

Chronology for Edward Corder of London ENG and Greenway Court (Frederick Co VA) b ca 1703-1705 probably London, d aft 1763 Frederick Co VA

Additional chronologies are available for Edward Corder Sr.'s sons: [Edward Jr.](#) and [John](#)

*"Sir, they are a race of convicts and ought to be content with
anything we may allow them short of hanging."
-- [Dr. Samuel Johnson](#), 1769, speaking of Americans*

Please note that any information found on Ancestry which names Edward Corder Senior's parents or wife should be considered highly suspect and is best not perpetuated or copied. Edward's name is clearly Corder and not Carter or Carder. His name is found on many documents in England and Virginia and is almost always legible as Corder and not Carter. No mention of any maternal or paternal relative other than an aunt (unnamed, of Shoreditch, who was unwell in 1719) has ever been found. His parents are currently unknown, although autosomal DNA evidence indicates that both American branches of Corders probably originated in or around the counties of Suffolk or Essex, England. Edward's wife's name is also unknown. Although a space was left for her name on a 1799 Frederick Co VA lease, the first name was blank. Many Ancestry trees call her Alice with no supporting documentation (probably conflating her with the wife of William Corder of nearby Fauquier County). If I had to guess, I would guess she was called "Elinor" which was a name used for female grandchildren of both of Edward's sons, but that is hardly conclusive evidence.

[1700-1719](#) | [1720-1729](#) | [1730-1739](#) | [1740-1749](#) | [1750-1759](#) | [1760-1769](#) | [1770-1779](#) | [1780+](#) | [WHIST](#)

Late 1600's

Shoreditch & Spitalfields, London, ENG

Contextual History: The area of Spitalfields in 17th century London was heavily settled by French Huguenots and was a center for weaving. At least two of Edward Corder's early arrests involved thefts of fabric and thread.

Comment from Stephen Blogg 7/20/17: "One other thought occurred to me. Shoreditch, where Edward Corder was living at the time of his transportation was London's main French Huguenot enclave, following a massive influx of Huguenots into the area in the late 1600's. It merges with Spitalfields - England's main centre of weaving back then. It is possible therefore, that our Corders were French Huguenots, whose name Cordier was anglicised. Essex (where Blogg's earliest Corder ancestor was born) is close to London and was also settled by Huguenots, so my Essex branch may in fact have moved from East London and be unconnected to their Suffolk neighbours."

1649

Blue Ridge Mountains, Virginia

Contextual History: King Charles II grants land "'bounded by and within the heads' of the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers" to seven supporters, including Thomas, Second Lord Culpeper (*maternal grandfather of Thomas, Sixth Lord Fairfax*). [View source](#). Source: *History of Frederick County, Virginia* (official county website)

1670, Aug 20

Blue Ridge Mountains, Virginia

Contextual History: German explorer [John Lederer](#) (along with a Col. Catlett and several indian guides) sets out from settler Robert Taliaferro's (pronounced "Tolliver") home and is the first white man to cross the Blue Ridge at what is today Manassas Gap (formerly called Calmese Gap after the Marquis de Calmes b. ca 1675). He has to cut short his explorations when he is bitten by a spider during a climb up a ridge.

1683

Maryland

A **WILLIAM CORDER** was transported to Maryland as an indentured servant. *Source: Corder researcher Ron Stephens, via email, December 30, 2017*

Bob Corder says this William was transported aboard the Unicorn of Bristol. No further info. Some Corder researchers speculate that this William might be the father or grandfather of the William Corder b 1703 who lived in Fauquier Co VA. Autosomal DNA matching with English Corder descendants in 2017 has indicated that they share a common ancestor with descendants of both the Fauquier County Corders and of Edward Corder, the convict. The connection would predate 1700 and likely lie in or around Suffolk/Essex Counties in England. This record of a William Corder, transported to Maryland in 1683 as an indentured servant, appears to be the earliest reliable record of an American Corder immigrant and may provide clues to tracing the common Corder lineage.

1694

Winchester, VA

Contextual History: A Shawnee Indian village of cabins is founded on Babb's Marsh near present-day Winchester. [View source](#). *Source: Early History of the Creek Indians and Their Neighbors, John R. Swanton, Smithsonian Institution Bureau of American Ethnology, Issue 73, page 318.*

The lower Shenandoah Valley had no significant permanent indian population, but was a travel route for natives from New York and Pennsylvania to Georgia and South Carolina. This indian path would become the Great Wagon Road. [Source](#)

Early 18th Century (1700's)

Virginia

Contextual History: Virginia begins to argue that [Fairfax's land grant](#) ended at the Blue Ridge, and began granting up to 1,000 acres each to settler families west of the Blue Ridge. [View source](#). *Source: History of Frederick County, Virginia (official county website)*

"The Government of Colonial Virginia wanted this wilderness settled as quickly as possible, as a buffer against Indians; but Robert 'King' Carter, Lord Fairfax's agent, was settling Fairfax's land slowly in large plantations. The government of Virginia had chartered counties in the land grant as settlement spread up the Northern Neck and west through the land grant. Virginia began to argue that Fairfax's land grant ended at the Blue Ridge, and began granting up to 1,000 acres each to settler families west of the Blue Ridge.

Virginia gave particular developers the right to recruit settlers and sell them up to 1,000 acres per family within a general 'grant' area. Each parcel would revert to Virginia unless settled with a house and orchard within two years." [View Source](#)

1700-1719

1703-1705

Probably London

EDWARD CORDER born, probably in London/Middlesex (records for him have been found in three boroughs: Shoreditch, Aldersgate and Holborn).

According to [White Servitude in Colonial America](#) the average age of those transported from London between 1720-1724 was almost 19 (18.87), in a survey of 665 convicts. Edward was arrested in 1721 and arrived in Annapolis in 1722. When combined with other clues, we can narrow down a window for his time of birth between about 1703 and 1705. Only those under the age of seven were safe from execution (an automatic sentence had the jury not reduced the value of his theft), so we know that he was born no later than 1714.

We currently have no solid leads on who Edward's parents might have been. [Records of Corders born in London during the first decade of the 1700's](#) offer a couple of possibilities (although we cannot be sure that he was born in London). There was a **John Corder and Mary Banster** living in Stepney, St. Mary Whitechapel, who had a son, John, in 1707. There was also a **John and Judith Cordeere** in St. Andrews, Holborn (a site of one of Edward's three arrests) who had a daughter, Ann, in 1708. A French Huguenot couple, Pierre Cordier and Magdalene DuMont had a daughter, Judith, in Spitalfields in 1708. Other than that, I see no other viable couples in the records producing children during the time period we estimate Edward's birth. Edward did name one of his two known sons John, but that doesn't prove anything since it was literally the most common name in the records at the time. By the time of his 1719 Shoreditch arrest, Edward, "a boy", appears to be staying with an aunt in London. Whether he was there temporarily due to her illness, or whether he was living with her permanently is unclear.

1710

Virginia

Contextual history: Col. Alexander Spotswood, age 34, succeeds to the office of Governor of Virginia. In 1716 Spotswood would lead the Knights of the Golden Horseshoe over the Blue Ridge into the Shenandoah Valley.

1714 Apr 28

Germanna Settlement

Contextual history: An Order of the Virginia Council is passed that a fort should be built and cannons and ammunition be furnished and a road be cleared to the [Germanna settlement](#). This settlement consisted of twelve families recently arrived under the headright act: Holtzclaw, Kemper, Martin, Spillman, Fishback, Hoffman, Coons, Annalis, Rector, Brumback, Weaver and Hitt. These families were natives of Nassau-Siegen (now Westphalia, Germany).

This settlement is in present-day Madison Co VA and probably too far south to be relevant to Frederick Co genealogy, but I am including it temporarily, as long as we are still considering a possible connection between Edward Corder and the Jost Hite settlers. A second wave of settlers would include families of Broil, Cobbler, Zimmerman, Snyder, Smith, Cook, Kerker, Carpenter, Pavler, Yeager, Paulitz, Turner, Auberge, Blankenbaker, Clore, Ballenger, Sheible, Meyer, Kaffer, Holt, Fleshman, and Utz. These later families did not get along well with Governor Spotswood, and removed circa 1725/26 to Robertson River area of Madison County.

1717-1718

London

Parliament passes the [Transportation Act](#)¹

Contextual History: Despite colonial opposition (*Benjamin Franklin likened it to packing up America's rattlesnakes and shipping them to England*), Parliament passed the Transportation Act, under which England began sending its imprisoned convicts to be sold as servants in the American colonies. [Learn more here](#) and on Anthony Vaver's excellent website [Early American Crime](#).

After the Treaty of Utrecht (1713) ended twelve years of conflict with France, London was hit with a crime wave as unemployed young men returned from war. Although Edward was too young to be part of the veteran-turned-criminal element, he would likely have been exposed to a growing and unsavory element in the poorer boroughs of London during his formative years. The city had no formal police force and depended on "amateur guardians, inefficient constables and watchmen who labored under a heavy workload and could be bribed as easily as many of their superiors could." [View source](#).

¹ Transcription of the Text of [The Transportation Statue of 1717](#)

Soon after the Transportation Act became effective, London merchant and slave trader Jonathan Forward (1680-1760, of Fenchurch Street, Cheapside) contracted with the Crown to transport felons from Newgate Prison and the home counties. He effectively had a monopoly on the lucrative convict trade out of London and received £3 per head for each convict transported, and engaged transatlantic merchants and captains such as Darby Lux to carry the cargoes primarily to Virginia and Maryland. Forward and Lux would be responsible for delivering Edward Corder to Maryland during the spring voyage of 1722.

Reaction to the Transportation Act was understandably negative in the colonies. Benjamin Franklin compared it to America rounding up all of its rattlesnakes and shipping them to England, while a 1751 edition of the Virginia Gazette suggested that England could not have shown more contempt for its colonial settlement had it emptied out its chamber pot on the colonial table.

"Between 1718 and 1772, when the bounty system was rescinded, Treasury paid out more than £86,00 in subsidies, funding the transportation of nearly 18,000 felons." [\[Bound for America, p. 23\]](#)

"The names of those transported are on the Treasury Money Books in the Public Record Office in London. The Treasury paid out a sum of money for each convict to a contractor to pay the expense of feeding, clothing and transporting the convict across the ocean. The passengers paid for were all from London or home counties. Normal sentence of transportation was seven years. On August 8, 1721, the cost of transportation was £4 per head. There was a sprinkling of well to do convicts among the others. George Washington was tutored by a convict servant whom his father bought for a schoolmaster and Washington later had convicts among his servants." [\[British Convicts Shipped to American Colonies, by James Davie Butler\]](#)

1719 Nov 18 (Wednesday)

Shoreditch², London, England

EDWARD CORDER's aunt was ill. In the early hours of the morning she sent the boy to fetch a female friend to come to her aid; it was an errand that would end in misadventure for her nephew. [His version of the story](#) was that as he had been crossing a field on the way to the friend's house, he had been set upon by two men and beaten and left lying in the ditch where he was found -- apparently with a length of cloth that had been stolen from a local tenter just a short while before. (See also Dec 4, 1719 for transcript)

Bad luck, that. See next record for full text of Old Bailey Proceeding.

1719 Dec 04 (Friday)

London, England

Edward Corder, Proceedings of the Old Bailey, accused of Theft³

EDWARD CORDER, of St. Leonard Shoreditch, was indicted on the Statute of 22 Car. 2. for stealing 22 Yards of Broad Cloth, from Racks and Tenters, the Goods of Richard Richardson, on the 18th of November last. It appeared that the Cloth was upon the Tenters between 11 and 12 a Clock that Night; and a Neighbour and his Son coming over the Fields about two a Clock, saw a Boy very busie in the next Field, but when they came into the same Field, he was in the Ditch, and the end of the Cloth with him; that the Man examin'd what he did there, and he answer'd that two Men had beat and abused him very much, and thrown him into that Ditch; that he said the same before the Justice. Several Persons appear'd to his Reputation, and one who said that the Prisoner's Aunt being ill, sent him to call her to her between one and two that Morning, and that the Field where he was found was in the Way. The Jury Acquitted him.

