

**JEREMIAH CONWELL  
and  
CATHERINE ARCADA (KENDRICK) CONWELL  
and their  
DESCENDANTS  
and other  
ALLIED FAMILIES**

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1998**

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## PREFACE

The purpose of this book is to record, for those who wish to have and to keep them, the simple family records of an American family through nearly three hundred years. It is hopefully to be a readable account of who these particular Conwell families were and are. Hence, there is no elaborate numbering system. The only device deemed necessary was to use generation numbers; thus

- (1) Yeates Conwell
- (2) John Conwell, Sr.
- (3) John Conwell, Jr.
- (4) Jeremiah Conwell
- (5) James A. Conwell (fifth generations, etc.)

**References:** These will follow a family or branch of a family.

**Ancestors Charts:** Our line of ancestors from Jeremiah to Yeates Conwell. Second - Ancestor Chart of Shawn Christopher Conwell ( who seems to be the youngest Conwell male carrying the name of Conwell in our line to Jeremiah Conwell.

No one could be more conscious than I of the many omissions and blank areas in this book. These arise from many causes. Records have been lost from fires, floods, and wars. Some persons simply have no interest in preserving their family history, as well no interest in replying to requests for information.

But, in fairness, it must be said that these have been few compared to those giving generous help. Beyond all these problems lie the mistakes and misinterpretation. With the best of intentions I have no doubt occasionally misunderstood or simply written it wrong. For these errors I take full responsibility.

To sum it up, a genealogy is never done; it is a growing thing. I would be glad, therefore, to hear from "cousins" or others, filling in blanks areas or correcting mistakes.

Estaleene Nash Suman

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

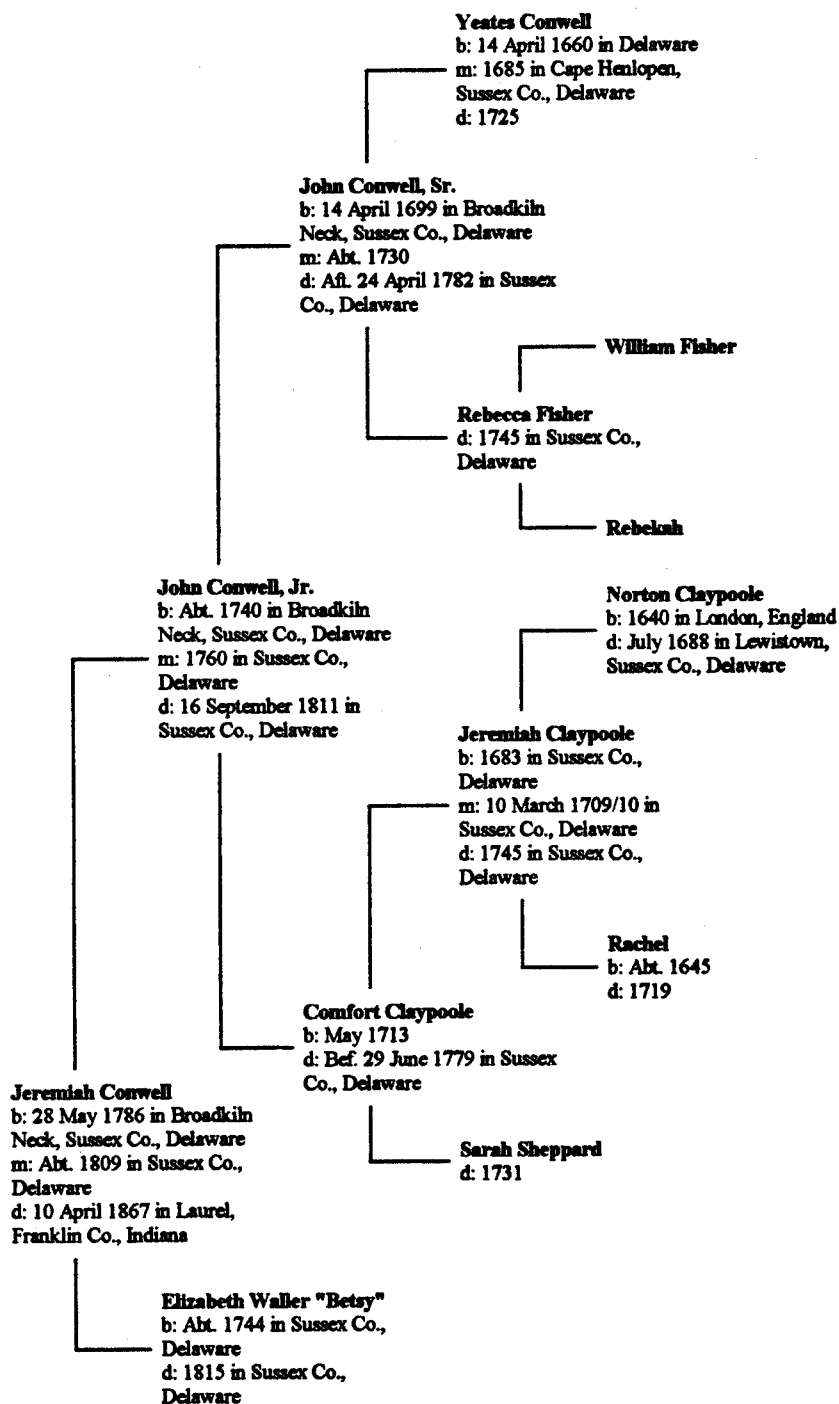
Without the help of many people who have generously taken the time to render assistance, this genealogy could not have been compiled.

