattle, Washington. The Cordray-Wass Stock Company performed there. There was a vaudeville theatre in the same building.
- There are will records dated 1873 for William W. Cordry, 1882 for John S. Cordry, 1890 for Spencer M. Cordry, 1892 for James H. Cordry, 1923 for Joseph H. Cordrey, 1924 for William H. Cordrey, 1926 for Benjamin H. and Daniel H. Cordrey, and 1929 for Oliver and Thomas O. Cordrey.
- According to Delaware Will Record T No. 19, there are wills dated 1897 for Joseph E. Cordrey and 1906 for John K. Cordrey.
- Mrs. Linford Corddry died 12/21/1947 in Denton, Maryland.
- In 1980, Carrol Cordrey ran unopposed as the Democratic candidate for Representative of the 40th District in Delaware, for the Millsboro area.

Snow Hill Corddry Line

William Derrickson (Derickson, Dickerson) Corddry, Sr.—founder of the Snow Hill, Maryland line—son of Elisha II, son of Josiah, son of Elisha I, son of John III)

Born May 30, 1835 near Laurel, Delaware on the old Cordry homestead

Died November 28, 1911 in Snow Hill, Maryland

Married on May 5, 1859 to Mary Priscilla Porter (12/24/1839-5/9/1927) (daughter of Sheppard Porter and Eliza Henderson; Mary's brother was named George, so her youngest son George Henderson was given her brother's name and her mother's maiden name and was also named for her first cousin George Henderson)

Both of them are buried at Whatcoat United Methodist Church in Snow Hill, Maryland.

Children: Winona Eliza May 6, 1860-1955, married to James Boyer Harris in 1881. Child: Bessie (11/5/1883-6/1884). Her husband died 12/5/1883, her daughter died the next year, and she never remarried. She helped raise the children of her widowed brother George H. Corddry until he remarried and was called "Nannie."

William Dickerson, Jr. July 12, 1863 – March 25, 1943, married on 12/28/1887 to Elizabeth (Bessie) Montgomery Stagg (11/25/1862-11/19/1939); they are buried at All Hallows Episcopal Church in Snow Hill. He led temperance parades carrying an American flag. He served as mayor, councilman, and treasurer in Snow Hill. He was elected as a member of the Maryland House of Delegates in 1915. Children: Harris Stagg (10/29/1888-6/8/1953), William Howard (7/4/1890 – 5/27/1987 who conducted a lot of Corddry family research; married to Bessie Leonard Purnell), Thomas Imlay, Newell Montgomery (1893-1939; married to Kathryn J. (1900-1976) who was elected Snow Hill Register of Wills), Graham Winfield, Wilfred (died at age 1 due to influenza), and Robert Porter (5/26/1905-5/15/1920; died when almost 15 due to drowning when canoeing in the Pocomoke River).

Charles Wilson, Sr.

February 3, 1871 – 1951; served as mayor of Snow Hill; married

Machree A. (1892-1955). Children: Charles (1920-4/1/1996; Pentagon reporter in the Washington Bureau for the Baltimore Sun and panelist on the T.V. program "Washington Week in Review"), Margaret, Rosemary, and Joseph (1926-1952, died young). Buried at Whatcoat Methodist Church in Snow Hill.

Mollie Lestelle

Born August 7, 1874; married Charles Parsons in 1898. Child: Mary Parsons Brown.

George Henderson, Sr.

June 27, 1879 – July 8, 1958 (father of George H. Corddry, Jr. who was the researcher for much of this information, along with Robert Cordray of Pittsburgh and Howard Corddry, son of William D., Jr.) Buried at Whatcoat Methodist Church in Snow Hill.

several children died in infancy

We have a family bible that begins with the marriage of William “Derickson” Corddry to Mary Priscilla Porter and lists the births of their children. It probably belonged to their daughter Winona, since it has information about her husband and child.

