



## ALLISON GRISCOM CORNOG (1896-1960) AND FAMILY

By Richard D. Kerr

The Cornog (or Cornogg) name goes far back in the history of Chester and Delaware counties.

**THOMAS CORNOG** was born in Pennsylvania in 1787 and died in 1850. He married Alice Hunter, who was born in 1786 and died on September 12, 1857. Both were buried at the Marple Presbyterian Church Cemetery. The early 1848 map of Delaware County by Joshua W. Ash shows a large parcel of land owned by Thomas Cornog, lying on both sides of the "northwestern-most" section of what we now know as Darby Road. Thomas and Alice Cornog had the following children:

1. John Forrest Cornog, born February 10, 1814, died March 2, 1891. He married Ida G. Williamson, born February 9, 1825, died March 8, 1897. They are buried at Marple Presbyterian Church Cemetery, along with Thomas Cornog and Thomas Walter Cornog, their children who died at a young age.
2. George Owen Cornog (see below).
3. Andrew Jackson Cornog, who went by A. Jackson Cornog, was born in 1823 and died in 1913. The 1887 Smith Atlas, Map 1 shows a parcel of land belonging to Jackson Cornog (20 acres on the northeast corner of present-day Darby and Mill roads), including the present site of the Haverford Township Free Library. He is also buried at the Marple Presbyterian Church Cemetery.
4. Hannah H. Cornog, born March 26, 1824 and died February 11, 1838, aged about 14 years; buried at the Marple Presbyterian Church Cemetery.
5. Margaret H. Cornog, born in 1831 and died December 16, 1857, aged 26 years; buried at the Marple Presbyterian Church Cemetery.

**GEORGE O. CORNOG** was born in 1822 and died on April 3, 1889. He married Amanda Margarita Thomson, who was born on April 26, 1838 and died on November 18, 1912. George, age 38, and Amanda, 22, appear in the Haverford Township portion of the 1860 U.S. Census. In 1870, along with some children, they are joined by George's sister Hannah, and in 1880 by his mother-in-law Jane Shaw Thomson (widow of Joseph T. Thomson) and brother-in-law David Thomson. George is identified as a farmer. He and Amanda were buried in the Marple Presbyterian Church Cemetery. Their children were as follows:

1. Thomas Franklin "Frank" Cornog, born November, 1860 in Llanerch, died 11, 1930 in Drexel Hill.
2. William H. "Willie" Cornog (see below).
3. Alice J. Cornog (1864-1944), buried with Ida May Cornog (see below) at Marple Presbyterian.
4. Ida May Cornog, born May 3, 1867 in Haverford Township, died June 11, 1935.
5. George Owen Cornog, born December 4, 1871, died May 8, 1925 in West Chester.

**WILLIAM H. CORNOG** was born September 3, 1863 in Haverford Township, and he died on August 3, 1924 in Wayne, Radnor Township, Delaware County, Pa. On June 14, 1893 in Delaware County he married Phebe M. Carr (born May 2, 1872 in Pennsylvania, as were her parents; died May 27, 1947). William and Phebe were buried in the Old St. David Church Cemetery in Radnor. William was identified

in the 1920 U. S. Census as living in the Ithan area of Radnor Township and being a retail grocer in a country store. Their children listed in that census were as follows:

1. Ellwood C. Cornog, born about 1895, an electrical engineer at a steel works.
2. Allison G. Cornog, born 1896, a clerk at a dye works (see below).
3. Margaret Cornog, born about 1899.
4. Phebe Cornog, born about 1905.

**ALLISON G. CORNOG** received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Swarthmore College in 1919. His college education was interrupted by military service in World War I. The *Scranton Republican* of Wednesday, July 20, 1921 announced [added details are in square brackets]: "Allison G. Cornog, of Ithaca, N. Y. was selected yesterday as athletic coach and physical director of Ursinus. He succeeds Ralph Mitterling [1919-1920] who resigned last spring to enroll in a medical school. Cornog graduated from Swarthmore in 1919. He was captain of the football team [half-back] that year and the second highest individual scorer in the east. At Ursinus he will coach the football [1921-1922], basketball and baseball teams."