My sincere thanks go to all the cousins, two numerous to mention, who have delved into family Bibles, old letters, and their own memories, to fill out data sheets, and have responded patiently to my many follow-up requests.

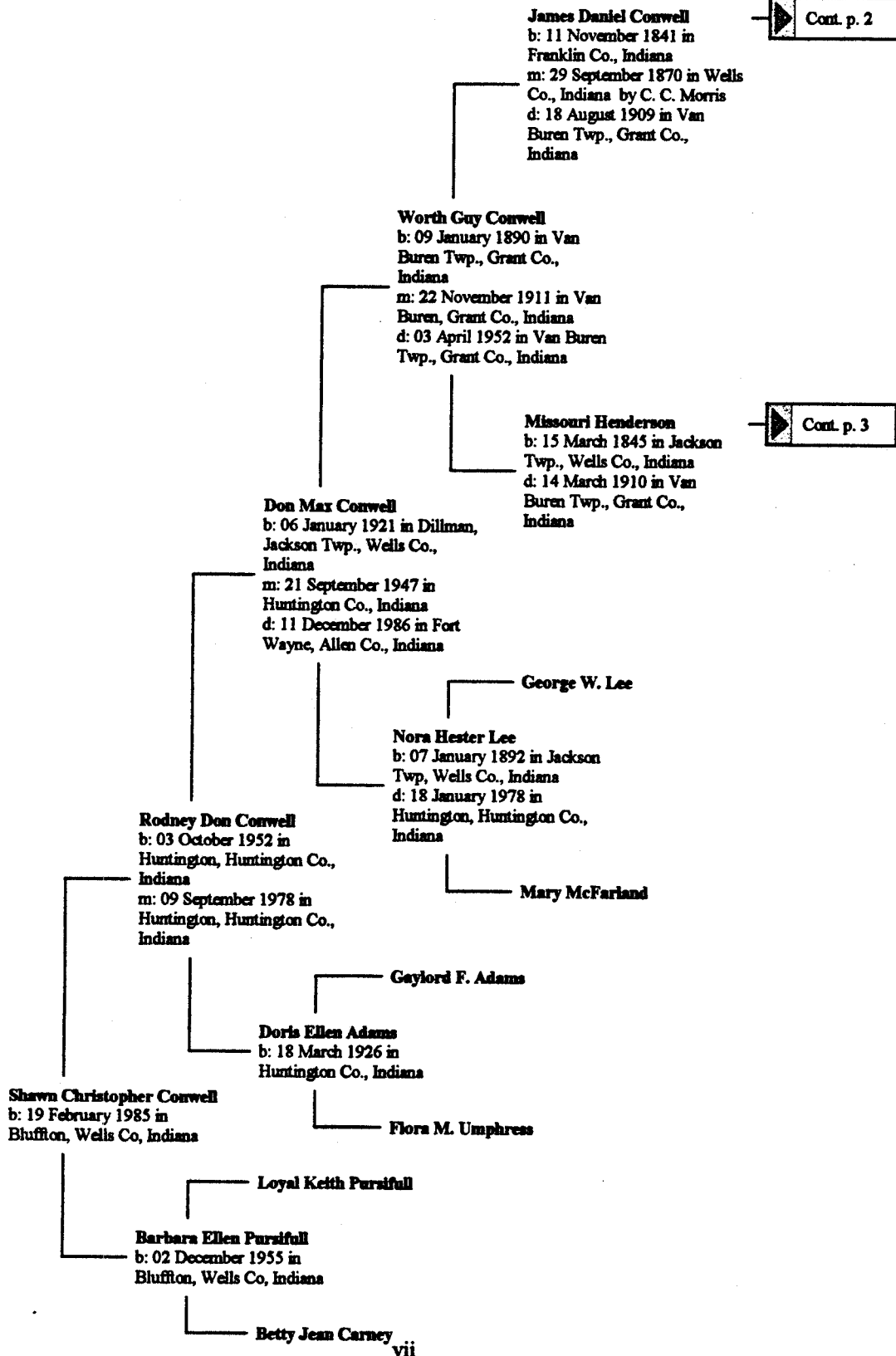
One Conwell genealogist, Mr. T. C. Conwell, author of The Conwells of Dyer's Delight, concentrated on Conwell families who settled first in Sussex County, Delaware. These are the ancestors of our line of Conwells. From this book I have tried to continue with the fourth generation, Jeremiah Conwell son of John Conwell Jr., grandson of John Conwell Sr., and great grandson of Yeates and Rebecca (Fisher) Conwell.