² "Shoreditch is situated about a mile north of Whitechapel. The original settlement was founded at the junction of two Roman Roads, Kingsland Road and Old Street." (<http://www.eolfhs.org.uk/parish/shoreditch.htm>) "The area was considered a very poor district of London. In 1774, the Shoreditch Vestry levied a special poor rate for the purpose of setting up a workhouse for the parish of St Leonard's which illustrates the level of poverty in the area." (<http://www.rhymes.org.uk/bells-shoreditch.htm>)

³ Edrus Corder-Middlesex Sessions : Sessions Papers - Justices' Working Documents SM | PS, 4th December 1719 - *Edrus Corder & furas urget paid val 8 Ricus Richardson fire: Justte* vo. EDWARD CORDER, of St. Leonard Shoreditch, was indicted on the Statute of 22 Car. 2. for stealing 22 Yards of Broad Cloth, from Racks and Tenters, the Goods of Richard Richardson, on the 18th of November last. It appeared that the Cloth was upon the Tenters between 11 and 12 a Clock that Night; and a Neighbour and his Son coming over the Fields about two a Clock, saw a Boy very busie in the next Field, but when they came into the same Field, he was in the Ditch, and the end of the Cloth with him; that the Man examin'd what he did there, and he answer'd that two Men had beat and abused him very much, and thrown him into that Ditch; that he said the same before the Justice. Several Persons appear'd to his Reputation, and one who said that the Prisoner's Aunt being ill, sent him to call her to her between one and two that Morning, and that the Field where he was found was in the Way. The Jury Acquitted him.

[View online source](#) | [View original document](#)

See also [Middlesex Sessions Justice's Working Documents December 1719 "Edrus Corder" and "Ricus Richardson"](#)

Source: *Old Bailey Proceedings Online* (www.oldbaileyonline.org, version 7.2, 26 June 2015), December 1719, trial of Edward Corder (t17191204-34).

This record is of interest for several reasons. First, we learn that in 1719 Edward was "a Boy" so we can hazard a guess that he was probably under 16 years of age, which would place his date of birth after 1703.

Also of consideration, twenty-two yards of broadcloth would have been an awkward and weighty burden, so he would have had to be big enough to carry it any distance, so I'm guessing he was no younger than ten years old (if, despite his acquittal, he did indeed steal the goods, as I strongly suspect). Additionally, I'd hate to think the aunt would have sent a very small boy on such a late night errand in a dangerous part of the city (although she may have, given the very different attitudes of time and place). Based on these assumptions, I'm going to make a guesstimate that Edward was born between 1703 and 1709. (In consideration of the circumstances of his drunken arrest only two years later [see next paragraph], I believe 1703 to 1705 is a more likely scenario and I am updating the records in my database to reflect that.

The second thing that we can glean from this record is that Edward was not without family or friends. We know he had at least one close relative (the aunt), and friends were willing to attest to his character. This would have been to his advantage when he was arrested the final time and ended up in Newgate, where prisoners were dependent on friends and relations to bring them food and other necessities.

The third thing of interest in this record is that he is "of St. Leonard, Shoreditch." Two years later he is from the parish of St. Andrew, Holborn (although he will be arrested twice in the interim in Aldersgate Ward). It was not a simple thing to move between parishes at the time, as the poor often depended on the charity of the parish where they were born, and had to provide proof of residence to receive relief.

I wonder if perhaps Edward might have been living with various relatives, and at the time of his first arrest he happened to be with the aunt in Shoreditch. This is purely speculation on my part, but may explain why we find him identified as being "of" two different parishes. He seems to have been a busy little petty criminal, so I feel certain that all of these records apply to the same young man (or more likely, teen-aged boy). Unlike the jury, I have little doubt that he was guilty as charged.

1720-1729

Meanwhile, back in Virginia...

1721

Spotsylvania Co VA formed from Essex, King and Queen and King William Counties

Contextual history: Spotsylvania County is formed and includes almost all of southwest Virginia, including the areas that would become Orange and Frederick Counties.

1721

Germanna Settlement, Virginia

Contextual history: The settlers of Germanna in Virginia remove to Licking Run, about 8 mi south of Warrenton. This area was then in Stafford, later Prince William and now Fauquier County. In 1721 the population of Virginia was about 100,000. By 1750 it had grown to almost 300,000.

1721 Jun 9 (Friday)

London, England

Bridewell Royal Hospital Minutes of the Court of Governors

"Cont to labor. **EDWARD CORDER** (prisoner)...Lord Mayor...being charged by The Oath of **John Cowside** Constable of Aldersgate Ward on Suspition of haveing pilfred a Small Quantity of Thread which was found in his Custody when taken up Last night not giveng a good account how he came by the same & being esteemed to be a Loose idle & disorderly person." [View online source](#) | [View original document](#)

Source: Bridewell Royal Hospital Minutes of the Court of Governors, 26th June 1713-2nd August 1722.

LL ref: BBBRMG202040495 Image 495 of 558

Bridewell was both a prison and a mental hospital. According to [this article on LondonLives.org](#), "petty offenders were committed to Bridewell by a number of City officers including constables and magistrates, and even occasionally by parents." The description of Edward as "loose idle and disorderly" was not unique - nearly everyone arrested was described in similar language (or worse).

Interestingly, Aldersgate Street was the "scene of a [16th century] fraud where Elizabeth Crofts was smuggled into a wall to pretend to be a heavenly voice. Reputedly 17,000 people came to listen to her give out anti-catholic propaganda." [\[Wikipedia.\]](#)

1721 Aug 3 (Thursday)

Bridewell Royal Hospital Minutes of the Court of Governors

"At a Court holden at the said [Hospital of Brideweell](#) on Thursday the 3d day of Augt.

1721...dd...**EDWARD CORDER** (prisoner)...sr John Fryer Lord Mayor...being charged by The Oath of **John Cowside** Constable of Aldersgate Ward on suspition of haveing pilfred a Small Quantity of Thread which was found in his Custody when taken up late last night not giveng a good account how he came by the same and being esteemed to be a Loose idle and disorderly person." [View online source](#) | [View original document](#)

Source: Bridewell Royal Hospital Minutes of the Court of Governors, 26th June 1713-2nd August 1722. LL ref: BBBRMG202040495 Image 495 of 558

I'm seeing a trend here. He seems to be disposed to steal fabric and notions. Could his aunt, mother, or father have been a struggling seamstress or tailor or did he simply mean to sell the goods on the street (or perhaps use them himself)? [A guide to medieval occupations](#) lists a "corder" as "Corders of the Ropery and Canvassers, with Pepperers, merged with Grocers" (referencing guilds). So the Corder was literally stealing the supplies of his namesake trade: a maker of ropes and canvas.

1721 Nov 2 (Thursday)

London, England

Edward went on an early evening bender and attempted to steal a money drawer out of the shop of John and Elizabeth Jackson. He was apprehended by Mrs. Jackson who called for assistance, and ostensibly he was taken away by a constable or warden to [Newgate](#) to await trial (record below).

Due to the lack of clean drinking water or affordable alternatives, gin was the drink of choice among London's urban poor. Gin was cheap and easily available and as a result, there was a high rate of alcoholism among this demographic.

1721 Dec 6 (Wednesday)

London, England

Old Bailey Proceedings Account of Criminal Trials

"**EDWARD CORDER** of St. Andrew Holbourn,⁴ was indicted for privately stealing out of the Shop of **John Jackson**, a wooden Drawer, value 2d. and 19s and three Half pence in Money, the Goods and Money of John Jackson on the 2d November last. **Elizabeth Jackson** depos'd that as she was sitting in a back

⁴ As the population of London increased at such a rapid rate (by some 500 percent between 1500 and 1600), parishes outside the city walls, like St Andrew Holborn, saw themselves changing from semi-rural communities into crowded residential and business areas. Many of the incomers were outsiders, refugees and artisan immigrants from Continental Europe or English migrants from the shires. The church of St Andrew, Holborn is the largest of Wren's parish churches and stands at the western end of Holborn Viaduct by Holborn Circus. It also served one of the biggest parishes in London (it actually spanned the boundary of London and Middlesex) out of which five new parishes were eventually formed. Source: *St. Andrew, Holborn Marriage Records Indexing Project*

Room, about 7 at Night, the Prisoner came into the Shop, and took out the Drawer, which she hearing, ran out and stopt the Prisoner in the Shop, with the Goods upon him, till some others came to her Assistance. The Prisoner laid in his Defence, that he was Drunk, and knew not what he did. The Jury found him Guilty to the Value of 4s. and 10 l.” [View online source](#) | [View original document Pg 1](#) | [View original document Pg 2](#) Source: *Old Bailey Proceedings Online* (www.oldbaileyonline.org, version 7.2, 28 June 2015), December 1721 (LLref: t17211206-6).

Well, now he's really done it..

I'm vaguely curious as to why it was Mrs. Jackson who had to apprehend and detain the thief. Where was Mr. Jackson? I imagine in this scenario that either Mrs. Jackson was a formidable woman, or Edward was a very slight man. Or perhaps just very drunk, as he would claim in his "defense." As mentioned earlier, there was no official police force at the time, but there were constables and wardens, so I expect the victim commenced a hue and cry until someone came to her aid.

Edward is designated in this record as "late of London, labourer". The "wooden Drawer" is likely the modern-day equivalent of a cash box. It was valued in the charge at 2d. 19s and 3 half pence, but the value (and therefore the sentence) was reduced, as he may have automatically been eligible for the death penalty under the higher amount.

1721 Dec 6 (Wednesday)

London, England

Old Bailey Proceedings punishment summary

"The Tryals being over, the Court proceeded to give Judgment as followeth...To be Transported, 36: Edward Thomas, Christian Salner, John Seaton, William Wingfield, Ann Nichols, John Scoon, William Langly, John Lee, Rebecca Slater, John Sergeant, Tho Parker, George Hogrel, Ann Williams, John Gill, John Pool, **EDWARD CORDER**, John Beton, Richard Farthing, Mary Harvy, John Hart, Charles Graystock, Jonathan Brindly, Ann Pain, Robert Holmes, Edward Mason, William Cropper, John Angel, Elizabeth Hargrove, [John Overy](#), John Nash, Daniel Veal, Mary Foxwel, Margaret Ellen, Richard Anderson, John Fairborn, and John Alcock. This last lately was inoculated for the Small Pox, and recover'd. [View online source](#) | [View original document](#) | [View transcription](#) Source: *Old Bailey Proceedings Online* (www.oldbaileyonline.org, version 7.2, 26 June 2015), December 1721 (s17211206-1).

Also [reported in the same record](#) were 11 sentenced to death, 7 sentenced to be burnt in the hand, and 2 to be whipped. Interestingly, several of those sentenced to death show up on a list of transportees made in January of 1721/22 so ostensibly their sentences were reduced. Corder researcher Ron Stephens remembers reading that after the convict trade became financially attractive, "judges began routinely knocking down the value of stolen property in order to make someone qualify under the Act for transportation," and thereby profit from them. A typical term of service for a convict at this time could be anywhere from 7 to 14 years.

Ron Stephens said this about the reduction of sentence for theft: "I recall reading somewhere, Anthony Vaver perhaps, that after passage of the Transportation Act, judges began routinely knocking down the value of stolen property in order to make someone qualify under the Act for transportation. England would much rather get rid of them and someone make some money out of it than hang them, it seems."

I attempted to [trace the fates of several of the felons](#) named in the sentencing and transportation documents with little success.