Although once there were many Corddry’s living in Snow Hill, now no one with that name lives in the town. According to William D. Corddry’s obituary in The Democratic Messenger, he moved around 1853 to Snow Hill, Maryland from the family farm in the Bacon area near Laurel, Delaware. He was about 18 years old and came with an apprenticeship to learn carriage and cabinet making from James Messick, a noted builder of the time. William D. lived with Mr. Messick until he married Mary Porter in 1859. He bought land from Mr. Messick in the mid 1800’s.

His death certificate lists Elisha Corddry and Nellie Hearn of Delaware as his parents. It states that he worked as a carpenter and contractor and died at age 76 of lobar pneumonia after being ill for 4 days. He remained active until his death. The death certificate and his daughter Winona’s bible gives his middle name as Derickson, but his gravestone has Dickerson and his son William D.’s middle name is Dickerson. [Note that an early name for Pittsville, Maryland was Derrickson’s Cross Roads, showing a possible Cordrey connection.]

As further evidence of William D.’s Delaware roots, the will of Isaac Hearn (son of William Hearn) of Little Creek Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware (who apparently never married), probated in 1871, leaves all of his property to his sister Frances and to an assortment of nieces and nephews, among whom were “William Cordry.” Among the offspring of William Hearn, enumerated in the extensive handwritten genealogical notes on the Hearn family, catalogued in the Hall of Records, Dover, are Nelly Hearn (William D. Corddry’s mother) and Isaac Hearn. I. Hearn had property next to the Cordry’s in Delaware, as did W. (William) Gordy who was married to Isaac’s sister Patience.

Since William D. Corddry moved to Snow Hill around 1853, when he was just 18, it is a fairly safe guess that he was an orphan. At any rate, he apparently had little contact with relatives left behind in the Laurel area. As an indication of this estrangement, it was thought important enough to mention in his 1911 obituary that he had recently visited the family farm. The obituary also names one sister, Sarah Tull. Sarah visited the Snow Hill Corddry’s in the 1920s when she was quite old. Though she doubtless received some financial assistance from her Snow Hill relatives, she reportedly died at a state home for the elderly in Smyrna, Delaware, probably prior to 1930.

William D. Corddry and Mary Porter produced a rather large number of children over 20 years, several of whom died in infancy. Of the five who survived, Winona, born in 1860, was 19 years older than George, born in 1879.

As William D. learned carriage-making, he also learned the skills of carpentry and cabinet-making. He became quite skilled. He worked with Mr. Messick until the outbreak of the Civil War, when he accepted a government position at Point Lookout. The Union Army put his skills to use by assigning him to make coffins

for the many rebel prisoners dying there. He returned to Snow Hill after the war to engage in house building as a building contractor. He might have moved temporarily to Chincoteague, Virginia in the 1880's. [We have what George H. Corddry, Jr. called a "seaman's chest," which has on its side "W.D. Corddry, Snow Hill."]

William D. apparently spelled his surname "Cordrey" when he moved to Snow Hill. However, a map of Snow Hill published in 1877 shows three lots owned by W.D. Cordery. He changed the spelling (reportedly at his wife's suggestion) when he and his oldest son William D., Jr. as vice president founded a lumber and building material business in 1883, W.D. Corddry & Son. In 1900, brothers William D., Jr. and Charles W. with Judge Robley Jones organized the Snow Hill Manufacturing Company and engaged in the saw and planing mill business. After several acquisitions of other companies, including the Snow Hill Coal and Ice Company, the business was incorporated in 1907 as The Corddry Company. By this time, it sold ice and coal in addition to building materials, and had saw mills and a planing mill. William D., Sr.'s other sons Charles and George and grandsons Harris and Newell were allowed to purchase stock, and became directors and managers of different departments of the incorporated firm. Grandson Newell (1893-1939) and brother-in-law Charles Parsons worked for the company for a while. William D., Jr. was president of the company. George, the youngest son, managed the retail store, coal business, and delivery of materials.

Cash was short in the early days of The Corddry Company. When the husband of Winona (Nonie) Corddry died leaving her approximately \$2,000, the family home was sold to her for that sum to secure capital for The Corddry Company.

