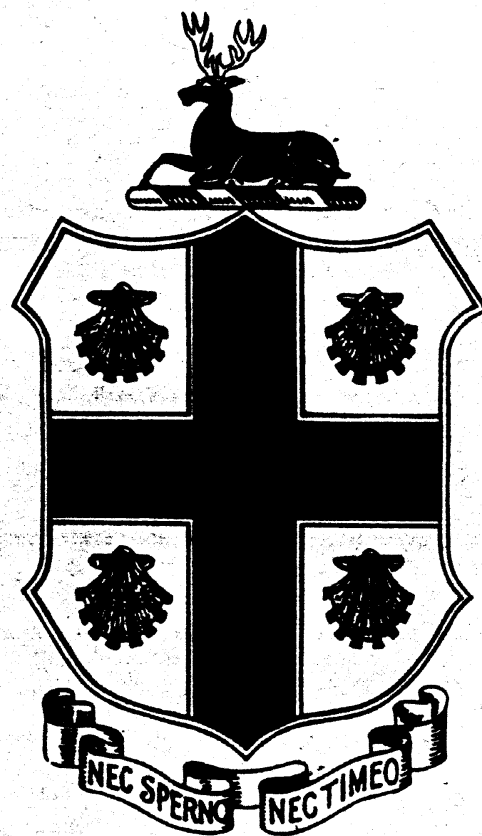


the COGSWELL COURIER



Cogswell

"I neither despise nor fear"

April 1996

*F*ROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Those who took advantage of the generous offer from Higginson Book Company to purchase a reprint of Jameson's "The Cogswells in America" should now have this family history in their libraries. AND they are printed on acid-free paper! I'm particularly pleased publishers are becoming more and more aware of the importance of it's use. The National Genealogical Society (July/August 1995) presented a very interesting article written by Alan R. Calmes on the subject of paper preservation. He reports it was in 1943, during WWII, orders were issued to reduce the cost of using high quality paper. Consequently, manufacturers produced paper "by a process that treated wood at elevated temperatures and pressures with excess sulphurous acid and calcium bisulfite, which was acidic. Results can be seen today on archival shelves...millions of yellowed, brittle, documents, disintegrating in their own chemicals," reports Mr. Calmes. Paper containing acid has an approximate life span of 50 years.

Our good friends at the LDS libraries have been furnishing most forms in the acid-free state. As family historians desiring our personal histories to endure, be sure to use acid-free paper whenever copy machines or printers offer it. It's a bit higher in cost, but worth it!

As of February 1996 the Cogswell Family Association is 7 years of age! Just a "youngster," with a bright future. This edition will feature a profile of our founder, Cyril Gray Cogswell. It has been my impression that many of us have little or no knowledge of Cyril, his efforts in creating the CFA, and particularly, his motive. If any errors are found, please be sure to report them to me in order to publish corrections. What is presented here has been taken from CFA files together with information provided by Cyril's nephew, Lawrence Perley Cogswell, of Glastonbury, Connecticut.

The MUG SHOTS insert offering CFA labeled items, etc., comes from our historian Donald Cogswell.

Please continue to submit articles you would like to share...it is a family letter!

*Bernice Sonna P.O. Box 2970 Jackson, WY 83001
Fax and Phone: (307)733-5705*

*P*RESIDENT'S *M*ESSAGE ---

Hello, once again.

Most of you know the Cogswell Family Association, Inc. was formed largely through the efforts of Cyril Cogswell, for the purpose of perpetuating the memory and genealogy of the Cogswell family.

Thanks to our Historian, Donald J. Cogswell of Queen Anne, Maryland, we are getting close to realizing one of our main objectives; that of publishing the update to "The Cogswells in America," by E.O. Jameson, 1884. Don has over 11,000 names in the database. That represents a lot of Cogswell relatives and a lot of time sitting at a computer to enter them. The submission cut-off for the Cogswell book is the 1996 reunion.

