



## MICHELE FELICE CORNÉ



1752

Michele Felice Corné was born on the Isle of Elba.

1800

→ July 7, Monday: [Michele Felice Corné](#) arrived in Salem, Massachusetts from [Naples](#) aboard the *Mount Vernon*, [Captain Elias Hasket Derby, Jr.](#) During this year the Captain was selling off to Benjamin Hawkes the enormous Georgian mansion his wealthy father “King” Derby had caused to be erected next door to the son’s own wedding-present mansion in Salem, Massachusetts, because that enormous structure had never been fitted out for habitation but was instead used as merely a warehouse for the trade goods his Revolutionary-War privateers had been seizing (Corné would reside with Derby at his wedding-present mansion in Salem and paint until 1806, and then relocate to Boston).



“King” Derby of Salem had died in the previous year, closing one blue eye and one brown. During the Revolution the father’s privateers had brought in almost 150 prizes. Here is the ranking of the 40 richest Americans of all time as compiled by [American Heritage](#) magazine. The conversions were made using a formula comparing the original value of wealth to the size of the US economy at the time and appeared in the magazine’s October 12, 1998 issue. I have highlighted those born before Henry Thoreau, so that you can perceive that “King” Derby had been the 11th richest American citizen to that point in our national trajectory:

				Then	Now
1	John D. Rockefeller	1839-1937	oil	\$900 million	\$190 billion
2	Andrew Carnegie	1835-1919	steel	\$250 million	\$100 billion
3	<b>Cornelius Vanderbilt</b>	1794-1877	shipping/railroads	\$105 million	\$96 billion
4	<b>John Jacob Astor</b>	1763-1848	real estate/fur trade	\$20 million	\$78 billion
5	William H. Gates III	1955-	software	\$62 billion	\$62 billion
6	<b>Stephen Girard</b>	1750-1831	shipping/real estate	\$7.5 million	\$56 billion
7	<b>A.T. Stewart</b>	1803-1876	retail/real estate	\$50 million	\$47 billion
8	Frederick Weyerhaeuser	1834-1914	lumber	\$200 million	\$43 billion
9	Jay Gould	1836-1892	railroads	\$72 million	\$42 billion
10	Marshall Field	1834-1906	department stores	\$140 million	\$41 billion
11	Sam Walton	1918-1992	retail	\$28 billion	\$37 billion
12	Henry Ford	1863-1947	automobiles	\$1 billion	\$36 billion



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				Then	Now
13	Warren Buffett	1930-	investing	\$34 billion	\$34 billion
14	Andrew W. Mellon	1855-1937	banking	\$350 million	\$32 billion
15	Richard B. Mellon	1858-1933	banking	\$350 million	\$32 billion
16	James G. Fair	1831-1894	mining	\$45 million	\$30 billion
17	<b>William Weightman</b>	1813-1904	chemicals	\$80 million	\$29 billion
18	<b>Moses Taylor</b>	1806-1882	banking	\$40 million	\$29 billion
19	<b>Russel Sage</b>	1816-1906	finance	\$100 million	\$29 billion
20	<b>John Blair</b>	1802-1899	railroads	\$60 million	\$29 billion
21	Cyrus Curtis	1850-1933	publishing	\$174 million	\$26 billion
22	Paul G. Allen	1953-	software	\$25 billion	\$25 billion
23	John Pierpont Morgan	1837-1913	finance	\$119 million	\$25 billion
24	Edward Henry Harriman	1848-1909	railroads	\$100 million	\$25 million
25	Henry Huddleston Rogers	1840-1909	oil	\$100 million	\$25 million
26	Oliver Hazard Payne	1839-1917	oil	\$178 million	\$25 billion
27	Henry Clay Frick	1849-1919	steel	\$225 million	\$22 billion
28	Collis Potter Huntington	1821-1900	railroads	\$50 million	\$22 billion
29	Peter A. Widener	1834-1915	streetcars	\$100 million	\$21 billion
30	Nicholas Longworth	1782-1863	real estate	\$15 million	\$20 billion
31	Philip Danforth Armour	1832-1901	meatpacking	\$50 million	\$20 billion
32	James C. Flood	1826-1889	mining	\$30 million	\$20 billion
33	<b>Mark Hopkins</b>	1813-1878	railroads	\$20 million	\$20 billion
34	<b>Edward Clark</b>	1811-1882	sewing machines	\$25 million	\$18 billion
35	Leland Stanford	1824-1893	railroads	\$30 million	\$18 billion
36	Hetty Green	1834-1916	investing	\$100 million	\$17 billion
37	James J. Hill	1838-1916	railroads	\$100 million	\$17 billion
38	William Rockefeller	1841-1922	oil	\$150 million	\$17 billion
39	<b>Elias Hasket Derby</b>	1739-1799	shipping	\$800,000	\$16 billion
40	Claus Spreckels	1828-1908	sugar	\$50 million	\$15 billion

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1802

➡ In Salem, [Michele Felice Cornè](#) planted some [tomatoes](#) – but they failed to survive.



The story that he had a tomato seed in his pantspocket when he came over from [Naples](#) in 1800 is presumably just that, a story.

