

**THE CORWIN
GENEALOGY: (CURWIN,
CURWEN, CORWINE)
IN THE UNITED STATES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649556618

The Corwin Genealogy: (Curwin, Curwen, Corwine) in the United States by Edward Tanjore
Corwin

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

EDWARD TANJORE CORWIN

**THE CORWIN
GENEALOGY: (CURWIN,
CURWEN, CORWINE)
IN THE UNITED STATES**

The Corwin Genealogy

(CURWIN, CURWEN, CORWINE)

IN THE

UNITED STATES.

BY

EDWARD TANJORE CORWIN,

MILLSTONE, N. J.

THE GLORY OF CHILDREN ARE THEIR FATHERS.—PROVERBS, 17: 6.

496980

12. 9. 49

NEW-YORK:

S. W. GREEN, PRINTER, 16 AND 18 JACOB STREET.

1872.

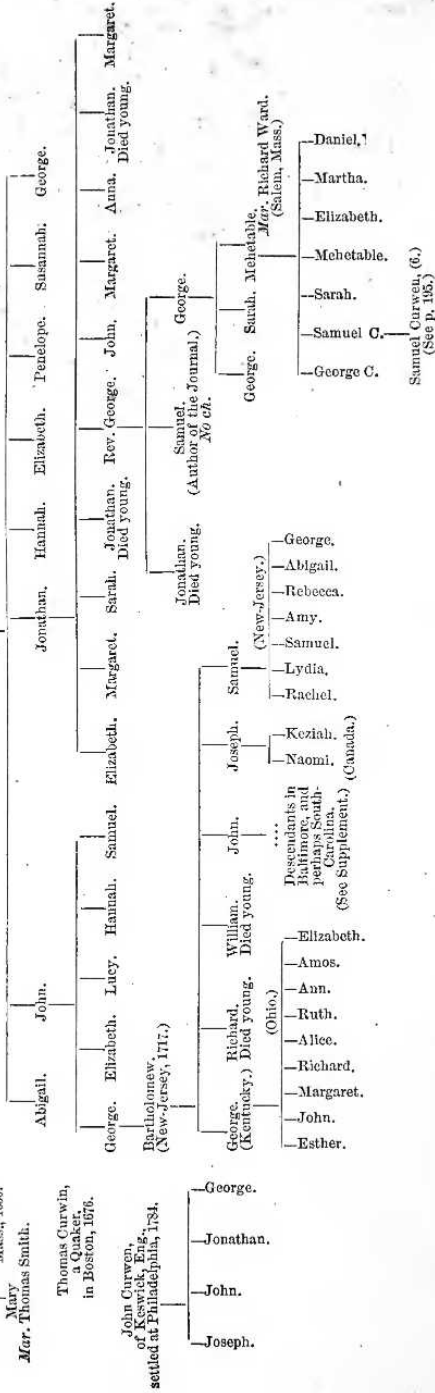
DESCENDANTS OF GEORGE CURWIN. (SIX GENERATIONS.)

Samuel Corwine,
settled in Essex Co.,
Mass., 1666.
Mar. Thomas Smith.

Thomas Curwin,
a Quaker,
in Boston, 1676.

John Curwin,
of Newick, Eng.,
settled at Philadelphia, 1734.

George Curwin, settled at Salem, Mass., 1683; died 1688.



Malcolm Curwin, of London, Eng.,
settled in New-York City, 1841.

Charles H. Curwin, of Worthington, Eng.,
New-Orleans, La., 1858.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
PREFACE.....	vi
INTRODUCTION.....	xii
General.....	xii
The Name Corwin.....	xii
The Origin of the Family of Matthias Corwin.....	xiii
Matthias Corwin, the American Immigrant, 1630.....	xviii
The Origin of the Family of George Curwin.....	xxvi
George Curwin, the American Immigrant, 1638.....	xxviii
Samuel Corwine, an American Immigrant, 1652.....	xxxix
Thomas Curwin, an American Immigrant, 1676.....	xxxix
John Curwen, the American Immigrant, 1784.....	xxxix
Malcolm Corwin, an American Immigrant, 1844.....	xxxix
Charles H. Curwen, an American Immigrant, 1868.....	xxxix
THE GENEALOGY.....	1-232
APPENDIX A. The name Corvinus and the Roman Corvini.....	233
" B. John Hunyadi Corvinus, of Hungary.....	235
" C. Matthias Corvinus, " ".....	238
" D. The Reformation in Hungary.....	239
" E. Revs. Anthony and John Corvinus, of Germany.....	243
" F. John Augustus Corvinus, of Germany.....	244
" G. Letters.....	244
" H. The English Culwens, or Curwens.....	247
" I. Workington, Cumberland, England.....	251
" J. Philip Corwine, the Monk; his Conversion.....	252
Index of Inter-marriages; of Descendants of the Corwin Daughters, with other Surnames; of Residences, etc., etc.....	259
Additions and Corrections.	

