



Amelia "Millie" Gade Corson, Honor Swimmer, Denmark, 2026



Videos: [Pathe 1](#) [Pathe 2](#) [Pathe 3](#) [Pathe 4](#)

Amelia "Millie" Gade Corson was one of the world's earliest marathon stars. Just arriving from Denmark she was based in New York City where her exploits drew considerable media attention. In the era when women were "just being allowed" to do sport, she completed two big swims in 1921 and helped pave the way for other female athletes. She was the third swimmer and second female to circle Manhattan Island and completed a unique swim from Albany to Manhattan – 187 km. The swim took more than 5 days with 63 hours and 35 minutes of swimming – and was reported that she slept in the water on the shore as needed.

In 1926 Millie completed her English Channel swim 3 days after and 1 minute slower than the overall record holder IMSHOF Honoree Gertrude Ederle. The businessman who funded her swim placed a bet at 20-1 odds with Lloyds of London and netted \$100,000 (in 2025 value \$1.83 million)! Her swim further electrified the New York City media which covered them as a pair. Ederle (represented youth) and Corson with 2 young children (represented motherhood). Millie, like Gertrude, was treated to a ticker-tape parade in New York City. There were various media fueled challenges of \$25,000 to \$100,000 for a match race around Manhattan Island, across the Catalina Channel, or anywhere else.

She was awarded an Associate Member for Life of the International Professional Swimmers Association for her contributions to the sport of swimming in 1927.

Danish Translation

Amelia Gade "Millie" Corson var en af verdens første maratonsvømmestjerner. Hun var lige ankommet fra Danmark, og boede i New York, hvor hendes bedrifter tiltrak betydelig mediebevågenhed. I en tid, hvor kvinder bare "fik lov til" at dyrke sport, fuldførte hun to store svømmeture i 1921 og hjalp med at bane vejen for andre kvindelige atleter. Hun var den tredje svømmer og den anden kvinde nogensinde til at svømme rundt om Manhattan Island, og hun gennemførte en enestående svømmetur fra Albany til Manhattan – 187 km. Svømmeturen tog mere end 5 dage med 63 timers og 53 minutters svømmetid – og det blev berettet, at hun sov i vandet ved kysten efter behov.

I 1926 gennemførte Millie sin svømmetur over Den Engelske Kanal tre dage efter, og et minut langsommere, end rekordholderen Gertrude Ederle, der er i Hall of Fame for maratonsvømning. Forretningsmanden, der sponsorerede hendes svømmetur, indgik et væddemål til oddsene 20-1 hos Lloyds of London og tjente 100.000 amerikanske dollars (hvilket i 2025 svarer til 1,83 millioner dollars!). Hendes svømmetur opildnede medierne i New York yderligere. De dækkede Ederle og Corson som et par, hvor Ederle repræsenterede ungdom og Corson med sine to børn repræsenterede moderskab. Millie blev ligesom Gertrude æret med en parade med konfetti i New York City. Der var forskellige mediesponserede dyster med 25.000 til 100.000 dollars i præmie for kapsvømning rundt om Manhattan Island, på tværs af Catalina Channel, og mange andre steder.

Hun blev i 1927 æret med et livstidsmedlemskab af International Professional Swimmers Association for sine bidrag til svømmesporten.