1721 Jan 16 (Tuesday)

Annapolis MD

Contextual History: A shipment of convicts arrives in Annapolis aboard the frigate *Gilbert*. Captain Lux offloads the cargo to merchant brokers Captain Thomas Cockey, "Merchant in Maryland" (44 men and 34

women) and John Moal (13 men and 10 women). [View online](#) Source: *Provincial Court Land Records, 1719-1723, Vol 721 p247.*

"In the colonies, the certificates of convicts' arrivals were signed by the governors or custom officials, and then the ships' masters delivered their convicts to colonial agents or factors who sold the convicts into the labour market. These factors often dealt in tobacco exporting, and importing and distributing finished goods of British manufacture. Complex networks were built." [\[View Source.\]](#)

"Once the prisoners had been disposed of in the colonial labour market, the effectuality of the transportation was noted by colonial authorities. The colonial counter-signature was regarded and required at Treasury in London as proof of the effectuality of the transportation, then the merchant was paid his due." [\[View Source\]](#)

John Moal was the usual Maryland factor for London convict merchant Jonathan Forward. Other colonial factors associated with Forward were Thomas Cockey, William Blewitt and Charles de la Faye (Delafaye), George Tilly, James Horsenail, Peter Casey of Middlesex, and Major George Braxton of Yorktown VA.

*Thomas Cockey of Anne Arundel County (ca 1678-bef 1737) was a dealer in convicts as well as an Annapolis merchant. In January of 1720 Jonathan Forward of London consigned to Thomas Cockey, merchant, a shipment of convicts to be transported to Annapolis aboard the *Susannah* and *Sarah*. Cockey was an unconventional man and left his estate to his daughter Anne's children, but he provided generously for four children by his mistress Penelope Deye. After his death, his wife Elizabeth Hammond Cockey, claimed her right to one third of his estate. [\[View source.\]](#) Many online genealogies say that Thomas Cockey was the brother of Captain John Cockey (1680-1746), whose daughter Susannah married Thomas Gist, grandson of Captain Richard Gist. The Gists of Baltimore County MD are of interest because members of that family made early explorations into what would become Frederick County, Virginia. The Cockeys are of interest due to their connection with the Anne Arundel County Dorsey family (Descendants of Maurice Baker, eldest son of Zebediah Baker and Keturah Peddicord, have a Y-DNA signature that matches descendants of Edward Corder. Keturah Peddicord Baker's mother was a Dorsey with family connections to the Cockey and Gist families.)*

1721/22 Jan 31 (Wednesday)

London, England

Prisoners from Newgate delivered to the Gilbert for shipment to Maryland

"A true list of all the convicts and Felons taken from Newgate and Shipped on board the *Gilbert* Capt. Darby Lux⁵ Commander bound for Maryland and delivered on the one and thirtyeth day of Janry 1721 which said persons were delivered by Mr. Jona. Forward of London Mercht.

*These could be additional passengers for Ship Gilbert dated 31 January 1721 but were recorded separately. Jos: Andrews } Rog. Walton Eliz.e Parker } Eliz.e Mobbs } Sarah Herbert Wm. Wingfoild } Saml. Laws } Ja. Hogg Jno Swan ats Graves } Richd. Farthing } Anne Sweetman } Wm. Langley } Wm. Cryer Mary Clopper } **EDWD. CORDER** } Ann Merrit * als Watson Rebecca Moore } John Beaton } Han. Graham als Grimes Thos. Simpson } Mary Harvey ats Coates } John Bickerton Alexa. Irvener } John Hart } Mary Goulston Jno. Warminger } Jon.a Brinley } Chas. Graystoke }* [View transcription of full passenger manifest document](#) Source: *Public Record Office at Kew, England. Transcribed by Sheila Tate,*

⁵ "In the colonies, the certificates of convicts' arrivals were signed by the governors or custom officials, and then the ships' masters delivered their convicts to colonial agents or factors who "sold" the convicts into the labour market. These factors often dealt in tobacco exporting, and importing and distributing finished goods of British manufacture. Complex networks were built. One of the first ships listed for Virginia in 1720 was - Honour Capt. Richard Langley. The convicts rose during a storm at sea, took the ship and sailed her to the Spanish coast.

By this time, family partnerships were to be attracted into the trade. About 23 April, 1720 John Lux, the mate of the ship *Susannah* and *Sarah* came to Annapolis. Departing England in October 1720, was the ship *Gilbert* Capt. Darby Lux for Maryland. As noted earlier, men named Lux were to have a long engagement in the convict service from London. Coldham notes, Darby Lux had Forward's new ship *Jonathan*, sunk by a fire in 1724.

About 18 May, 1721 Capt. Darby Lux was on the *Gilbert*, probably on his second voyage ([37]). He made eleven more voyages in the convict service, seven on *Patapsco Merchant*. Darby Lux's last voyage was in 1738, after which he settled in Maryland to act as general agent for Forward, and he still acted in Maryland as Forward's agent in 1749. "

The Blackheath Connection, by Dan Byrnes <http://www.danbyrnes.com.au/blackheath/thebc8.htm>

a member of the Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild 23 April 2000; financial records from May 1720 to Nov 1725.

[Newgate Prison](#), where Edward awaited transportation per his Dec 6 1721 sentencing, was a filthy, dismal place with a high mortality rate. Prisoners were required to pay an admittance fee, and if they had any hope of being allowed bedding or clothing, they had to be able to pay for those as well. Edward's stay in Newgate appears to have been brief - likely no more than about eighty-six days from arrest to transportation. Very likely if he had any living friends or relations, they would have had to have supplied him with food and would have been aware of his sentence and fate.

[This article](#) describes the process of moving the prisoners from the prison to the convict ships awaiting on the Thames. The transport contractor (in this case Jonathan Forward) would have to pay a fee of 14 shillings 10 pence for the release of each prisoner, and the convict's sentence of indenture (be it seven or fourteen years) began as soon as they were delivered to the convict ship. The convicts were chained together and "paraded" through the streets to Blackfriars where they boarded the awaiting ship.

"Once the convicts were loaded onto the convict ship, the captain, the jailor, and certain witnesses would sign a transportation bond ensuring that the convicts being transported were safely aboard the ship. [\[View Source\]](#)" The document that contained Edward's name was not part of the [original passenger manifest](#) of the Gilbert, however, he was [sentenced to transportation](#) on December 6, 1722, and a supplemental manifest of the Gilbert's human cargo did include Corder as well as some of the others sentenced at the same sessions of the Old Bailey on December 6th.

The convict cargo arrived in Annapolis aboard the Gilbert in July of 1722. (The manifest departure date used the Old Style calendar under which the new year began in March, so January of 1721 would in fact have been what we consider 1722.)

The voyage only took about 8-10 weeks, so one is left to assume that the prisoners were confined below decks for the entirety of the intervening five months between being loaded onto the ship in January, and their July arrival in Annapolis. According to [this article](#), conditions aboard the convict ships were often worse than those of the prisons, "akin to floating dungeons." There were 147 persons aboard the Gilbert during the 1722 voyage and five died in passage. The passengers on the Gilbert, however, fared much better than those on the Honor, who arrived in Annapolis that same year having suffered a roughly 30% mortality rate (20 of 61 passengers died "by the rigours of the voyage").

Capt Darby Lux (1695-1750) of Anne Arundel and Baltimore Counties MD operated four convict ships: Gilbert (1720-1722), Jonathan (1723-1724; caught fire after a single voyage - arson by convicts suspected), Patapsco Merchant (1729-1735) and Genoa Galley (1738). His lucrative partnership with Jonathan Forward allowed Lux to retire from the sea in 1743 and become a prominent Baltimore merchant. [Source: [Wikipedia](#)]

I imagine that had the London Cordors any connection with the Fauquier Cordors of Virginia, Edward might have known, or been apprised of their presence in that colony during visits to the prison (if any) from his relations as he awaited his deportation. He might possibly have formed the intention to seek them out after his term of service had ended, which may account for why he ended up so curiously close to that family geographically. On the other hand, it may simply have been coincidental timing on the part of both families as the frontier beyond the Blue Ridge was opening up for settlement in the early decades of the 1700's.

The Y-DNA signatures between the male descendants of Edward Corder and the male descendants of the Fauquier County Cordors do not match, nor do they match Y-DNA signatures of English male Cordors who have thus far tested, however, there does seem to be enough autosomal matching between these three groups to suggest a common origin, probably in 17th-century Suffolk and/or Essex Counties in England. The matching atDNA and the mis-matching Y-DNA would indicate that at least two of the three groups probably inherited the surname maternally.

1722 Jul

Annapolis MD

EDWARD CORDER ARRIVES IN ANNAPOLIS, ANNE ARUNDEL CO MD

Edward arrives aboard the convict ship *Gilbert*, Capt. Darby Lux. A standard reference on convict transportation notes severe mortality on this sailing: "*thirty out of eighty-seven perished on the Gilbert in 1722,*" en route to Annapolis. The ship received a landing certificate at Annapolis Maryland in July 1722.

For more information about Jonathan Forward, Darby Lux, and their convict transportation enterprise, see [Transportation: the Voyages of the Gilbert](#).

After the arrival of the convict ship in a colonial port, potential buyers might be invited on board to inspect the merchandise, much the same as had it been a cargo of slaves. Alternatively the convicts might be chained together in pairs and herded to a marketplace where they could be examined and questioned by prospective masters, who would then pay cash or goods to the captain or broker.

The load of convicts that Lux had transported the previous year (see record above 1721 Jan 16) was sold to merchant brokers Capt. Thomas Cockey and John Moal, both of Maryland. I have been unable to find a similar record for the cargo of servants that arrived aboard the Gilbert in July 1722, although Moal was Forward's go-to factor and likely would have handled the sale of some or all of the indentures. Pennsylvania prohibited the entry of convicts in 1722, so this may have limited the sale to locals from Maryland and Virginia (although VA and MD also attempted to enact prohibitions and limitations on the importation of convicts as early as 1723). In 1723 the two colonies attempted to enact a requirement that anyone purchasing the service of a convict give a £30 bond to ensure the servant's good behavior. [\[View Source.\]](#)

Most convicts ended up in the Chesapeake region because of the need for cheap laborers in the tobacco fields.

At this point we lose sight of Edward for a period of sixteen years.

1726

Lower Shenandoah Valley, Frederick Co VA

Contextual History: 1741 naturalization paperwork for Adam Miller/Mueller states that "inhabited for fifteen years past on the Shenandoa," possibly making him the first permanent white settler in the area.

1729 Feb

PROBABLE EARLIEST DATE OF EMANCIPATION FROM TERM OF INDENTURED SERVICE

This is likely the earliest date that Edward might have been released from indenture. Terms for convicts were generally seven or fourteen years. Since he does not appear in colonial records until 1738 it seems more likely that his indenture period was fourteen years. The indenture term began on 31 January 1721/22 (old style) when he was put on board the *Gilbert* in London, so he was likely released from service sometime during or shortly after **February of 1736** (new style).

1729 ca

Lower Shenandoah Valley

Contextual History: "Abraham Hollingsworth settled near the site of Abrams Delight in about 1729. Owen Thomas and Jeremiah Smith came to Back Creek in 1730 and settled on 806 acres granted in Thomas' name. Smith left and returned with a wife before 1741...In 1732, Jost Hite settled 16 families on his 5,000 acre "grant" and built Hite's Fort at Bartonsville." [View source](#)

1730-1739

1730

Lower Shenandoah Valley Orange & Frederick Co VA

Contextual History: Alexander Ross of Philadelphia was an Irish Quaker from Chester County PA, who together with his business partner Morgan Bryan (1671 - 1763, an Irish Presbyterian) petitioned Governor William Gooch of Virginia in 1730 to bring 70 families to settle the land which would become the Quaker stronghold of Hopewell in Frederick County VA. Ross and Bryan request 100,000 acres "lying on the west & North Side of the River Opeckan & extending thence to a Mountain called the North Mountain & along the River Cohungaruton [Potomac River] & on any part of the River Sherundo [Shenandoah River] not already granted to any other Person."