I would also like to thank Claire Cogswell Daigle, our Secretary, for her efforts in getting several lapsed members back in the fold; and to those members, welcome back. We currently have 155 memberships. If you know any new prospects, please inform Claire. She will send them a packet explaining the association with an application form.

And to Bernice Sonna, President Emeritus and newsletter guru, thanks for continuing with the publishing of the "Cogswell Courier," which is the glue that holds the association together.

Speaking of together, the Board of Directors has called a special meeting (reunion) to be held October 18-20, 1996 in Charleston, South Carolina. I understand that Edna Cogswell Roberds, our hostess, is planning a fantastic weekend for us, so please plan to attend.

Keith Cogswell, President

CYRIL GRAY COGSWELL

FOUNDER OF THE
COGSWELL FAMILY ASSOCIATION
A PROFILE

Cyril Gray Cogswell was b. Apr. 9, 1904 during the Great Baltimore, Maryland fire. He was the first born of Rev. Colwort Kendall Pier Cogswell, b. Nov. 18, 1869, Brandon, Vermont and Hortense Eugenia Gray, b. Old Town, Maine. M'd Madeleine Pickett (*Pickie*) Halbert in 1948. He died Mar. 3, 1993. They had no children.



A second son to Rev. Cogswell and Hortense soon followed:

Dr. Lawrence Perley Cogswell

b. Aug. 18, 1905, Trappe, Maryland
m'd May 18, 1935 to Marjorie Smith Garde
b. Sept. 2, 1905 and d. Nov. 11, 1990,
Hartford, Connecticut
d. Dec. 10, 1984, Hartford, Connecticut.

And their children (all born in Hartford, Connecticut):

Walter Garde Cogswell, Dr. of Music

b. Dec. 6, 1937,
m'd. Elizabeth Ann Page
They had two daughters, Catherine Anne
Cogswell and Carol Marie Cogswell

Lawrence Perley Cogswell, Jr.

b. Dec. 21, 1938,
m'd. Jul. 30, 1966 to Sharon Marie Senna
b. Oct. 18, 1942

They had one son, Lawrence Perley Cogswell, III
b. May 19, 1972

Marjorie Jane Cogswell

b. Jan. 21, 1941,

d. Jan. 22, 1941

Buried in the Cogswell family plot, Fairview
Cemetery, West Hartford, Connecticut

The third child, *Charles Luman Cogswell*, b. May 7, 1907, Trappe,
Maryland; d. February 20, 1968, Hackensack, New Jersey, buried
in Old Town, Maine. He never married.

EDUCATION:

- 1910-14 Attended elementary school at Kenilworth,
Washington, D.C.
- 1914-23 Under a choir scholarship he went to the National
Cathedral School for Boys at Mt. St. Alban,
Washington, D.C.
- 1927 Received B.A. degree in Economics and Sociology
at the University of Maine at Orono; took graduate
courses at Columbia University, Brooklyn Law
School and the American Institute of Banking

PROFESSIONAL CAREER:

- 1927-38 Worked in the Trust Department of the Chemical
Bank of New York
- 1938-40 Registered Representative for Sterling, Grace and
Company as Broker Security Analyst
- 1940-48 President and Treasurer of Durkee Marine
Products Corporation, Staten Island, New York
(*Durkee manufactured marine hardware and
specialties for shipyards, the U.S. Navy and
U.S. Maritime Commission.*)
- 1948-50 Registered Representative for Bendix, Luitweiler
and Company, New York. New York assisting Mr.
Bendix as Security Analyst

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- 1950-54 Over the Counter Broker and Registered Representative for Steele and Company, New York, New York
- 1954-61 President and Treasurer at Durable Marine Products Corporation, Staten Island, New York, New York
(In 1957 the city of New York acquired the property under threat of condemnation. In July 1960 the company curtailed operations, but Cyril stayed until they closed their doors in October 1961.)
- 1961-70 Secretary/Treasurer for Fraunces Tavern, New York, New York
(This was an historical restaurant and museum owned by the Sons of the American Revolution. It was here that George Washington bade farewell to his troops at the end of the war in 1793.)
- 1970 Cyril retired and moved to North Carolina

SPECIAL INTERESTS:

Cyril now turned his efforts to the Sons of the American Revolution. Since becoming a member in 1929, he held many offices including President (1946-1947) and Executive Secretary (1960-1970). He soon learned of a group operating closer to home in North Carolina. And after some investigation hired an attorney to draft articles of incorporation, a constitution and by-laws for this division of the SAR. In 1984 eleven incorporators met in Southern Pines to discuss the objectives of this statewide organization. By 1988 Cyril is listed as President Emeritus.