PREFACE.

THE CORWIN GENEALOGY herewith given to the public is the result of the slow accumulation of material during many years. It only recently, however, became possible to arrange the earlier generations of the family of Matthias Corwin, of Long Island, in a sure and satisfactory manner. This was accomplished by the publication of Moore's *Indexes of Southold*, a few years since. A circular letter was then issued, and sent to every person connected with the family, whose address was ascertained, asking for such additional information as was necessary to complete the work. Probably few American families of the Corwin (Curwen or Corwine) name will experience much difficulty, with the material here presented, in making their own family record complete, if it be not already so in the present volume.

The work indeed contains the records of several Corwin families, originating from different American ancestors. The writer took it for granted at first, as several New-England authors have done, that the Salem and Long Island Corwins were probably connected. Under this supposition, he investigated, as opportunity permitted, the history of the English Curwens, of Cumberland County, whose *Arms* George Curwen, of Salem, Mass., had brought with him to America, in 1638. Yet it seemed a little remarkable that, if the Salem and Long Island families were related, all trace of such relationship should have been lost on both sides, though living not very distant from each other. But in 1859, when Appleton's *New American Cyclopædia* was publishing, it was noticed in a sketch of the Hon. Thomas Corwin, found therein, that the family was referred to an Hungarian origin. The article was written by the Hon. Anthony H. Dunlevy, of Ohio. (See *Lucinda Corwin*, 4, p. 142.) About the same time, a volume of speeches of Governor Corwin was published, to which was prefixed a memoir of him, by Isaac Strohm, of Ohio. Herein again, still more definitely, the same fact respecting the family's origin was stated. (*Corwin's Speeches*, p. 8.) The writer addressed Governor Corwin on the subject, and received the following reply:

LEBANON, OHIO, September 5, 1859.

DEAR SIR: When the publishers of the *Encyclopædia* advised me of their wish to insert in that work a brief sketch of my life, I was in haste to leave home, and handed their note to a friend, requesting him to correspond with the publishers, and give them, in his own way, what they wanted.

This gentleman had known me and my family intimately for fifty years. The result was the article to which you refer. He had given some attention to our family history, and I had not. There is in my hands, amongst much of such lumber, several letters showing our connection with the family of the Hungarian Corvinus. Somebody's history of Connecticut is referred to, I remember; and at the time I read these communications, their account of the matter struck me as quite plausible. I could never bring myself to feel interest enough in the subject to withdraw me from necessary labor long enough to make such researches as to enable me to form even a plausible guess as to the persons who might have been at work, for ten centuries back, in the laudable effort to bring me, *volens volens*, into this breathing world on the 29th day of July, (a most uncomfortable time of the year,) in the year of grace 1794. I have seen the book you refer to.* I read a page or two of it, and it was captured by an aged aunt, who carried it away, and I have not seen it now for about five years. It was sent to me by a Mr. Ward, then of Staten Island, and I suppose it is the same you propose to send me. There was a likeness of Judge Curwen in the volume I had. Your researches† sent me, for which I thank you, are curious enough, and must have cost great labor and much time. . . . (But) I have resolved not to engage in that Battle of the Books. Nevertheless, had I the leisure, I dare say I should take as much delight in such inquiries as yourself. But my tastes have never had fair play. The actual affairs around me and upon me have driven me like a slave, through a very busy and very unprofitable life thus far. My paternal grandfather's name was Jesse; his father's name was William.‡ So says the family legend with us, and I believe the records so say.

I should like to know you personally. Can you tell me how I can find you, and when? I am again in that turbid water, politics. If you come to Washington next winter, you will find me amongst the monsters, big and little, that swim in that sea of troubles. Truly yours,

E. T. CORWIN.

THOMAS CORWIN.