The families began to arrive by 1732. "By the mid-1730s, Ross and Bryan had settled approximately seventy families on the land allotted them. The majority of families originated in Chester County, but also represented were settlers from Maryland, Delaware, southern New Jersey, and points further north..." although some families, such as the Hollingsworths, claim to have predated Ross's arrival, having settled as early as 1729. [Source 1](#) [Source 2](#)

1730 Jun 17

Lower Shenandoah Valley

Contextual History: John Van Meter (a trader with the Indians who had visited the valley in their company) and his brother Isaac Van Meter obtained a grant from Williamsburg for 40,000 acres in the Shenandoah Valley with the condition that they settle one family per thousand acres on the land within two years. [View source](#)

Isaac and John VanMeter (brothers originally from New York) are granted 40,000 acres each "on the west side of the Great Mountains" by the colonial government in Williamsburg. The VanMeters almost certainly realized they were encroaching on the Fairfax Proprietary and quickly transferred a large portion of their land to the trusting Jost Hite who, after transferring choice parts back to the VanMeters, would subsequently spend his life battling Lord Fairfax for clear title -- a suit that would outlive them both and finally be settled in 1800.

1731 Aug 5 and Oct 31

Lower Shenandoah Valley

Contextual History: Aug 5, 1731, Jost Hite (1685-1761) acquired the rights to the Van Meter brothers' 1730 Shenandoah Valley grant. **Hite and partners Robert McKay,* Robert Green, Peter Stephens and William Duff** obtained a grant for an additional 100,000 acres with the condition that they settle another 100 families.

On 31 Oct 1731 Hite was in Williamsburg to sign the legal documents for the larger grant. In an attempt to fulfill the terms of the bargain, **Hite personally guided more than a dozen families from Pennsylvania to the Shenandoah Valley.** In a journal entry Hite wrote about the remoteness of the settlement and the difficulty of procuring basic supplies (which necessitated a journey to Pennsylvania or Fredericksburg). His claims would run into difficulty when Thomas, 6th Lord Fairfax (1693-1781) protested that the grant encroached on the five million acres granted to his family in 1649 by King Charles II. A lawsuit ensued that would outlast both men. It would not be settled until 1786. Five years after Fairfax died and twenty-four years after Hite had passed away, the case was finally settled in Hite's favor. [View source](#)

To learn more about the Hite family and to see photos of several of the homes built by descendants in the lower Shenandoah Valley, visit the excellent website "[George Chrisman House, circa 1787: A Virginia & National Historic Landmark](#)." There is also a very informative write-up about Springdale, the home of Jost Hite's son John, in this [1982 nomination form](#) for the National Register of Historic Places. This was the location of the mill to which petitioners requested a road be built in 1738.

Robert McKay was a Scots Quaker. "By 1731 McKay was eyeing land west of the Blue Ridge where Virginia had already granted land to Pennsylvanians Alexander Ross and Morgan Bryan. McKay joined forces with Joist Hite, a German speculator who bought grants in the Valley of Virginia totaling forty-thousand acres from John and Isaac Van Meter... Virginia's land grant policy allowed one thousand acres per family... By 1735, however, the partners had attracted only fifty-four heads of households, and therefore claimed only about half of what they set out to get. In the spring of 1732 McKay himself settled on Opequon Creek near Martinsburg, W. Va. before making off again for the South Fork of Shenandoah where in 1735 he was killing wolves. [View Source](#)

1732 Feb 22

Westmoreland Co VA

Contextual History: George Washington, the eldest child of Augustine Washington and second wife Mary Ball, is born in Westmoreland County, Virginia.

1732 Jul 12

Lower Shenandoah Valley

Contextual History: Robert Carter, Lord Fairfax's land agent, requests that John Warner perform a survey for Thomas Ashby who was "desiring to have the land along the river." On Nov 29, 1733 Thomas Ashby purchased by warrant 1,269 acres along the Shenandoah River. [View Source](#) | [View Map](#)

1734 ca and before

Spotsylvania (Orange, Frederick) VA

Contextual history: Settlers begin moving from PA, NJ and MD down the Great Wagon Road "that goes from Conestogo to the Opeckin... These included Quakers and Presbyterians from Cecil Co., MD, and Welsh and English Quakers from Pennsylvania and Chester Co., PA." [Source](#)

Hopewell Meeting was established in Frederick County in 1734. [Source](#)

1734 Aug

Orange Co VA formed from Spotsylvania Co VA

Contextual history: "Orange County, as a legal entity, was created in August 1734 when the Virginia House of Burgesses adopted 'An Act for Dividing Spotsylvania County.' Unlike other counties whose boundaries had ended at the Blue Ridge Mountains, Orange was bounded on the west 'by the utmost limits of Virginia' which, at that time, stretched to the Mississippi River and the Great Lakes. The colony of Virginia claimed the land, but very little of it had yet been occupied by any English. For this reason, some contend that Orange County was at one time the largest county that ever existed. This situation lasted only four years; in 1738 most of the western tract was split off into Augusta County." [Source: Wikipedia](#)

1733-1735 "Mid 1730's"

Orange & Frederick Co VA

Contextual History: "A second wave of migration to the northern Valley came in the mid-1730s in the form of Scotch-Irish Quaker and Presbyterian families from central New Jersey. Known as the "Jersey Settlement," these approximately two dozen families settled in western Frederick County along Back Creek at the foot of Great North Mountain... the presence of surnames with woodworking connections among Jersey settlers—Anderson, Branson, Price, and Pancoast—meant they likely contributed to the region's growing [furniture] decorative vocabulary..." [Source](#)

1735 Dec 25 (Thursday)

Orange Co VA (Lower Shenandoah Valley)

Contextual history: T. K. Cartmell's *Shenandoah Valley Pioneers and Their Descendants* states that Jost Hite had settled more than fifty families on his 140,000a tract by Christmas of 1735.

Note that there was a wagon road to Opequon from Pennsylvania as early as 1734. The Hite land originally fell within the boundaries of Spotsylvania County.

1736

Orange Co VA (Lower Shenandoah Valley)

Contextual history: "By 1736 Hite and Mackay had only 54 families on this grant. The terms of this order required McKay and Hite to settle 100 families on their land in two years, which it appeared they were unable to do, as the Governor and Council in a subsequent order extended the period. In 1737 when their settlers were enumerated by Col. Morgan, representing the Governor, and Peter Wolfe, representing McKay and Hite, it was found that sufficient settlers were actually in residence to comply with the terms of the original order." Source: [Land Records of Robert Mackay Sr. in PA & VA](#)

1736 (and 1737)

Frederick Co VA

Contextual History: "Lord Fairfax traveled west of the Blue Ridge in 1736 and again in 1737, and, on these occasions was near what was later known as 'his Lordship's quarter' and on his first visit must have gone through what afterward became Greenway Court Manor. It would be interesting to know whether the idea of a 'quarter' or a manor for his own residence was in his mind at the time and it was consummated before he returned to England, or was carried out during his absence. However there is strong evidence that a 'quarter' was established a short distance below the mouth of Manassas Run by 1740." Source: The Fairfax Proprietary, by Josiah Look Dickinson, page36

1736 Feb 1

LATEST LIKELY DATE OF EMANCIPATION FROM TERM OF INDENTURED SERVITUDE

Edward Corder's indenture term began on 31 January 1721/22 when he was put on board the *Gilbert* in London. If indentured for the lengthier (but not uncommon) term of fourteen years, his date of emancipation should have fallen on or around the beginning of February, 1736 (new style).

Edward Corder Sr.'s term of indentured (could have been anywhere from seven to fourteen years) began when he was put aboard a convict ship on the Thames on 31 January 1722. He may have been free as early as February of 1729, but surely no later than 1736. He was unlikely to have been at liberty to marry until freed, so any children were unlikely to have been born before 1729, and more probably after 1736.

1738 Feb 22 (Wednesday)

Orange Co VA (Opeckon, lower Shenandoah Valley area)

Edward Corder among the petitioners for a road to Jost Hite's Mill

"To the worshipful his Majesty's Justices of Orange county. The petition of sundry inhabitants of Opeckon sheweth:

That yr. Petitioners at present lay under great ill conveniency for want of a Road from **Just Hyte's Mill**⁶ to

⁶ From "[Moravian Diaries Through Virginia](#)" (Virginia Historical Magazine Page 141 & 142) "We continued and again soon came to water. We still had four miles to **Jost Haid's mill**. We pitched our tent beyond the mill. [Bro. Jacob Loesch](#) again joined us after having been on several plantations to buy bread and oats, but he had gotten little. We put our horses in a meadow, as we had no more feed for them."

Ashby's Bent Ford on Shenando, humbly pray that yr. worships will order that a wagon road be cleared. And yr. Petitioners, etc. David Vance, Ulrich Bucher, Abrm. Hollingsworth, Robert Allane, William Hog, Robert Smith, Peter Wolff, Benj. Borden, Richard Wood, Johannes Stockli, Joseph Calwer, Charles McDowell, John Harrow, Nathanael Thomas, Jerg Dieter, Jno. Nation, William Reed, Luke Vickery, **Thomas Branson, Jr.**, Thomas Postgate, Robert Warth, James Vance, Ellis Thomas, Philip Kenney, Hugh De Vine, Isaac Parkins, **John Branson**, William Vance, **EDWARD CORDER**, John Gaskin, George Harreson, Isaac Davenport, John Hite, John McDowell, Greshem Woodel, Joseph Davenport, Charls. Barns, Robert Mackoy, George Bowman, Abraham Weisman, Jacob Weiss, Jacob Christman, Joseph Robins, Gottfried Steffneha Gambeler." [View Source](#)

It is not clear to me whether the Feb 22 1738 petition was old or new style dating. Since a June 1739 Orange County record refers to "the above petition," I tend to think the date was Feb 22 1738/39.

Note: John Branson (father of Elizabeth Branson Corder) and his brother, Thomas Branson Jr., are also listed among the petitioners on the Opeckon. They had owned land around Cedar Creek and White Post since about 1734. The Branson family was from a Quaker enclave in Burlington County, New Jersey. Other allied Burlington County settlers who would later show up on the Opeckon Creek and form the Hopewell Meeting were the Days, Shinn's, Antrims, Wrights and Borden's. See notes on [The Branson Family](#).

For biographical information on David Vance, Isaac Perkins and others, see the Corder WHIST file.

1738 Dec 21

Orange Co VA - Frederick Co VA

Contextual History: "Frederick County was created from western Orange County by the House of Burgesses on December 21, 1738 and was named after the Prince of Wales. James Wood, County Surveyor for Orange County, platted a town at the County seat, which he named Winchester, after his birthplace. It consisted of 26 half-acre lots and three streets within 1300 acres, which he claimed as wilderness land owned by Virginia. Those streets are now Loudoun, Boscawen and Cameron." [View Source](#)

1739 Jun

Orange Co VA (Opeckon, lower Shenandoah Valley area)

Related record: "June Court, 1739: At a court held for Orange county on February 22, 1738, the above petition was laid before the court, and it was ordered that Lewis Stephen and Jacob Niswanger lay out the road." [View Source](#)

1740 Oct 7

Orange VA

*Capt. Edward Rogers assigns rights in land to **EDWRD CORDERY** and Thomas Fannin.* "Know all men by these presents that I Edwd Rogers of Orange County in Virginia do hereby assign all my right of first [illegible] Property I have in the entry I first made in Jn. Woods entry book to **EDWD CORDER** and **Thos. Fanon** of the same place as is [illegible] this 7th day of October 1740. [Signed Edwd Rogers with a second signature of John Kelly] *Source: [James Wood Collection](#) Folder 18 (Box 1) Depositions, Affidavits, and Certificates, 1740-1828, Document 112*

NOTE: *Captain Edward Rogers (b 1697 Monmouth Co NJ) married Hannah Borden (d/o Benjamin Borden and Zeruah Winter). He was mentioned in a 1743 road order (along with John Hardin) and a 1744 road order along with Edward Corder, William Ramey, Jacob Peck, James Seaburn, Thomas Postgate, John Painter, James Buck, Thomas Hooper, the Gregorys, Samuel Earle, and John Oldrage (Aldridge?).*

NOTE: *A Thomas Fannin (and a John Fannin) were on two undated lists of Flower Swift's Montgomery County VA militia company (ca 1777-1790).*

1743

Frederick County VA created from Orange Co VA

Contextual history: "Frederick County was established in 1743 from parts of Orange County. (At that time, Old Frederick County encompassed all or part of four counties in present-day Virginia — Shenandoah, Clarke, Warren, and Frederick — and five in present-day West Virginia — Hardy, Hampshire, Berkeley, Jefferson and Morgan.) The Virginia Assembly named the new county for Frederick Louis, Prince of Wales (1707–1751), the eldest son of King George II of Great Britain. [Source: Wikipedia](#)

Deed Book #1 for Frederick County starts in 1743. Records for the area prior to 1743 must be searched in Orange County. The founding date of 1743 (from Wikipedia) is in conflict with other the [official county website](#) which says the county was formed in 1738.