On April 4, 1988 his wife, whom he affectionately referred to as Pickie, died. She was buried in St. Andrew's Churchyard on Staten Island, New York. Pickie was a devoted member of the Richmond County Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Staten Island, New York. And so, after her death he established a Florence Nightingale type of nursing scholarship with the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

A DIARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE COGSWELL FAMILY ASSOCIATION

(About 2 years before Pickie's death, Cyril had begun investigating the possibility of forming a Cogswell family association. The following record of events, in the format of a series of letters, are from the CFA files.)

- 7/86 *(To Ms. Sandra Basel, President of Cogswell College)*
Inquiring for someone collecting Cogswell genealogy.
A request for the college brochure with nephew
Lawrence Perley Cogswell, III, in mind.
- 7/30/86 *(Answer to above letter)* Regent Sumter Cogswell, who
acknowledges Cyril's request, stating he will "hear from
him soon."
- 9/27/86 *(To Sumter from Cyril)* Asks how Cogswell data might
be gathered for compiling a family history that would be
a continuation of the 1884 "The Cogswells in America."
- 7/23/87 *(To College from Cyril)* It appears Cyril has made
arrangements for the college to be the repository of the
Cogswell memorabilia. Bill of lading enclosed for a
six-shelf black walnut bookcase "built by my grand-
father, Luman Hyde Cogswell after the Civil War, for
my father, Rev. Colwort Kendall Pier Cogswell, who
graduated from Middlesex College, class of 1889."
Valued at \$4,000 as an irreplaceable antique.
- 12/1/87 *Sumter visits Cyril and Pickie in Southern Pines, North
Carolina, to "ultimately formulate a Cogswell family
association in order to update the CIA published in
1884."* Cyril to contact Bertram Little, owner of the
Cogswell Grant in Essex since 1931, and former presi-
dent of the Society for the Preservation of New
England Antiquities (hereafter SPNEA), requesting
him to gather Cogswell data from New England states
for an informal family gathering at "the Grant."

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- 2/18/88 (*To Cyril from Sandra Basel*) Sumter pleased Cy sent donation to begin support for family archives. First to repair Jameson genealogy. Thanks Cy for gifts of Cogswell Memorabilia.
- 3/18/88 (*Sandra to Dr. Wm. Chafe, History Dept., Duke University*) Cyril, now legally blind, is seeking help to sort through trunks of letters, photos and documents in order to determine the appropriate disposition of each item. There's an indication some letters are over 100 years old. Sandra suggests the University might select a graduate student for this task, with remuneration at \$100 per day plus expenses. Preferably, someone experienced with oral history. They are to contact Cyril directly.
- 4/17/88 (*Cyril to Sandra*) Duke University has made arrangements for a top grade student to come and review with me the old Cogswell papers.
- 5/27/88 (*Sandra to Cyril*) Reggie Cogswell genealogy to be reprinted as soon as orders are received. A detailed budget is enclosed for the next six months: \$7,009.
- 6/16/88 (*Cyril to Sumter*) "I congratulate you on the encouraging response you received on your letters to family members. I will support this project by your proposed budget with contribution not to exceed \$1,000 this year."
- 7/3/88 (*Cyril to Sumter*) "Good talking to you on the phone and to learn of all the progress in every direction. As indicated, I enclose my check to the order of the College for use in furtherance of the Cogswell book, in the amount of \$1,000."
- 8/29/88 (*Cyril to SPNEA, Mrs. Coolidge*) Cyril sponsoring membership in SPNEA for four family members. Anxiously awaiting word from you as to what is happening with the Cogswell Family Association."
- 10/6/88 (*Sumter to Cyril*) "... orders for roughly 20 of each edition of the two Cogswell books have been received." Sumter is looking for a computer program to be used to

process family data as it is received.

