

CHARLES CORNWELL

(ca. 1775-1824)

Charles Cornwell was born ca. 1775 in Virginia and died in 1824 in Jefferson County, Kentucky.

He married Elizabeth (Betty) Thornton in 1796 in Virginia. She was born ca 1778 in Virginia (or Pennsylvania) and likely died after 1850.

(According to the 1850 census, an Elizabeth Cornwell, 72, born in PA, was residing with James, 45, born in VA, in Washington Township, Washington County, Indiana. Four sons of Charles and Elizabeth moved to Indiana after Charles' death. Perhaps their mother moved and lived with them.)

Charles Cornwell was listed on the annual tax rolls of Fauquier County, Virginia with his father Simon from 1793-1799, and in 1802. He is listed separately in 1800, 1801, and 1803. (*Extracts Fauquier County, Virginia Personal Property Taxes*)

Charles moved to Jefferson County Kentucky in 1804, when his name first appears on the tax rolls. (See biography on his father, Simon Cornwell.)

This Charles Cornwell, son of Simon, often has been confused with another Charles Cornwell who lived in Prince William County, ever since a professional genealogist, Mrs. Wm. D. Duke, wrote in 1951 that “The third Charles mentioned in the [Charles Cornwell] will written in 1797 is, in all probability the Chas. Cornwell who married Betty Thornton.” (Mrs. Duke went on to state that Thornton was “a very prominent family in Prince William.”)

Mrs. Duke also stated that she was “practically sure that the Charles Cornwell of Prince William County who furnished beef for the Continental forces in 1781 and 1782 must have been he who married Betty Thornton.”

The Prince William County Charles Cornwell was shown there with his family in the 1810, 1820, and 1830 censuses. In the 1810 census there, this Charles Cornwell family consisted of one male over 45, one female 16 to 26, and three females 26 to 45. This does not match the Charles Cornwell and Betty Thornton family as we know it. The one male over 45 is in the correct age group for the Prince William County Charles Cornwell to be the one credited with Revolutionary War and War of 1812 service.

Charles Cornwell, son of Simon, born ca. 1775, wife born ca. 1778, married in 1796, who began having children in 1800, and who moved to Jefferson County, Kentucky, could not have been old enough to perform Revolutionary War service, and wasn't in Virginia to be credited with War of 1812 service there.

The 1810 census of Kentucky, Jefferson County (Roll 7) perfectly matches the

Charles Cornwell family as we know it. It shows the Charles Cornwell family consisting of three males under 10 (Harrison Edward, 8; James, 3; and John, 3), one male 10-15 (Thornton, 10), one male 26-44 (Charles, about 35), one female under 10 (Jane, 7), and one female 26-44 (Elizabeth, about 35).

The 1820 census of Kentucky, Jefferson County, shows the Charles Cronwell family with three males under 10 (Morgan; Thompson, 4; and Daniel, 9), two males 10-16 (James, 13, and John, 13), two males 16-18 (Harrison, 18, and ?), two males 16-26 (Harrison, 18, and Thornton, 20), one male 45 or over (Charles, about 45), one female under 10 (?), and one female 26-44 (Elizabeth, about 44).

After Charles died in 1824, his oldest son Thornton took care of the family.

Most of the following records were copied from "Grandfather Cornwell's Bible" into Hitchcock's *New and Complete Analysis of the Holy Bible*, published in 1869, later in the possession of Mrs. Albert Cornwell Williams, Campbellsburg, Indiana.

The first five children of Charles Cornwell and Elizabeth (Betty) Thornton were born in Virginia (1799-1805); the last three were born in Jefferson County, Kentucky (1811-1820):

- * i **Thornton**, b. Sep 13, 1800, m. Rebecca Rice on Sep 13, 1827, d. in 1862
- ii Harrison Edward, b. Mar 10, 1802, m. Nancy Arterburn Cornwell (the daughter of his uncle Peter) on Dec 22, 1826 in Orange Co, Indiana, d. Oct 22, 1873 in Washington Co., Indiana
- iii Jane, b. ca. 1803, d. at age 8
- iv James, b. 1805, d. 1888
- v John, b. 1807, m. 1st, Minerva J. --, 2nd, Elizabeth McLane aft. 1850
- vi Daniel, b. Aug 8, 1811, m. Elizabeth Jones on May 31 or Jun 3 or 5, 1834, d. Apr 26, 1898
- vii Thompson, b. 1816, m. 1st, Mariah Cool or Cook on May 31, 1838; 2nd, Mrs. Jane Veach Noblitt on May 22, 1842
- viii Morgan, b. 1820, m. 1st, Ann Robinson on Aug 28, 1837; 2nd, Mary (Polly) Adaline Mayfield Hooten on Jan 28, 1844, d. 1862 in Jackson Co., Indiana

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