Although by many standards The Corddry Company would not be regarded as a booming success, it was highly regarded on the Eastern Shore, and throughout the Shore the family was held in high esteem. As one evidence of this, two family members served on the Board of Visitors and Governors of Washington College. The Corddry Company provided a comfortable living for a number of family groupings through the 1950's. It was the chief source of revenue for family members' college education at Washington College and elsewhere.

The Corddry Company had extensive holdings of timber, saw mills, a planing mill, a hardware store, and warehouses. It sold all types of building materials, "box shooks" (before they were replaced with paper cartons), coal (when it was still used for heating homes), and ice (in the days before refrigerators). In 1957, the business was sold to the E.S. Adkins Company (owned by the husband of Ellen Corddry Adkins) of Salisbury. The 75-year-old woodworking plant of the Corddry Company, which was housed in a huge red barn-like structure, had the Eastern Shore's last steam-powered plant operation. This included a 75-horsepower Atlas steam engine and a boiler plant (both installed in 1907). There were 25 to 30 pieces of lumber mill machinery that took their power from two long lines of overhead shafting and hundreds of feet of stout leather belting which transferred power from whirling steel shafts to the individual machines—planers, band re-saws, circular saws, shapers, jointers, tongue-and-groove edgers, nailing machines, sanders, rip saws, and cut-off saws. Some of the machinery was at least 75 years old and was used to make shooks, shingles, baskets, crates, boxes, and dressed lumber. The steam boiler was fed with sawdust, slabs, and chips from the plant's operation. The building had no temperature controls—no heat in winter and no air conditioning in summer. A steam whistle sounded at noon and at quitting time each work day.

William D. Corddry, Jr. was mayor of Snow Hill and a member of the Maryland House of Delegates. He was a power to be reckoned with. He founded the Snow Hill Building and Loan Association and became founder and first president of the County Trust Company Bank. He led temperance parades.

Charles Corddry, while not so active politically, was active as a banker and much sought out for his knowledge of electricity, mechanics, and timber in general. He ran head-on into his powerful brother during the 1920's over the issue of whether Snow Hill should sell its electric light plant to a large utility firm. Will said

“yes” and Charlie said “no.” The pro candidate was J.O. Byrd and the con candidate was J.H. Perdue. Byrd won, the plant was sold, and the family, which had split down the middle over the issue, gradually came back together. In retrospect, many people have felt that it was a mistake because communities that held onto their small plants managed over the years to keep local taxes down through profits. At any rate, it was an honest difference of opinion between two strong men that led to the temporary family split.

According to a letterhead for the Corddry Company dated 1945, the firm dealt with lumber, four styles of box shooks, building materials, and coal. William Howard Corddry and Harris S. Corddry, sons of William D. Corddry, Jr., were respectively President and Secretary of the company and Charles W. Corddry, their uncle, was Vice President.

When William D. Corddry, Sr. moved from Delaware to Snow Hill around 1853, some family members preceded him. They also spelled their name as “Corddry.” Mrs. Margaret S. MacLeod wrote to Charles Corddry, Jr. in 1980 of her great grandmother Maria Corddry Barkley and her brother George H. and their deaf, unmarried siblings Sarah, Liz, and Jim. They lived in Snow Hill. They were children of Doughty Cordray (died between 1843 and 1846), son of Henry Cordry/Cordray (died 1797), son of John II (died between 1730 and 1739). [Was George H. Corddry, Sr., son of William D., named for this George, and/or for his cousin George, son of his grandfather John Porter and his grandmother Eliza Henderson?]

According to the 1910 census, William D. Corddry age 74 and his wife Mary P. age 70 lived in Snow Hill with their children Winona age 48, Charles age 36 and his daughter Margaret age 6, and son George age 28 with his bride Cecile age 26.

George Henderson Corddry, Sr.