1740-1749

1743

Frederick County VA

Contextual history: Frederick County Court admits that the county falls within the boundaries of Lord Fairfax's land grant. [View source](#)

1743 Oct 9 bef

Orange/Frederick Co VA

Witnesses will of Benjamin Borden Sr.

Thomas Sharp, Lancelot Westcott, **EDWARD CORDER** {his mark}, Thomas Hankins and Thomas [Rogers] "sealed and delivered" [witnessed] the will of Benjamin Borden Sr. The will was proved 9 Oct 1743 by Thomas Hankins, Thomas Sharp and Lancelott Westcott "three of the witnesses thereto" and Zeruiah and Benjamin Borden Jr. (executors).

1744 Jul 13

Frederick Co VA

Frederick County Road Order

Full text: On the motion of Samuel Earle it is Ordered that John Rout be Overseer of the Road from Gregory's Ford to the Top of the Ridge & that all the male labouring Tithables belonging to the Honble. Thomas Lord Fairfax's Quarter James Seabern Widow Borden [William Remy](#) Edward Rogers Jacob Peck **EDWD CORDER** [Thos Postgate](#) John Painter James Burn Thomas Hooper John Gregory Richd . Gregory Benjn Gregory Saml Earle & John Oldrages (Aldredge?) work on the same & Observe the said Overseers Order & Directions in Clearing the same And its further Ordered that the said Rout keep the said Road in Good Repair According to Law -- *Source: [FREDERICK COUNTY ROAD ORDERS 1743-1772 pg 6.](#)*

1744 Nov 9

Frederick Co VA

Petitions for a road from John Hite's Mill

EDWARD CORDER and others petition to have part of road from John Hites Mill, Kersey's ford cleared.

Full text: On the petition of **Thomas Hankins** Peter Woolf **EDWARD CORDER** Darby Murphey Spencer Jones Isaac Gross Richard Pierceful John Read Marmaduke Vickory & John Nation for to have part of the Road which cometh from John Hites Mill Kersey's ford Cleared its Ordered that that part of the said Road

from John Nation's to the said ford be Cleared by the Petitioners & that John Nation be Overseer of the same & its further Ordered that he Keep the said Road in good repair according to Law -- *Source:*

FREDERICK COUNTY ROAD ORDERS 1743-1772 pg 9

1745 Apr 2

Frederick Co VA

Petitions for a road from Court House

EDWARD CORDIT petitions for a road from Court House to Gregory's Ford. **Full text:** "On the Petition of Thomas Branson Thomas Thorntown Thomas Sharp Junr John Downton Edward Churchman John Branson Robert Mc Kay Junr Thomas Sharp Senr Thomas Hankins Joseph Hankins Marmaduke Vickory Spencer Jones William Smith Bathany Haines William Ramor John Duckworth John Painter Thomas Postgate William Fearnley Hugh Caneday John Arledge James Sadin Thomas Alexander **EDWARD CORDIT** John Gregory Abraham Crandon Robert Catlett William Remy James Kempes Benja Gregory Christopher Nation John Nation for a Road from the Courthouse to Gregory's ford Its Ordered that the Petitioners Clear & Work on the same, And Samuel Earle is hereby Appointed Surveyor there of And its further Ordered that he keep the said Road in good repair According to Law -- *Source: Order Book 1 page 264; Record is also available online: FREDERICK COUNTY ROAD ORDERS 1743-1772 pg 11.*

1748

Frederick Co VA

An Unknown Epidemic Claims Lives in the Lower Shenandoah Valley

Contextual History: An epidemic (suspected to be smallpox or typhoid) kills a number of Frederick County citizens. It claimed the lives of original Valley settler and Quaker patriarch Alexander Ross along with several of his sons. Numerous citizens of the lower Shenandoah Valley died in the summer of 1748 and there was mention of widespread smallpox during the Virginia 1748 legislative session.

1748

Frederick Co VA

In an (ultimately unsuccessful) attempt to settle the property dispute with Hite, Lord Fairfax hired a surveying team to establish the boundaries of his grant. One of the surveyors was 17 yo George Washington, and among Washington's team of surveyors were chain carriers John Lonem and **EDWARD CORDER**.

It has been suggested that Edward Corder might have been among Jost Hite's headright settlers, however, his presence on the surveying crew hired to defend Fairfax's boundaries makes me doubtful that he was closely associated with the Hite settlement. It seems unlikely he would have participated in an expedition that could possibly have invalidated his own land claim (had he been a Hite settler).

While Edward is called one of the "seven original adventurers" of the area that would become the Manor of Greenway Court, he could not have been a participant in the partnership Hite formed with McKay and the other early "adventurers" (Green and Duff) in 1731 since he was unlikely to have finished his term of indenture by that time. Additionally, even if he was a free man by 1731, it seems unlikely that a recently-released indentured servant would have had the financial means to participate in such a large-scale land venture.

1748

Frederick Co VA

Appraisal of the Estate of Thomas Hankins

"We the subscribers, being the persons appointed...to value and appraise the Estate of **Thomas Hankins** dec'd, being duly sworn before David Vance, Gent. Have valued and appraised the same as follows:

- To 5 Cows and three young Calves 9:
- To 7 Steers @ 1:5 sh p.piece 8:15
- To 3 Heifers @ 15 sh. p. piece 2: 5
- To 12 young Hoggs and 4 Piggs 3:14
- To 11 Sheep and 4 young lambs 3:3
- To a natural pacing young mare 4:
- To a mare and Colt, a three year old Calf
- and two year old Colt 10:
- To a pair of Draught Horses 10:
- To a Ron Share and Colter and some Old Clevises 10:
- To an Old Ax, Mattock & some more Old Iron &
- 2 Sickles 1:
- To an Old Bible and 3 Old Testaments and 3 Old Bells :17
- To 2 homespun Bedticks, 2 old Coverlids, one Rug 3:
- & some more Old furniture
- To 3 Old powdering Tubs & an Old washing tub
- & an Old Cannister :11
- To 2 Potts and a kettle and some old Pewter 1:9
- To a Smoothing Iron and an old Hackle 5:6
- To 2 Pails a Chum A runlet and a Half Bushel :5
- To an Old Saddle and Bridle :4
- To an Old Sled Grindstone and an Old Flax brake :5
- 59:8:6

At the court continued and held for Frederick County on Wednesday, 8th June 1748 by **John Hamton**, **Edwd Rogers** and **Edwd Corder**."

Estate was completed and filed by **John Hamton**, **Ewdw Rogers** and **Edwd Corder** at Frederick County on June 8th, 1748."

***NOTE:** Thomas Hankins was a Quaker born ca 1700 in Monmouth Co NJ, where he married Mary Clevenger on 12 Sep 1728. They came to the Shenandoah Valley where Hankins purchased land on Crooked Run from Thomas Branson Jr. in 1739. He died in 1748 (possibly during an epidemic which killed a number of Frederick County citizens that year), apparently intestate, leaving his widow Mary to settle his estate along with Peter Wolf and John Nation.*

1748 Mar 13
Frederick Co VA

Contextual History - George Washington Journals his visit to Lord Fairfax: "Sunday March 13th Road to His Lordship's quarter about four miles higher up ye River we went through most beautiful Groves of sugar trees and spent ye best part of ye day admiring ye trees and richness of ye land."
Source: The Diaries of George Washington (Fitzpatrick) Vol. 1 Pages 3 & 4.

1749 Jul 22 (Saturday)
Culpeper Co VA

Survey for Richard Barnes, Gent. of Richmond County by Geo. Washington, John Lonem & Edward Corder, chain bearers

SURVEY'D For Richard Barnes Gent. of Richmond County a certain Tract of Waste and ungranted Land Situate Lying and being in the county of Culpeper and Bounded as followeth Beginning at three white Oaks in Normans Line and Corner Trees to (Aaron Pinson's now) Mr. Barnes's Land & extending thence N 42 30 W Ninety five Poles to a branch of Flat Run Two Hund'd and Eighteen Poles to a Large white Oak Corner to Norman thence along another of his Lines N 39 E Thirty four Poles to three white Oaks & a Hickory Cor: to the said Norman and John Roberts thence along Robert's Line S 78 W One hund'd and Eighty three Poles to the Road that Leads over Norman's Foard Two hund'd and Sixteen Poles to two white Oaks in a Glade Cor to the said Roberts and Mr. Francis Slaughter thence with the said Slaughters Line S 5 W One hund'd and Sixty four Poles to three white Oaks in the said Slaughter Line thence leaving his Line S66 E Two hund'd and thirty Six Poles to three white Oaks amongst a Parcel of Rock Stones Barnes's Corner thence with his Line N 53 E One hund'd and Eighty Six Poles to the Beginning Containing Four Hundred Acres this Twenty Second Day of July 1749.

John LONEM } *Cha Men*

EDWARD CORDER }

Edward HOGAN *Marker*

By WASHINGTON SCC⁷

Source: Journal of My Journey Over the Mountains, by George Washington, Page 78. The notes of the survey of land on the 22d July 1749 for Richard Barnes, and that of November 12, 1749 for Edward Hogan, were recorded on sheets of foolscap paper, and are bound up with other early miscellaneous papers of George Washington preserved in the Department of State.

This is the first of twelve known surveys made by Washington that names Edward Corder as one of the crew's chain men.

Comments from Corder family researcher Ron B. Stephens: "Surveyors up until recent times wanted men in the survey party that were knowledgeable of the country and its people. In using a surveyors chain, two chainmen were needed, a head or lead chainman in front and a rear chainman. Of the two, the lead chainman had to be the more responsible in staying on course and keeping count of how many chains. The rear chainman collected the pins used as they moved along but his primary purpose was to hold the chain zero end over a pin set by the lead chainman. As such, he did not have to be literate.

However, there could be, for instance, a person going in front of the chain men whose duty was to cut a path through the brush and remove moveable obstructions. All that person had to do was stay on the compass bearing and would be directed by the surveyor who was keeping all the written field notes.

Besides the actual survey work, there could have been people who tended one or more pack horses and saddle horses and did camp chores so, depended on how organized, there was lots of work."

1749 Aug 4 (Friday)

Culpeper (now Rappahannock) Co VA

Survey of Little Washington by Geo. Washington, John Lonem & Edward Corder chain bearers

Historical Marker in the Town of Little Washington reads "*The First Washington of All, Surveyed and Platted by George Washington with the assistance of John Lonem and **EDWARD CORDER**, as Chainmen, August 4, 1749.*" The marker is based on a 1930's pamphlet "History of the Town of Washington, Virginia" by Clyde Baggarly, who wrote that the claim to a connection with George

⁷ Licensed surveyor of Culpeper County.

Washington's surveying activities was based on "an entry in Washington's handwriting preserved with his miscellaneous papers." The note by Washington supposedly read ". . . *accompanied by John Lonem and **EDWARD CORDER**. I journeyed one half day in a northwestern direction from Fairfax [now the town of Culpeper] and in the Blue Ridge mountains in Culpeper County I laid off a town.*" When editors of the 1932 [George Washington Atlas](#) asked Baggarly to present the original document, Baggarly responded that it had been burned in a fire in his law office (the fire was verified by residents). While drawings of the purported town plan contained lot numbers that did appear to be in Washington's hand, the street naming scheme was suspicious and the editors of the Atlas declined to include any mention of the survey.