Allison G. Cornog of Oakmont, Haverford Township married Anna Bartram Harvey (born July 25, 1898 in Pennsylvania, died in 1987). She was the daughter of E. Marshall Harvey M.D. and Phebe Thompson Scarlett Harvey. Allison and Anna Cornog were both buried at the Old Haverford Friends Burial Grounds.

They had a daughter, Phebe Cornog, born about 1924 in Pennsylvania.

Allison Cornog died on Christmas Day, December 25, 1960, with the following notices printed in local newspapers:

[*Delaware County Daily Times*, Chester, Pa., Monday, December 26, 1960]

"BROOMALL – Allison G. Cornog, 616 Williamsburg Drive, former coach and athletic director at Haverford High School, died Sunday at his home. Cornog, who was in his 60s, suffered a heart attack. He was captain of the 1917 football team at Swarthmore College. He had coached baseball, football and basketball at Haverford High where he was employed for more than 25 years."

[*Delaware County Daily Times*, Chester, Pa., Tuesday, December 27, 1960]

"ALLISON G. CORNOG, 64, head of the athletic department of Haverford High School for 25 years, who died Sunday, will be buried Wednesday. He lived at 616 Williamsburg Drive, Broomall. Mr. Cornog was a twin brother of "Doc" Cornog of Ridley Park, who died nine years ago. [Like "Allie," William L. "Doc" Cornog was a long-time teacher and athletic director, at Ridley Park High School where he too had a field named after him.] He is survived by his wife, the former Anna Harvey; a daughter Mrs. Phoebe Balls of Newtown Square, and three grandchildren. The funeral will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Stuart funeral home, 104 Cricket Ave., Ardmore. Burial will be private."

The following, excerpted from a local sports story, gives further details of A. G. Cornog's coaching career at Haverford High School:

[*Delaware County Daily Times*, Friday, September 26, 1974]

**"Haverford grid teams enjoyed early fame**

"Allison (Allie) Cornog came to Haverford High School as the team's football coach in 1926 and the following season won a Suburban title.

“Captain of Cornog's early teams was Stanley Ray who later studied for the ministry at Wheaton College and became a Navy chaplain. Among the first outstanding players to wear a Fords' uniform was L. B. (Ben) Robertshaw who played football, basketball and baseball under Cornog. Robertshaw later starred at the Naval Academy where he gained All-American honors. Other athletes who brought early fame to Haverford were Corny Bonner, Dick Beeler, Lawton Logan, John and Ted Cookenbach, John Henry, Fred Hamilton, Larry Aigeldinger, Art Jones, Ray and John Edelman and Charley Gunther.

“Cornog also won a championship with his undefeated 1939 eleven. Among members of that team was Dr. Vic Menghetti, now a doctor of veterinary medicine in Media. Cornog retired from football coaching after the 1940 season. He continued coaching baseball until 1953, then stayed on as the school's athletic director. Bill Stinson succeeded Cornog as coach and stayed through the 1951 season. He had been Cornog's assistant for 10 years.”

The School District of Haverford Township named its football field and grandstands in memory of A. G. Cornog. The following is excerpted from another local newspaper story:

[*News of Delaware County*, Monday, September 26, 2011]

**“Trying out the new turf at Haverford**

By Lois Puglionesi

“Haverford High School celebrated the grand re-opening of its newly renovated Allison G. Cornog Stadium on Friday, shortly before the Fords’ home football opener against Lower Merion. . . . Part of the celebration included remembering several outstanding coaches, including long-time football coach Joe Gallagher, along with Cornog, whose name lives on at the stadium. Though contemporary sports fans may not be familiar with Cornog’s story, the Swarthmore College graduate and football standout began his career at Haverford in post-World War I. Cornog coached five sports — football, basketball, baseball, track and golf — in the 1930s, and was “beloved by all his athletes,” [school board President Denis] Gray said. Cornog directed the athletics program and also served as groundskeeper. Cornog further distinguished himself as a coach by leading the 1939 football team to an undefeated season, as the Fords scored 225 points while allowing only 26. For Cornog, however, coaching was about more than winning. Teamwork and good sportsmanship are fundamental to his legacy. Cornog was honored for his silver jubilee in coaching in 1952 and was among the first inductees into the Haverford High School sports Hall of Fame. What’s more, the high school named a cheer after him.”

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