Born June 27, 1879 in Snow Hill, Maryland

Died July 8, 1958 in Snow Hill at age 79; buried at Whatcoat Methodist Cemetery in Snow Hill

Married to Cecille (Cecie, Cecilia) Elizabeth Chapman on October 20, 1909 (born December 2, 1882 in Greenbackville, Virginia and died October 18, 1920 at age 37 in Snow Hill)

Children: George Henderson Corddry, Jr. (July 14, 1911 – November 6, 1982 at age 71)

Nellie Hearn Corddry (July 3, 1913 – October 15, 1922 at age 9) (named for her great grandmother)

Married to Mary Levinia Williams in 1927 (1893 – May 4, 1977 at age 83 at Virginia Beach General Hospital). She was 14 years younger than her husband.

Children: Edward H. Corddry (March 5, 1929 - December 25, 2004), married to Gertrude Horst; children: Nancy Corddry Mangus and Amy Corddry Patton

We have a copy of the announcement in the Snow Hill paper The Messenger for the marriage of George Sr. and Cecille. It provides a lot of information. They were married in Greenbackville at the bride’s home on a Wednesday evening. Reverend George W. Townsend of Stockton officiated. No guests signed the wedding book. Cecille is identified as the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel E. [actually, Samuel James] Chapman and is described as “a general favorite in her native town.” The name of her mother is not given, but was Elizabeth Jane Peyton. Mr. Corddry is described as “a prominent young business man.” He was 30 and she was 26, which is relatively late in life for both of them to marry. The paper says, “While many of Mr. Corddry’s friends knew of his engagement, the marriage was a surprise to the general public.” The paper also mentions that the newlyweds came to Snow Hill Wednesday evening in an automobile, which was worthy of mention as a symbol of prosperity in those early days of the automobile. They were accompanied in the automobile by Mr. Corddry’s brother, Charles.

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George Sr. worked as Treasurer of The Corddry Company and managed the retail store, coal business, and delivery of materials as a member of the family company for 50 years until the business was sold in 1957 to the E.S. Adkins Company.

He lived his whole life in Snow Hill and rarely left it, except to attend the christening of his first grandchild Mary Cecile Corddry in Harford County. George and his second wife Mary lived at 110 N. Washington Street in Snow Hill. Their house was later torn down for a municipal parking lot.

George suffered a long illness that kept him at home for a year or so. Two weeks before his death, he suffered a paralytic stroke. He is buried in Snow Hill with a gravestone shared with his second wife. His first wife Cecille is buried with a separate gravestone on their left, and is identified with the last name of Chapman and as his wife. Their daughter Nellie is also buried beside them.

George Henderson Corddry, Jr.

Born July 14, 1911 in Snow Hill, Maryland

Died November 6, 1982 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania at a bridge tournament. Buried at Whatcoat Methodist Cemetery in Snow Hill.

Married to Mary Elizabeth Umbarger (April 27, 1925-December 24, 2018) on August 26, 1950 in Aberdeen, Maryland.

Children: Mary Cecile Corddry (September 4, 1951)
 George Henderson Corddry, III (March 14, 1953)
 Ellen Jane Corddry (November 28, 1956)
 David Lafayette Corddry (March 8, 1959-April 19, 2015)
 James Howard Corddry (August 6, 1961)

George graduated from Washington College. He served in World War II as an aerial gunner and radio operator on a B-17 bomber based in north Africa, flying 50 combat missions over Italy, Sicily, Greece, Yugoslavia, and Austria. He obtained a graduate degree from Columbia University in New York City, and was working on his Doctorate when he married Mary. He met her in church, and expressed his interest by leaving a bushel of oysters in her front yard. Mary asked him to come and help her open them, and then they roasted oysters in the fireplace of her parents' home in Churchville. At the time, he was principal of Aberdeen High School in Aberdeen, Maryland. They lived in a tenant house in an apple orchard outside Havre de Grace, until Hurricane Hazel knocked a tree through the house. After living briefly with Mary's parents in Churchville, they bought a home in Aberdeen. When George became principal of Wicomico Senior High School, the family moved to Salisbury, Maryland, where the family lived until George's death.

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