Such statements from so distinguished an authority seemed worthy of further investigation. It was soon ascertained that there was a wide-spread tradition in the family concerning an Hungarian extraction. This tradition, indeed, did not extend to all branches; but it existed in various quarters. The writer has subsequently frequently heard of it in conversation, and there have been a number of references to it in letters. He has, therefore, felt himself obliged, though reluctantly, to relinquish his former cherished opinions of the relation of the Long Island family to the English Curwens. The results of his investigations in this matter,§ as well as the facts con-

* Curwen's *Journal and Letters*.

† The *English Curwen Genealogy*. (See Appendix H.)

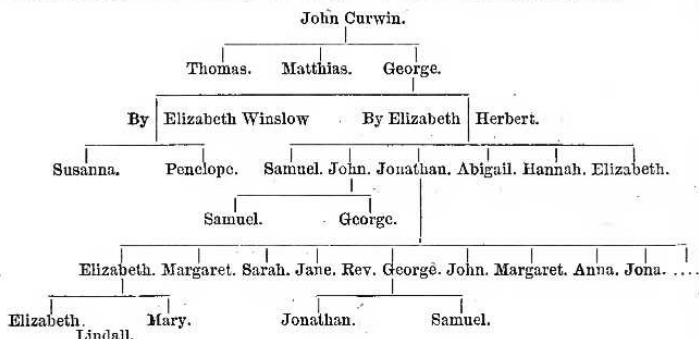
‡ But see Jesse, 1, p. 113, and William, 1, p. 224.

§ Curiously enough, long after this volume was ready for the press, and two thirds of it actually printed, (April, 1872,) the writer received a note from George R. Curwen, Esq., of Salem, Mass., stating that an interesting record had just turned up in Salem, written upon

cerning several later immigrants to America, of the Corwin or Curwen name, are presented in the INTRODUCTION.

The peculiar difficulties in the preparation of an American genealogy have been fully experienced in this work. The families are scattered from ocean to ocean, and from lake to gulf. They are often without any records of their remote origin, and "The Old Family Bible" * has often been carried

the fly-leaf of an old book, formerly the property of Rev. George Curwin, (4,) p. 79, (being inscribed Georgii Curwin Liber, Anno 1715,) in his own handwriting, as follows :



Now, this "tree," without a word of explanation more than the names arranged as above, makes Thomas Curwin, the Quaker, Matthias Corwin, of Long Island, and George Curwin, of Salem, three original immigrants, though at different times, to be brothers, and the sons of a John Curwin, of England. Thomas and George may have been brothers, but the remarks already made, and the general tenor of the Introduction, will apparently quite forbid the placing of Matthias here. Probably this arrangement by Rev. George Curwin was a *supposition*, upon which he was beginning to work out a Curwin Genealogy; but his death soon after, (1717,) prevented him from either verifying or disproving the same. It seems impossible to allow such a record to overturn all the testimony which the reader will find respecting another origin of Matthias Corwin. We hope, however, that the truth may be elucidated. The writer would simply observe that the family of Matthias Corwin, on Long Island, have never possessed (so far as his knowledge extends) the Curwen Arms, which the family of George, both in the East and in the West, have cherished; that the early generations of these families are not known to have ever visited or even corresponded with each other. The name of Matthias might have become known to Rev. George, from the neighboring Ipswich records, where it yet remains. Rev. George was but two years old when his grandfather died. Matthias moved from Ipswich to Long Island about the time of the birth of the first George's children, 1649; while Thomas does not, as far as known, appear in this country till forty or fifty years after the arrivals of George and Matthias.

* Says a writer in the *New-Brunswick Review*, 1855, Among time-honored customs, there is none more touching or instructive than that which employs the blank leaves of the "Old Family Bible" for genealogical records. In that consecrated place, between the Old and New Testaments, thereby acknowledging that true religion is the basis of the pure domestic relation, we place the records of our births, marriages, and deaths. And this is highly appropriate, as the Bible is the family record in general of all the children of Adam. It tells of the divine origin of our race, of the true aim of life, of our physical and moral destiny, and of our high dignity in the scale of animated and rational being. It tells how the lost image of God may be restored, and with it, every other capacity invigorated anew. For this very position of our "family records" seems to indicate that, while we trace our pedigree up to Adam, though not without many long breaks, we yet love to place it as near as possible to the genealogy of our Lord Jesus Christ. For while we acknowledge our relation