- 10/9/88 (*Sumter to SPNEA, Mrs. Coolidge*) "I enclose list of names and addresses of John Cogswell's (1592-1669) descendants and Mrs. B. Little, with whom I have conferred and who has indicated for some time a firm interest in organizing a Cogswell Family Assoc. to preserve and record family genealogical data. Their interest has been intensified by my recent information on the ship Angel Gabriel and the preservation of the original Cogswell Grant in Essex, Massachusetts. It would appear to the writer it will be advantageous for the organization to be formed, initially, under Massachusetts laws with sufficient officers located in or easily accessible to the Boston area. Possibly you could suggest an independent Boston lawyer or two, amiable to SPNEA who will help us and guide us through the necessary steps in forming, and probably incorporating a tax exempt historical and educational association. At the same time we should have the name of a bank with branches in Essex and Boston. Also an agreeable post office address.
- 10/10/88 (*Memo to 'Casey' Sumter from Sandra*) "Cyril asks that you call him. He is making progress on the Family Society and wants you to serve on the founding board. Several others have apparently agreed."
- 10/27/88 (*Sumter to Cyril*) "... I will be quite pleased to serve as a VP or other for the West and to continue toward developing a genealogical center at the college ... our next big step here is to organize our computer abilities so we can readily handle family genealogical data without drowning in the process."
- 10/28/88 (*Lisa Byers, SPNEA, to Cyril*) Recommends a lawyer, Carolyn Osteen of Ropes and Gray in Boston, who may be able to assist with the formation of the Cogswell Family Association.
- 11/5/88 (*Cyril to Daniel Flint*) "... in receipt of your letter with

proposed by-laws for CFA which I imagine should be incorporated in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with headquarters in that state.”

“ ... \$500.00 retainer for usual out-of-pocket expenses and a letter from Lisa Byers at SPNEA. Trying to contact Ropes and Gray (Carolyn Osteen) who are apparently knowledgeable about SPNEA’s activities and may be helpful in promulgating the formation of the CFA.”

12/15/88 (*Cyril to “Dear Relatives and Friends”*) “With the cooperation of several other Cogswell family members I am active in promoting a Cogswell Family Association, to be incorporated in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. John Cogswell, in 1635, established the original homestead in Ipswich on a 600 acre grant. With the cooperation of Cogswell College in Cupertino, California, we are reprinting “The Cogswells in America” published in 1884. We are encouraging Cogswell descendants to update family records with a view toward eventually publishing a sequel to the 1884 genealogy. To that end I encourage you to accumulate factual information of your line not only for your own use but also to help bring your family genealogical records up to date.”

4/2/89 (*Tanya Addams of Salisbury, Massachusetts to Cyril*) “ ... you may be interested in the pieces I possess and please send any information you may have on the Cogswell Association which you are forming.”

“Included in the small collection is the original manuscript of E.O. Jameson’s book “Cogswells in America” (1884), a beautifully hand-painted genealogy/ family tree of the Cogswells, various letters of correspondence from Cogswells here and abroad written in the early and mid 1800’s and intricately braided pieces of hair belonging to the children of James and Sally Cogswell (8th generation).”

“I am currently in the process of corresponding with various parties who are interested in purchasing this

collection but am refraining from any decision in the hopes a Cogswell descendant(s) may be interested. Should you like more information you may contact me at the address below until June (I will be moving back to the West Coast at that time) or by phone at ... Thank you for your time in this matter and if there is anything I can do to assist in the Cogswell Association please do not hesitate to call."

