

sity, Fayette, IA in 1968. Joy then taught for 2 years at Miles Community School, Miles, IA. After that, Joy worked as a nurses aide at Sunset Hill Manor in Rolfe and as a proofreader at the Pocahontas Record-Democrat in Pocahontas. From 1972-74 she was employed as a library aide at the Iowa State Law Library in Des Moines, IA. In 1976 Joy earned an M.A. in library science from the University of Missouri — Columbia. For one year Joy was assistant librarian at Cumberland College, Williamsburg, KY. Since October 1977 Joy has been a cataloger at Mayo Medical Library in Rochester, MN.

Irving now lives with Joy in Rochester, MN. He rents out the farm in Iowa.

Velma and Prentice are buried at Powhatan Cemetery near Plover, IA. *Submitted by Joy J. Cornwell and Irving B. Cornwell*

CORNWELL FAMILY

James Cornwell came to Iowa at the start of the 20th century from County Roscommon, Four Roads Corner, Ireland. He was followed by his brothers, John and William.

Jim married Emma Pohl of Barnum at the Sacred Heart Church in Fort Dodge on January 22, 1908. They bought the farm on the south edge of Rolfe in 1912. They had six boys who all served in World War II and three girls — Frank, Ralph, Mary, Marcella, Veronica, Leo, Donald, Gerald, and Genes.



John and Mary Rose Cornwell

William Cornwell returned to Ireland in 1916.

John Cornwell married Mary Rose Hosman at the Star of the Sea Church in Beverly, Massachusetts on April 8, 1915. He had a farm and the butcher shop in Palmer at that time. There were 10 girls and 2 boys. John Joseph was in the army and died in Berlin, Germany. Ralph was in the 4th Marines. Also in service were Geraldine, in woman's Army Corps, and Norma, a navy nurse. The children were Irene, Joe, Mary, Delores, Ralph, Phyllis, Helen, Norma Jean, and Agnes.

John Cornwell is remembered also for doing a lot of tiling in Pocahontas County. *Submitted by Irene Cornwell Wolf*

MELVIN E. CORNWELL FAMILY

Gabriel E. Cornwell was born 9/6/1825 in Copestown, Ontario, Canada. His wife, Phoebe Coleman, was born 12/24/1824 in Brantford, Ontario. They had three children: Sarah Elizabeth, Melvin E., and William A. The family moved to Poplar Grove.



The Melvin E. Cornwell family

L to R, standing William Earl Cornwell, Wesley James Cornwell, Earnest Hayes Cornwell L to R, seated Clarence Leonard Cornwell, Melvin E. Cornwell, Fred Gabriel Cornwell not pictured Helen E. Beebe Cornwell, Nettie Elizabeth Cornwell

Gabriel E. Cornwell fought in the Civil War, he was captain of Company K. 95th Illinois Regiment. Gabriel was killed at Vicksburg on 5/22/1863.

Melvin E. Cornwell, born 4/14/1847, and his wife, the former Helen Beebe, born 7/21/1847, settled near Poplar Grove, Illinois, after their marriage 1/1/1867 in Beloit, Wisconsin. Six children were born in Illinois: Clarence, Fred, Nettie, Earnest, William and Wesley.

The eldest son, Clarence, at the age of 14, went to stay with his mother's brother, the Rev. Leonard Beebe, a circuit riding preacher in western Iowa. Clarence worked at jobs around Rolfe. The Melvin Cornwell family followed his move west within a few years. At first, Melvin plied the blacksmith trade, but in 1886 he purchased the Cornwell farm 2 south and 2 west of Rolfe (Roosevelt Twp., sect. 14). Melvin hauled rocks from Humboldt to Rolfe to help make payment on the farm he had purchased. The rocks were used to erect buildings being built in the town of Rolfe.

Wesley James Cornwell, born 10/18/1883, was three years old when his parents came to Rolfe. He was married 1/1/1901 to Dorothy Frances Wiegman (born 9/19/1879), daughter of Herman Frederick Wiegman and Betsy Ann Clark.

Wesley and Dorothy rented Melvin's farm from 1901-1905 until they found another farm to rent. In February 1909, the Wesley Cornwell family homesteaded in Midland, S.D. The crop was poor so they moved back to Iowa in 1910. In March of 1915 they moved to Morton, Mn., where Wesley had bought a farm. Their children were: Frances, Leonard, Irving Ivis, Bernice, Kenneth, and Wayne. A son and daughter, Verla, died in infancy. Wesley died 2/17/43 and Dorothy 7/1/67. Both are buried in Redwood Falls, MN.

When Melvin E. Cornwell died on 1/12/1929, the estate was divided equally among his children (32 acres each). Helen died 3/11/20. Both are buried in Rolfe.

In 1934, Irving Bernard Cornwell, Wesley's son, came back from Minnesota to rent his grandfather's farm, along with his uncle Will Cornwell. Irving was born on the farm 12/15/1904. On 9/14/35 Irving married Velma Joy Knapp, daughter of Harrison (Sr.) and Mary Jessie (Davidson) Knapp of Plover, Ia. Velma was born the same month, day, and year as Irving. By 1946, Irving had purchased all of his grandfather's farm from the heirs. Irving and Velma lived on the farm until 1978. Velma died

12/17/78 and is buried in Powhatan Cemetery near Plover. Irving retired and moved to Rochester, MN. to live with their daughter, Joy Jessie Cornwell, a librarian at Mayo Clinic. Velma was preceded in death by a son, Prentice Jay Cornwell. Irving now rents out the Iowa land.

JOHN AND ELLA MAE (BAGBY) COWAN

John Townsend Cowan and Ella Mae Bagby were married June 22, 1921. Following their marriage they've resided on the same farm northeast of Laurens in Section 17, Cummins Township, where John had lived since he was two.

Born Feb. 28, 1898, near Tama, Iowa, John came to Pocahontas County when he was two. He is the second child of S.T. and Ella Stevenson Cowan. An older brother, James, died in infancy. Other brothers and sisters include: Mrs. E.E. (Lura) Dubbert, Elmer, Mrs. Allen (Irma) Whitfield, and Leonard.



John and Ella Mae Cowan

John graduated from Laurens School and later attended Iowa State College, Ames. In 1918, during the last months of W.W. I, he was drafted into the army and began training at the college. After his discharge, John attended Capital City Commercial College, Des Moines.

Ella Mae Bagby Cowan was born Jan. 17, 1898 at Laurel Springs, North Carolina, the 9th of 10 children of Zachery Taylor Bagby, a life insurance district representative who raised sheep (also a relative of Pres. Taylor), and Roxanna Eleanor Mastin Bagby. Early school for Ella Mae was at Wilksboro, North Carolina, high school at Norfolk,