Source: In Washington's Shadow, Little Town Has Big Reputation, by Eugene Scheel, Washington Post, Feb 17 2002. [Read article online.](#)

1749 Aug 5

Frederick Co VA

Contextual History - Lord Fairfax Establishes Land Office: "Lord Fairfax returned to Virginia, for his permanent residence, in 1747. Although contemporary writings mention his presence in Williamsburg and at Belvoir where his cousin William Fairfax conducted the Northern Neck land office, we find no account of his visits to his quarter. This would not necessarily mean that he did not show personal interest in it. And it was at this site that he set up his office "for the said Counties of Frederick and that part of Augusta as is within the proprietary" as shown in the advertisement on page IV of the transcript, August 5th 1749. Succeeding pages of the transcript indicate his more or less regular presence at this office." *Source: The Fairfax Proprietary, by Josiah look Dickinson, page 37.*

1749 Nov 1 (Wednesday)

(Old) Augusta Co VA

Survey for Edward Hogan, by Geo Washington, John Lonem, Edward Corder & Edward Hogan

SURVEY'D For Edward Hogan a certain Tract of Waste and Ungranted Land Situate Lying and being in the County of Augusta and on the Lost River or Cacapehon about Six Miles within the Boundary Line of the Northern Neck and bounded as followeth Beginning at a white Oak and white Pine Saplings on the West Side of the River and Runs thence S 68 E't Two hundred and Eighty Poles to Three Chesnut Oaks on a Steep Mountain Side thence N 9 E't Two hundred and three Poles to three Pines on the Mountain Side thence N 68 W't Two hund'd and Eighty Poles to two white Oaks in a Drain that makes from the Mountains thence S 2 W't One hundred and thirty two Poles to two white Oaks thence S 22 W't Sixty Eight po. To the Beginning Containing Three hundred and Thirty five Acres this 1st Day of November 1749.

John LONEM } *Cha Men*

EDWARD CORDER }

Edward HOGAN *Marker*

By WASHINGTON SCC

[View original document](#) *Source: Journal of My Journey Over the Mountains, by George Washington, Page 78. The notes of the survey of land on the 22d July 1749 for Richard Barnes, and that of November 12, 1749 for Edward Hogan, were recorded on sheets of foolscap paper, and are bound up with other early miscellaneous papers of George Washington preserved in the Department of State. [Read Washington's A Book of Survey's Began July 22nd 1749](#) Document image also available from LVA: "George Washington, Land Survey, 1749," Document Bank of Virginia, accessed September 4, 2021, <https://edu.lva.virginia.gov/dbva/items/show/125>*

1749 Nov 2 (Thursday)

(Old) Augusta Co VA

Survey for James Hamilton, John Lonem & Edward Corder, chain bearers

"Pursuant to a Warrant from the Proprietor's Office to me directed I have Surv'd for James Hamilton [350] acres of Waste and Ungranted Land situate in Augusta County and on the Lost River or Cacpehon and Bounded as followeth..." Washington notes that John Lonem and **EDWARD CORDER** had served as his Chain-bearers (holding the long chains to measure distance) while Edward Hogan was employed as marker on the survey. Source: [Christie's Printed Books and Manuscripts 2002 Live Auction 1060 WASHINGTON, George. Autograph document signed \("GWashington SCC" \[Surveyor Culpeper County\]\), a survey of land prepared for James Hamilton. n.p. \[Virginia\]. 2 November 1749.](#)

1750-1759

1750/51 Feb 15

Frederick Co VA

Wounded in a breach of peace w/ Robert Mosely

At a Court continued and held for Frederick County on Fryday the 15 day of February, 1750/51. Present: The Rt. Honble Thomas Ld. Fairfax Baron of Cameron, Morgan Morgan, Thomas Rutherford, John Hardin, Van Swearengen Thomas Berwick, Gent. Just.

Robert Mosely being bound by Recognisance to appear did appear and being Charged with a breach of his Majesties peace by Wounding **EDWARD CORDER** on hearing the allegations and Proofs as well for as against the sd. Robert Moseley It is Ordered that the sheriff take the sd. Robert into Custody and him safely keep until he enter into Recognisance himself in Twenty pounds with two good securitys in Ten pounds each that he shall be of good Behavior towards all his Majestys liege People for a year and a day next ensuing. Present, Marquis Calmes and Lewis Stephens, Gent.

Robert Moseley in open Court acknowledged himself Indebted to Our Sovereign Lord the King His Heirs and Successors In the sum of Twenty pounds sterling. And George Johnston and Ezekiel Loftin in the sum of Ten pounds sterling each to be Levied off each of their Goods Chattles Lands and Tennemts In Case the sd. Robert Moseley shall not be of good Behavior towards all his Majesty's liege People for a Year and a Day next Insuing. Majestrates present at this time *Ld Fairfax, Morgan Morgan, John Hardin, Lewis Stephens, Thomas Swearengen and Van Swearengen, Gent.* *Frederick Co. Order Book #3, Page 385 (Errors and punctuation as written)*

1750/51 Feb 16

Frederick Co VA

Breach of peace case w/ Robert Mosely

At a Court continued and held for Frederick County on Saturday the 16 day of February, 1750/51. Present: The Rt. Honble Thomas Ld. Fairfax Baron of Cameron, Marquis Clames, John Hardin, Lewis Stephens, Gent. Just.

Corder discharged

EDWARD CORDER being brought to the Bar and Charged with a Breach of His Majesty's Peace Ordered that he be discharged out of Custody on his Paying Costs. *Frederick Co. Order Book #3, Page 389*
(Errors and punctuation as written)

1751 Oct 8

Frederick Co VA

Contextual History - Lord Fairfax Relocates Land Office to present location and builds Greenway Court:⁸ "There is nothing to indicate when Lord Fairfax moved his 'office for the county' across the river. A letter to George William Fairfax dated October 8th 1751 is headed 'Frederick' and is the only one of several of about the same time to carry any heading. This date seems too early to have been used for the site at Nation's Spring where he lived prior to building the house named Greenway Court. So, the first authentic date we have as to his residence there is July 1st, 1760, in a court order that reads: 'John Prince appointed overseer of the road from Lord Fairfax's quarter, where Nation formerly lived, to the Ford at Comb's Ferry in room of Thomas Bryan Martin, Gent.'" Source: *The Fairfax Proprietary*, by Josiah Look Dickinson, page 39.

Reference footnote, letter from GW Fairfax -- present-day land office probably built circa 1761.

1752 Feb 12 Wednesday

Frederick Co VA

Lease to the Turkey Tract is Executed

Although written in 1751 (month and day not given), the lease to the Turkey Tract property was recorded in Frederick County VA on Wednesday, 12 February, 1752. Edward and his unnamed wife were granted 200 acres for life on Fairfax's Greenway Court Manor under the conditions that they build and maintain a decent dwelling house, plant and maintain one hundred apple trees (with fencing), and provide to his Lordship's cook every Christmas Day a fat turkey, ready for roasting. The Corders were prohibited from hunting game on the property without express permission from Fairfax or his assigns, or sub-letting any part of it. The [full text of the document](#) can be viewed here, and a [scan of the original](#) can be viewed here. Edward's [wife was still living on the property](#) as late as March 1, 1799.

Note: Directly following the mention of the annual rent of a Christmas turkey, we find this quotation from Horace: "Quanti emptæ? parvi. Quanti ergo? octo assibus. Eheul!" It translates roughly, for the purposes of this lease, to "How much does it cost/will they pay? A little. How much, then? Eight, in advance. Alas!" I interpret this to mean that the tenant found the rent too dear, and Fairfax found it not dear enough.

Note: The original owner, or at least the previous occupant of lot 17 was Thomas Thornton.

Notes from a passage regarding historic buildings in and around Rockland VA: "The Turkey Tract (093-0087, 093-5058-0085), which lies on Rockland Road, contains a ruinous ca. 1800 (or possibly earlier) log house. It is altogether possible that the unusual name came from the text of a lease from Lord Fairfax to Edward Corder that describes the property as the 200-acre Edward Corder Lease, with the parcel being rented for "one fat turkey per year."⁸ At some subsequent date, it was likely sold to Oliver Funston, an Irish Quaker who had moved to the area from Philadelphia shortly after the American Revolution."⁹ It was David Funston, his son, who built Erin (093-0003, 093-5058-0001, NR 1979) in 1848."

1752 May 21

Frederick Co VA

⁸ **Letter from George William Fairfax to George Washington from England, October 30th 1761:** "Dear Sir, Your favor of the 2nd of December, 6th of March, 3rd of April, 27th of July, and 1st of August came very safe to hand...I am informed by many hands, though not from the performers, that an office is really building at Greenway Court, and that his lordship and family remove this very month. It gives me the most concern to find what influence [Thomas Bryan] Martin has, as I fear he will not stop at that, but will daily lessen the esteem the people have for the good old Gentleman. I offer my compliments to Mrs. Washington and am very sincerely, dear Sir, your most obedient humble servant, George William Fairfax."

Mentioned in a Greenway Court Deed

(Book H Pg 179) Thomas Bryan Martin nephew of Thomas Lord Fairfax of Frederick Co. 8840 A. in Frederick Co. Surv. Mr. John Baylis. On Opeckon adj. his plantation. He purchased 188 A. of John Nations. Desired inclusive Deed. Adj. Peter Wolf, Mess'rs Carter, opposite Wolfs new settlement, land of Burden [Borden], near **Hampton's Plantation** now Major Samuel Earle's, "**where EDWARD CORDER lived**", William Ramey, Thomas Thornton, Jost Hite, Shannondoah R., Robert Hapenny, Robert McKay's 828 acre tract, a part of Hite's grant, Chappel Road, Brandson's [Branson] Old Mill, James Kemp, Wright's Run. The 8840 A. tract to be called **Manor of Greenway Court**. 21 May 1752.

Prior to moving to the Turkey Tract, Edward lived near the Stone Bridge (near the present-day Clarke County line).

See Josiah Look Dickinson's Fairfax Proprietary for a [map of the Manor of Greenway Court](#) along with a [chapter on the Lessees and Owners](#), and an [Index of Lessees](#).

Hampton's Plantation likely belonged to Andrew Hampton (b ca 1710 Monmouth Co NJ) a patentee with Benjamin Border and David Griffith for 1,122 acres west of the Sherrando River (then Orange Co VA). Tract was adjacent to Edward Maloy on the south side of Bullskin Run (north of Berryville). The Borden and Hampton families were from Monmouth Co NJ. Hampton moved to North Carolina. Died in 1805 in Rutherford Co NC.

1755 Dec 11

Frederick Co VA

Edward "Cordry" on a poll for Col. Geo Washington to the House of Burgesses

EDWARD "CORDRY" listed on "Poll taken at the Election of Burgesses, Frederick County, Dec 11, 1755 "List of Voters" for, COL GEO: WASHINGTON *Source: Colonial Soldiers of the South, 1732-1774 pg 331-332*

Not 100% sure this is our Edward Corder, but the name Edward Cordry was also on the list of voters for Capt. Thomas Swearingen. There was a "John Cordery" and a "Thomas Cordery" listed in the militia rolls, but no other Cordrys.

1757

Frederick Co VA

Contextual History: "The first [Hopewell Quaker] meeting house burned sometime in 1757, prompting the construction of the present two-story limestone building by master mason Thomas McClun in July 1759. The earliest Hopewell records survived the fire and were entrusted to William Jolliffe Jr. (b.ca.1720–1770), Hopewell's third meeting clerk and second husband to John Ross's widow Lydia Hollingsworth. Jolliffe stored the records at his home, a clapboard dwelling called the Red House for its bright red paint. The Red House stood on land formerly owned by Alexander Ross very close to Hopewell. In a cruel twist of fate, the Red House also burned not long after reconstruction at Hopewell began, destroying all 1734–1759 records." [Source](#)

1758 Jul 24

Frederick Co VA

Edward Corder Listed on poll for the Election of George Washington

From the Inspector General's Office, Washington DC, September 1, 1898 (to the Editor of Virginia Historical Magazine).