3/10/89 (*Cyril to John Marshall Cogswell, Denver, Colorado*)
"For your information concerning the formation of the Cogswell Family Association, I enclose a copy of our application for incorporation in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. listing names and addresses of present incorporators. You will notice all the applicants are Cogswells except Daniel Flint (attorney), whose grandmother was a Cogswell. It is presently planned that John H. Cogswell, Needham, Massachusetts, an official with AT&T, will arrange for a telephone conference meeting of the incorporators. This will be held soon after the incorporation takes place. This meeting will handle all the necessary details, opening a checking account, etc., and to elect to the Board other interested directors.

Mrs. Nina Fletcher Little, 305 Warren St., Brookline, Massachusetts, wife of Bertram Little, has agreed to accept. I understand they have given the Cogswell Grant to SPNEA, subject to Life tenancy.

5/21/89 (*Memo re: Cogswell Family Association, Inc., Massachusetts, February 17, 1989*) Their first corporate organizational meeting was held via telephone conference on Sunday, May 21, 1989 at 8:00 pm. The following officers were elected unanimously:

Cyril Gray Cogswell, President
Sumter A. Cogswell, First Vice President
John H. Cogswell, Second Vice President
Wm. H. Cogswell, III, Third Vice President
John H. Cogswell, Secretary & Treasurer

Catherine Cogswell, Historian
Julie Cogswell, Assistant Historian
Daniel W. B. Flint, Legal Counsel

By-laws amended to increase the number of Board of Directors from 6 to 12. They were reaffirmed with additions. Office of Chaplain to be filled at a later date.

A meeting of the general membership will be called for in Massachusetts in the spring of 1990 or before...authorization to publish a newsletter as soon as possible to help attract new members...dues for memberships discussed and decided. Treasurer, John H. Cogswell authorized to open bank accounts...meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm with prayer by Daniel Flint.

7/6/89 *(Cyril to Associates, CFA)* "...looking forward to our long lasting efforts in collecting and compiling Cogswell family data."

(Note: this appears to be on the first official letterhead.)

10/27/89 A letter to Cogswell descendants, inviting membership in the CFA, it's purposes, which includes the development of Cogswell history.

8/3-4/90 The Cogswell Family Association held it's first annual meeting at the Hotel Hawthorne in Salem, Massachusetts with approximately 75 CFA members attending. Most visited the Cogswell Grant where Nina Fletcher Little and family hosted a picnic tour of the original homestead and grounds. Paid up members now exceed 120. Due to poor health Cyril Gray Cogswell, Founder, sent his regrets.

And we are on our way, having had reunions in September 1991 at Pemaquid, Maine; September 1993 in Colorado Springs, Colorado; and September 1995 in Old Saybrook, Connecticut.

Happy 7th  Birthday CFA!!

In the August 1994 *Cogswell Courier*, a pediment from a John Cogswell chest on chest was reported as shown in the Boston Globe, March 1994. A "John Cogswell" was given credit as cabinetmaker. At that time *WHICH* John was the question. Thanks to member Arnold Cogswell of Albany, New York, we have the answer from an article in the December 1981 issue of *Antiques World* magazine, identifying John Cogswell (CIA #110, p. 77), cabinetmaker who lived on Middle Street in Boston, 1782, the son of Francis and Elizabeth Cogswell.

Reported in NEHGS *Nexus* 1995: "Cogswell Grant will not be open to the public until 1998 or later, after a nationwide tour of its collection."

Notices concerning the sequel to *The Cogswells in America* with invitation to submit family data are being submitted to various publications as a "work in progress."

A warm welcome to these new members:

Cathy Cogswell (Massachusetts)
Thomas Cogswell (Florida)
Dr. Walter Cogswell (Minnesota)

and from the "Lost and Found Department:"

Mary Cogswell Komins (Massachusetts)
Isabella Grant (New York)
Margaret Kingman (Massachusetts)
Jerome & Abbie French (Massachusetts)
Barbara H. Simmons (Louisiana)
Mrs. Wilbur Smallwood (New Hampshire)

Secretary Claire Daigle has been busy sending out over 150 invitations for membership in the CFA! Kudos and appreciation to her for the dedication she has directed to our growth. As of the last count we have *155 members!*