1806

➡ [Tomatoes](#) were purchased for Presidential dinners.

[Michele Felice Cornè](#), who had in 1802 attempted unsuccessfully to grow [tomatoes](#) in Salem, removed to [Boston](#). He would reside and work as a painter there until 1822, when he would relocate again, to [Newport, Rhode Island](#).



1807

Initially, in [Boston](#), [Michele Felice Corné](#) resided and worked at 27 Hanover Street. By 1810 he would be residing at 61 Middle Street.



1810

[Michele Felice Corné](#) painted a mural for the Sullivan Dorr mansion in [Providence, Rhode Island](#).

1816

Abel Bowen's NAVAL MONUMENT; CONTAINING OFFICIAL AND OTHER ACCOUNTS OF ALL THE BATTLES FOUGHT BETWEEN THE NAVIES OF THE UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN, WITH NUMEROUS WOOD ENGRAVINGS, a self-congratulatory pornography-of-violence memorialization of the [War of 1812](#) with 21 illustrations by [Michele Felice Corné](#) as engraved by Bowen.

Documents associated with the "[War of 1812](#)":

**READ THE FULL TEXT**

1822

In his elder years [Michele Felice Corné](#), who had in 1802 attempted unsuccessfully to grow [tomatoes](#) in his garden, relocated from Boston to [Newport, Rhode Island](#). He would reside at the southeast corner of what is now Corne Street and Mill Street until his death in 1845. Evidently, in the soil of his Newport garden, he would succeed in growing tomatoes for consumption.



1832

Dr. James T. Thatcher's HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF [PLYMOUTH](#), FROM ITS FIRST SETTLEMENT IN 1620, TO THE PRESENT YEAR (Boston: Marsh, Capen & Lyon) indicated heightened interest in the history of the [Plymouth Rock](#). Here is the 1620 moment at the rock as (somewhat inaccurately) visualized by [Michele Felice Corné](#):



HISTORY OF PLYMOUTH



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1845

July 10, Thursday: Frederick Douglass lectured in West Brookfield, Massachusetts.

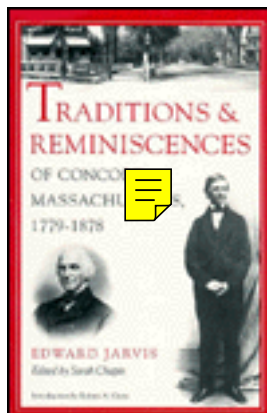
[Michele Felice Corné](#) died in [Newport, Rhode Island](#). His grave in the Common Burial Ground has a 6-foot obelisk. His house bears a plaque crediting him with having introduced to Rhode Islanders the eating of the [tomato](#):

**HOME OF THE ARTIST  
MICHELE FELICE CORNE  
WHO INTRODUCED THE TOMATO  
INTO THIS COUNTRY**

(Since Mr. Corné had not appeared in Rhode Island until 1822, and since tomatoes had been being grown for human consumption in Thomas Jefferson’s garden in Virginia since 1806, it is clear that although this artist may deserve some local credit, for having introduced residents of Newport to the edibility of the fruit of the tomato plant, he definitely was not the first to introduce tomatoes to white people in general, or to the white people of the United States in general. Also, it is well to remember that although the actual person who introduced the tomato to Americans is unknown –we weren’t paying attention– we know that that person had been a Peruvian native and that he had flourished prior to 1544, which is to say, fully three centuries, which is to say, some dozen human generations, earlier.)<sup>1</sup>

1. According to Dr. [Edward Jarvis](#)’s TRADITIONS AND REMINISCENCES OF [CONCORD](#), MASSACHUSETTS 1779-1878, page 62:

[Tomatoes] were a late introduction. They were never raised in my father’s garden, nor eaten in his house. The first I ever saw were in 1845, a great rarity and eaten in very few families. None of the farmers raised them then.





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"It's all now you see. Yesterday won't be over until tomorrow and tomorrow began ten thousand years ago."

- Remark by character "Garin Stevens"  
in William Faulkner's INTRUDER IN THE DUST



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# ARRGH AUTOMATED RESEARCH REPORT

## GENERATION HOTLINE



This stuff presumably looks to you as if it were generated by a human. Such is not the case. Instead, someone has requested that we pull it out of the hat of a pirate who has grown out of the shoulder of our pet parrot "Laura" (as above). What these chronological lists are: they are research reports compiled by ARRGH algorithms out of a database of modules which we term the Kouroo Contexture (this is data mining). To respond to such a request for information we merely push a button.



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Commonly, the first output of the algorithm has obvious deficiencies and we need to go back into the modules stored in the contexture and do a minor amount of tweaking, and then we need to punch that button again and recompile the chronology – but there is nothing here that remotely resembles the ordinary “writerly” process you know and love. As the contents of this originating contexture improve, and as the programming improves, and as funding becomes available (to date no funding whatever has been needed in the creation of this facility, the entire operation being run out of pocket change) we expect a diminished need to do such tweaking and recompiling, and we fully expect to achieve a simulation of a generous and untiring robotic research librarian. Onward and upward in this brave new world.

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