Sir, Among the Washington papers in the State Department are a number of polls of electors in Fairfax and Frederick Counties, in elections in which Washington was a candidate for the House of Burgesses, extending from 1758 to 1765. I enclose one of the earliest of these, that for Frederick county, in 1758, which you may publish if you see fit. I think it is interesting. You will observe that each elector voted for

two candidates, if he wished. The list I have copied is in Washington's own writing, and was arranged in alphabetical order by him from another list among the papers which was copied from the poll books in the order in which the votes were cast. There is also among the papers a list of the polls for an election of Burgesses in Fairfax County, in 1748, in which "Major Washington" and others were candidates. On this is endorsed, in the writing of Jared Sparks, a note that this must have been Lawrence Washington (who was a major at that time), as George Washington was then only sixteen years old. Very truly, A. C. Quisenberry.

1759 Apr 26

Frederick Co VA

Smallpox in the Winchester Area

Contextual History: George Washington records in his diary "Received Letters from Winchester informing me that the Small Pox had got among my Quarter's in Frederick; determined therefore to leave Town as soon as possible and proceed up to them." [Source: The diaries of George Washington Vol 1 pg 273]

An Alphabetical Poll for Frederick County, Taken the 24th Day of July 1758

For Colo. Washington: **CORDER, EDW:D** (Edward Corder) and for Mr. [Hugh] West **CORDER, EDWARD** (Edward Carder). To view the entire list of names on the polls, see [Election of Col. Geo Washington 1758](#), *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* Vol. 6, No. 2 (Oct., 1898), pp. 162-173 and also [All Colonial Soldiers of the South, 1732-1774](#)

1760-1769

1760 Oct 31

Frederick Co VA

Court martial - Edward Corder misses general muster and is discharged

Present: John Hite, Marquis Callimese, Capt. Lewis Moore - the following were discharged. **EDWARD CARDER** in Capt. Marques Calimese's Company. Capt Marques Calimese returned his muster roll consisting of the following assessments...fined 10sh for missing one general muster: Thomas Howell and James Huston. John Painter. Thomas Branson. *CD on RevWar and War of 1812*

Don't know if this is Edward Corder Jr. or Sr. Virginia law required service from men between the ages of 16 and 60,⁹ and both Edwards probably fell within this range in 1760. I suspect it probably refers to the younger Edward (see footnote). Despite the misspelling of "Carder" I believe this likely referred to Edward Corder, due to the presence of John Painter and Thomas Branson on same.

"Marquis Calmes, Gent," was born in 1705, was a Huguenot nobleman who fled persecution in France. He was one of Frederick County's original thirteen justices and was elected as part of the first vestry of Frederick Parish (1744, now Cunningham Chapel), which indicates that he was considered one "of the most able and discreet persons in the parish," however, the vestry was dismissed in 1752 "on the grounds they had collected upward to 1500 pounds sterling on the pretense of building and adorning churches in their parish, but was unable to point to a single log cabin that had been erected." In 1779 the vestrymen were cleared when fellow vestryman Andrew Campbell was discovered to have been the culprit responsible. Marquis Calmes died in 1751, so the Capt. Marques Calmes referred to above was his son (b 1729). [Src](#)

⁹ "Massachusetts and Virginia laws generally agreed that those men between the ages of 16 and 60 would be formed into militia units for training...but it may suggest an incorrect picture of what a provincial army looked like...Exhaustive studies...suggest that the average age of men under arms was just under 26, with 80 percent under 35 and less than 2 percent over 55 (many of them officers)." From [Family Life in 17th-and-18th-century America](#) by James M. Volo and Dorothy Denneen Volo, page 147.

1761 May 18

Frederick Co VA

Edward Corder on poll for Col. Geo Washington to the House of Burgesses

EDWARD CORDER listed on "Poll taken at the Election of Burgesses, Frederick County, May 18, 1761, COL GEO WASHINGTON (con'td): Isaiah Pemberton, Jacob Reece, Evan Rogers, James Barnett, Matthew Dunkin, Jam: Bole, Will:m Long, Burkhart Reagart, Tunis Newkirk, **John Branson**, Rob:t McCartney, Tho:s Grogan, Jn:o Armstrong, Edw"d Cartmell, Tho:s Shepherd, W:m Lupton, Rob:t Cunningham, Tho:s Doster, Simon Taylor, Will:m Dillon, Gersham Keys, Leonard Hornsby, Josiah Hultz, Matth:w Funk, Daniel Holdman, John Hogelane, William Alford, George Bell, John Reed, Tho:s Eaton, Robert Stuart, John Larrak, Joseph Colvin, James Bruce, Martin Funk, Henry Brock, W:m Cockran, Robert McCoy, Thomas Sharp, John Bordon, George Nicholas, Robert White, Will:m Chambers, Moses Walton, George Miles, Will:m Glenn, John Lemon, George Ruble, Will:m Baldwin, Jarvis Shirley, Harrison Taylor, Thomas Reece Jr., John Painter, Tho:s Reece, John Wilson, Captain Jn:o Denton, Henry Bower, John Houseman, Mich:l Murphey, Philip Babb, Robert Steward, **EDWARD CORDER**, George Lockmiller, Joseph Vance, John Hardin, Jam:s Blair, Sam:l Pearson, John Madden, Jeremiah Smith, Josiah Ridgway, Christ:r Heiskel, John Vestal, Charles Grain, Tho:s Cooper, James Carter, Stephen Hotzencell, Jn:o Geo: Dellenger, Walter Davidson, James Grannan, Geo: Hotzenbella, Christ:r Lambert, Ulrich Stoner, Will:m Hawkins, Jacob Chandler, Jn:o Dodson, John Allison, Rich:d Poley, George Hiat, Joseph Pugh, Owen Rogers, Thomas Ellis, Robert Allen, David Morgan, Jacob Kackley (Rackley?), Joseph Fosset, Thomas Carney, Bryan Bruin, Samuel Beam, Jonath:n Taylor, Law:ce Samlsapper, Samuel Glass, Richard Hiland, John Barrat, Thomas Lindsey, Charles Perkins, Nath:l Cartmel, Leonard Cooper, Will:m Pickering, Peter Speary, Henry Knave, Moses Harling (Harlan?), James Barrat, Thomas Ellis, Christian Grable, George Fetzer, George Rice, John Jones, Josiah Springer, John Funk Jun. Henry Funk, Casper Rinker, Jacob Sowers (end of page 549) *Virginia Militia list, page 549 of a document scanned and posted on Ancestry.com - no original source information. See also [All Colonial Soldiers of the South, 1732-1774](#)*

*NOTE: Under the poll for Colonel Adam Stephen we also find **Corder, Edw:d**. Did he vote for both men? Was this a sort of ranked choice system? Or were the two men (Washington and Stephn) running for different seats?*

Depending on their dates of birth, is difficult to distinguish whether this record refers to Edward Senior or Junior. The fact that there was no designation made between the two (although both were, ostensibly, still living in Frederick County in 1761) is of interest. Is it possible Senior has already died? Is Junior younger than we thought and not eligible to vote? Where is John? LKH 20160706.

1761 Oct 30

Contextual History

Letter from George William Fairfax to George Washington (written from England, regarding the arrival of of Lord Fairfax):

October 30, 1761

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 2nd of December, 6th of March, 3rd of April, 27th of July and first of August came very safe to hand...I am informed by many hands, tho' not from the performers, that **an office is really building at Greenway Court**, and that his Lordship and family removes this very month. It gives me the most concern to find what influence Martin has, as I fear he will not stop at that, but will daily lessen the esteem the people have for the good old Gentn. I offer my compliments to Mrs. Washington and am very sincerely dear Sir,

Your most ob't humble serv't
Go. Wm. Fairfax.

1764

Frederick Co VA

On rent rolls of Frederick Co VA

EDWARD CORDER on Rent Rolls of Frederick Co VA (those paying quit rents).

No designation whether Senior or Junior.

"Quit Rents," according to Black's Law Dictionary, is "A rent paid by the tenant of a freehold, by which he goes quit or free - that is, discharged from any other rent." It was usually paid to a representative of the Crown (such as the governor). The amount varied from token rents to more substantial amounts." Also, "A Quit Rent was a yearly amount paid by a person who 'purchased' a lot from a proprietary."

1767 Sep 7

Frederick Co VA

John Corder of the Fauquier County Corders receives a grant from Lord Fairfax for 361.75 acres on the SE side of Beaver Run.

1769 Aug 1

Frederick Co VA

"Upon the Petition of Sundry Inhabitants praying for a Road from Matthew Smith's Plantation to McCoys Chappell Ordered that [Benjamin Oney](#) Edward Rogers **EDWARD CORDER** & Ralph Withers or any three of them being first sworne do Veiw the same & report the Conveniences & Inconveniences that may attend the opening a Road on the same " *Source: [FREDERICK COUNTY ROAD ORDERS 1743-1772](#) pg 145*

No designation whether Senior or Junior. The reference to Benjamin Oney was either the father or brother (there was a Benjamin Oney Sr. and Jr.) of Susannah Oney Corder (w/o Edward Jr.). This is the only reference to an Oney in the Frederick County Road Orders.

1770-1779

1780+

1799-1821

Frederick Co VA and Warren Co VA

Contextual History: "The dispersal to owners [of land from the original Manor of Greenway Court] in no way connected with the Fairfax Family was made by the executors and administrators of the [estate] of Colonel Thomas Bryan Martin in the years 1799 to 1821." Source: The Fairfax Proprietary, by Josiah Look Dickinson, page36

1799 Mar 1

Frederick Co VA

Edward Corder's wife still living on the Turkey Tract

Beginning in the year 1799, Robert Mosby and John S. Woodcock, executors of the estate of Thomas Bryan Martin (nephew of Lord Fairfax) deeded out parcels of the Manor of Greenway Court. On 1 Mar 1799 Edmund Newman purchased a "parcel or lot of Land in the County of Frederick and State of Virginia being part of the Manor of Greenway Court and where _____ **CORDER** now lives, and **who has her life therein under Lease**, the reversion of which is devised to us by the Last Will of the said Thomas B. Martin, dec'd bearing date the 12 of July 1794 and now of record in the Winchester District Court..." [View Source Document](#)

I had hoped to find the name of Edward Corder's wife, but the document left a blank space for her given name.

Appendix

Additional Reading: *Transportation of and Convicts in America*

A. Atkinson, 'The Free-Born Englishman Transported: convict rights as a measure of eighteenth-century Empire', *Past & Present*, 144 (August 1994). (PER900 P1852)

James Davie Butler, 'British Convicts Shipped To American Colonies', *American Historical Review*, 2 (1896). (STACK PER900 A4046)

Roger A. Ekirch, 'Bound For America: a profile of British convicts transported to the colonies, 1718-1775', *William & Mary Quarterly*, XLII, 2 (Apr 1995). (PER900 W5060)

Roger A. Ekirch, *Bound For America*, chs 1-4 & epilogue. (973.2EKI)

Roger A. Ekirch, 'The Transportation of Scottish Criminals to America during the Eighteenth Century', *Journal of British Studies*, 24 (1985). (PER900 J3132)

Aaron S. Fogelman, 'From Slaves, Convicts and Servants to Free Passengers: the transformation of immigration in the era of the American Revolution', *Journal of American History*, 85 (June 1998). (PER900 J2104)

Farley Grubb, 'The Trans-Atlantic Market for British Convict Labour', *Journal of Economic History*, 60 (June 2000) (PER900 J4420) (

Farley Grubb, 'The Market Evaluation of Criminality: Evidence from the Auction of British Convict Labor in America, 1767-1775', *The American Economic Review*, 91, 1 (March 2001) (PER330 A3998; also available at: <http://www.jstor.ac.uk/journals/00028282.html>)

Kenneth Morgan, 'The Organisation of the Convict Trade to Maryland: Stevenson, Randolph and Cheston', *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3, 7 (1985). (PER900 W5060)

Kenneth Morgan, 'English and American Attitudes Towards Convict Transportation', *History*, 72 (October 1987). (PER900 H6040; electronic version available via Library CWIS pages [BIDS Journals Online])

K. Morgan, 'Convict Transportation from Devon to America', in Michael Duffy et. al.(eds), *The New Maritime History of Devon*, vol. 1 (F942 DEV/NEW)

K. Morgan, *Bristol and the Atlantic Trade in the Eighteenth Century*. (LOCAL HISTORY 942 GLO/BRI/MOR)

Gwenda Morgan & Peter Rushton, *Rogues, Thieves and the Rule of Law*, chs 6-7. (942.07086MOR)

Bob Reece, *The Origins of Irish Transportation to New South Wales*. (On order).

