

James Cornell

Born: 1/24/1810
Watertown, Canada
Died: 9/24/1882 at
Ft Howard, Green
Bav

Period of Service: Civil War

Sources: DCA 3/30/1865,
the Cornell family book

He was drafted in the last draft of the Civil War, but may not have served as the war ended two weeks later.

On April 12, 1829, he was married to Elizabeth Jane Southard (born 9/5/1811) in Lewiston, NY, near Niagara Falls. He was born in Ontario and she in the old district of Montreal. Neither of them was able to write. Ancient records indicate his name originally might have been "Cornwall", but Federal records carry him as "Cornell" by the 1830 census.

They moved to Pontiac, Michigan soon after marriage, and had four children there. A famine in 1837 in Pontiac caused by a rapid influx of people, prompted them to move back to Lewiston. They spent about 12 years there and had five more children. They then went to Lemont, Illinois, and bought a large farm there, but he became disillusioned with it. He and a group of Illinois families moved north and fished off Rock Island during the summers, and lodged there during the winters, eventually moving there permanently in 1850 or 1851. They actually built homes on St. Martins Island.

They finally moved to Washington Island, and lived in a white house on the beach near J.B. Young's dock. Later they moved to Main Road for a while and finally to Green Bay along with two sons and their families. Four other sons remained on Washington Island and four more sons stayed on St. Martins Island. James Cornell and his wife ultimately had some 5000 descendants.