AGL Shaw, *Convicts & the Colonies*, ch. 1 (942.6SHA)

Abbot Emerson Smith, *Colonists in Bondage*, chs 5-9. (973.2SMI)

Abbot Emerson Smith, 'The Transportation of Convicts to the American Colonies in the Seventeenth Century', *American Historical Review*, 39 (1933/34). (STACK PER900 A4046)

* Penal Interventions, 'Unfree' Labour & Transportation in Early-modern Europe

Paul Bamford, *Fighting Ships and Prisons: The Mediterranean Galleys of France in the Age of Louis XIV.* (944.033BAM)

Timothy J. Coates, 'Crime and Punishment in the Fifteenth-Century Portuguese World: The Transition from Internal to Imperial Exile', in Donald Kagay & L.J. Andre Villalon (eds), *The Final Argument: The Imprint of Violence on Society in Medieval and Early-Modern Europe*, pp. 119-139. (940.00JFIN)

URQ Henriques, 'The Rise and Decline of the Separate System of Prison Discipline', *Past and Present*, 54 (1972), pp. 61-93. (STACK PER900 P1852)

Maria Augusta Lima Cruz, 'Exiles and Renegades in Early Sixteenth Century Portuguese India', *Indian Economic & Social History Review*, 23, 3 (1986), pp. 249-62. (PER900 I1736)

Nigel Penn, 'Robben Island 1488-1805', in Harriet Deacon (ed.), *The Island: a history of Robben Island, 1488-1990*, pp. 9-32. (968.735ISL)

Ruth Pike, *Penal Servitude in Early-Modern Spain*. (365.946PIK)

Anthony Vaver, '[Bound with an Iron Chain: The Untold Story of How the British Transported 50.000 Convicts to Colonial America](#)', Pickpocket Publishing, (June 30, 2011).

Anthony Vaver, '[Early American Criminals: An American Newgate Calendar. Chronicling the Lives of the Most Notorious Criminal Offenders from Colonial America and the New Republic](#)', Pickpocket Publishing, (September 1, 2014).

André Zysberg, 'Galley Rowers in the Mid-Eighteenth Century', in Robert Forster & Orest Ranum (eds), *Deviants and the Abandoned in French Society*. (944DEV)

Additional Notes and Supplemental Research

Excerpt from 'The Fairfax Proprietary' by Josiah Look Dickinson

Subject: Edward Corder's lease at Greenway Court

CHAPTER EIGHT

GREENWAY COURT MANOR

The Lessees and Owners

[p.46] As with Leeds and Gooney run, there is no considerable amount of information to be had to the identity of the early settlers in Greenway Court Manor. Seven names are mentioned in connection with the survey of the manor. The land disposed of in settling the estate of Colonel Thomas Bryan Martin is shown by the map herewith and the tracts were given numbers by the maker of the map. Any information that was available is given following the numbers.

Lot 1. & 1-A. Lot 1-A was sold to Thomas Chester by Robert McKay, Jr. and by Chester's executors to Lord Fairfax. At the time of this sale Robert Ha'penny and Richard Foley were living there. In the sale of Greenway Court Manor it was sold with Lot 1 to William Hand, "where he lives". This is the site of the Front Royal Recreation Park and golf course. William Hand likely came from the Hand family who came up the Rappahannock River and owned land in Chester Gap, among the earliest recorded deeds. Hands Ferry, one of the last to be discontinued, was operated from this land.

Lot 2. Sold to Major Richard Bryarly who was a large speculator in Greenway Court Manor lands and in leases in Leeds Manor. His military title came from service in the War of 1812. He was the son of thomas Bryarly of Harford County, Maryland. He sold his holdings around Greenway Court and bought land in Berkeley County, and is buried in the graveyard of Morgan's Chapel at Bunker Hill. Lots 1 & 2 were the only lots to have river frontage out of the whole manor.

Lot 3. Sold to Jacob McCoy (McKay)

Lot 4. Not accounted for.

Lot 5. Sold to Moses McCoy, "lease to Elec (or Eli) Richards".

Lot 6. Sold to Richard Bryarly, "lease to Thomas Grubbs". The Grubbs family was among the early Quakers. A deed from Joist Hite, Orange County, 1734, reads: "to John Grubb, miller of Brandywine Hundred in the County of Newcastle upon Delaware."

[p.47] Lot 7. Sold to Richard Bryarly, "lease to Joshua Antram" -- a Quaker who married into the McKay family.

Lot 8. Sold to William Cook. William Cook also owned the farm and house known as "Willow Brook", which he purchased from John Haines. Mr. Cook was one of the first Justice of Warren County, and his will, probated in 1843, disposed of considerable wealth.

Lot 9. Not accounted for.

Lot 10. Sold to John Fawcett, "held by him under lease for 21 years". The Fawcetts were Irish Quakers who came to Pennsylvania in the early 18th century, some of them appearing in the Shenandoah Valley around 1745, and originally settling in the south-western part of Frederick County on a tract of 1,450 acres, some of which is still in possession of the family. John Fawcett married a grand daughter of William Farnley and came to own a part of the Farnley portion of the Borden tract.

Lot 11. Sold to Moses McCoy, "lot of John Lee".

Lot 12. Sold to Richard Bryarly, "lease of Serinus Emmons, where he lives".

Lot 13. Sold to Richard Bryarly, "lease to Isaac Davis, where he lives".

Lots 14 & 21. Sold to Isaiah Oglesby, "part of lot leased to Robert Haines". The Oglesbys were a Scotch Quakers family, who first settled in Pennsylvania. Were members of "Crooked Run Meeting".

Lot 15. Sold to Jacob Painter. The Painters also had land from Branson and Hite, and were members of the "Crooked Run Meeting".

Lot 16. Sold to John Romine. This name also appears in Leeds Manor.

Lot 17 & Site 17-A. These two sites are associated with two of the seven "adventurers" mentioned in the survey of Greenway Court. Thomas Thornton was mentioned as being at about Lot 17, but does not show up in our picture again. Edward Corder was at 17-A at the time of the survey and shows up later at Lot 17 with the **first lease from Lord Fairfax on record in Frederick County. The first site occupied by Edward Corder, as can be seen from the map, was about a mile south-west from the house of Greenway Court. There has been considerable speculation, considering the liberal terms of the lease, as to just what the deal was, and his lordship clearly indicated that the joke was on him. Some of [p.48] the more important phrases are quoted, the rest being in the form used later in the "Leases for Lives".**

The deal: "Witnesseth that the said Thomas Lord Fairfax for and in consideration of the rents and Covenants hereinafter expressed hath demised let and to farm let unto the said Edward one messuage Tenement of parcel of land situate lying and being in the County aforesaid parcel of a larger tract...called & known by the name of Greenway Court & being also the plantation whereon the said Edward now lives...To Have and To hold the said messuage and tenement & two hundred acres of land with the appurtenances unto the said Edward from the day of the date hereof for & during the natural life of him the said Edward and for and during the natural life of _____ his wife and each of them the longest living Yielding & Paying therefor on the twenty fifth day of December every year during the said Term unto the said Lord Fairfax his heirs and assigns or to his cook or steward one large fat turkey ready for roasting -- (Quanto empto? parvi. Quanti ergo? Octo assibus. Eheu.)* And if it shall so happen that the said yearly rent should be behind and unpaid by the space of twelve hours after the same ought to be paid at any time during the said term or that the said turkey when tendered should not be fat & ready for use and no sufficient distress upon the premises to the value thereof is or may be found whereby the same may be levied then it shall be lawful to and for the said Lord Fairfax his heirs and assigns into the said demised premises with the appurtenances to reenter and the same again to hold..."

"The said Edward" agreed to build "one good and sufficient dwelling house" and to plant an orchard. Also not "to commit waste or hunt, kill or destroy or suffer to be killed, hunted or destroyed any Dear Bears or Elks or other game without the consent of the said Lord Fairfax." [1]

***(A quotation from Horace) -- With how much bought? With a little. Therefore how much? With eight assess (a Roman coin of very small value). Oh!**

Except for the interest that the rate of rental and the joke that Lord Fairfax put on record against himself excited, we could close this story by saying: Lot 17. Sold to [Edmund Newman](#), "two hundred acres, the Edward Corder Lease, being part of the Manor of Greenway Court and whereon (Unnamed) Corder now lives and who has her life therein under lease".[2]

1. *Frederick Co. Deed Book 2, p. 412*

2. *Frederick Co. Deed Book 26, p. 8*

A little calculation [p.49] shows that 200 acres of land was rented for one fat turkey per year for more than 47 years -- for we don't know how much longer _____ Corder lived. So, we're left wondering how well his lordship's sense of humor would have responded as the joke got bigger.

Lots 18 & 26. Sold to Bayley (Bayly & Bailey) Shumate. Had considerable estate that was settled in court of Warren County..

Lot 19. Sold to Richard Bryarly, "lease to Joseph Clevenger, where he lives".

Lot 20. Sold to Jacob Painter, "part of the lease of Robt. Haynes dec'd. Beginning at a stake 3 poles from South corner of Quaker Graveyard".

Lot 22. Sold to Stephen Grubbs, a corner with lot of "New Meeting House lot" -- Zion Primitive Baptist Church at Nineveh.

Lots 23 & 33. Sold to Oliver Fusnten. No. 33 known as "Joshua Swayne tract". The Funstens were an Irish Quaker family who had moved from Uwchland, near Philadelphia, about the close of the Revolution, to White Post. By purchase and by marriage into the Ridgeway and McKay families they became large land owners.

Lots 24 & 27. Sold to Richard Bryarly, "unimproved lots."

Lot 25. Sold to Mandly Taylor. Became quite well-to-do and was prominent in the early affairs of Warren County. He had also served as sheriff of Frederick County.

Lots 28 & 42. Sold to Jacob Weaver from Prince William county and of the Weavers who were settlers at "Germanna".

Lot 29. Sold to Richard Bryarly, "unimproved lot and leased lot of the Widow of Robert Haines".

Lot 30. Sold to John Brownley, "including a lot leased to Abraham Clevenger, dec'd." An early chancery suit in Frederick County records shows that the Brownleys came to Virginia from New Jersey along with the Tuleys, Bransons, Hamptons, Morgans and others.

Lot 31. Sold to John Haines, Jr., "lease of John Howell". The Haines family were Quakers who came from Pennsylvania and bought land from Joist Hite that bordered on the river just above the "Rock Hill" plantation. The Howells moved to Clarke County, Ohio, in 1834.

Lot 32. Sold to Richard Bryarly, "lease to Lewis Chasteau, where he lives." Lewis Chasteau was a preacher who had come from the Rappahannock Valley and seems to have been related to or connected by marriage with the Rust and Woodcock families. [end of transcription]

Note: See [Corder Neighbors at Lot 17-A and 17 Turkey Tract](#) for more information on these family names.