The book The Conwells of Dyer's Delight by T. C. Conwell is in the Allen County Public Library at Fort Wayne, Indiana.

## Ancestors of Jeremiah Conwell



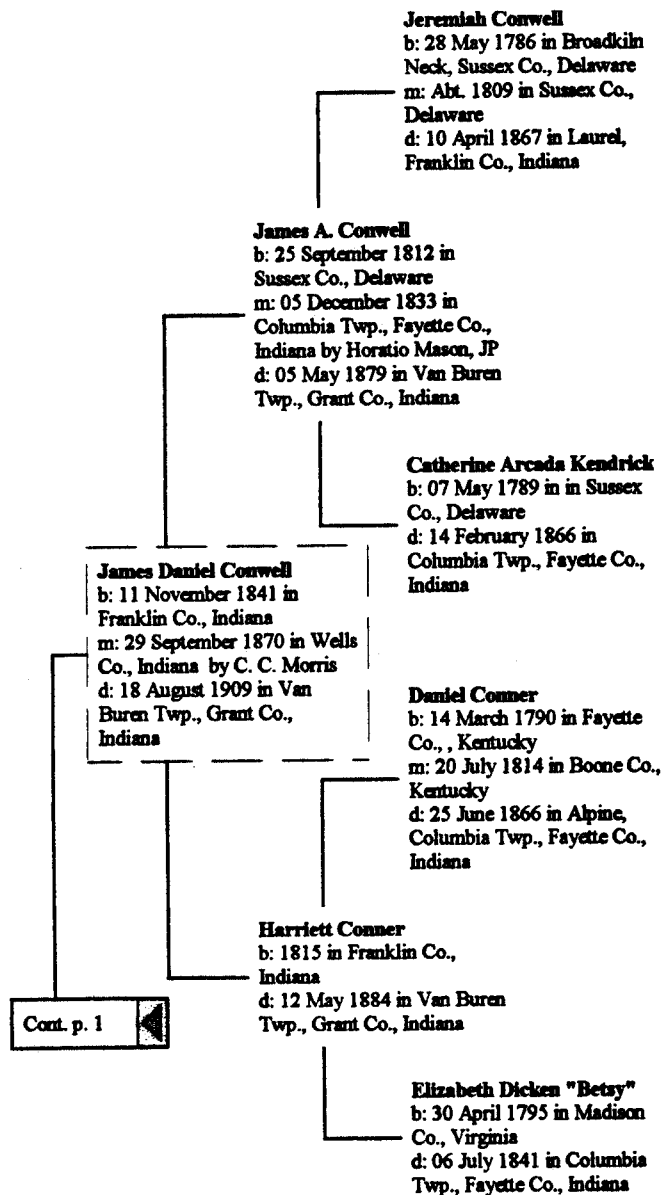
## Ancestors of Shawn Christopher Conwell (1 of 3)



Cont. p. 2

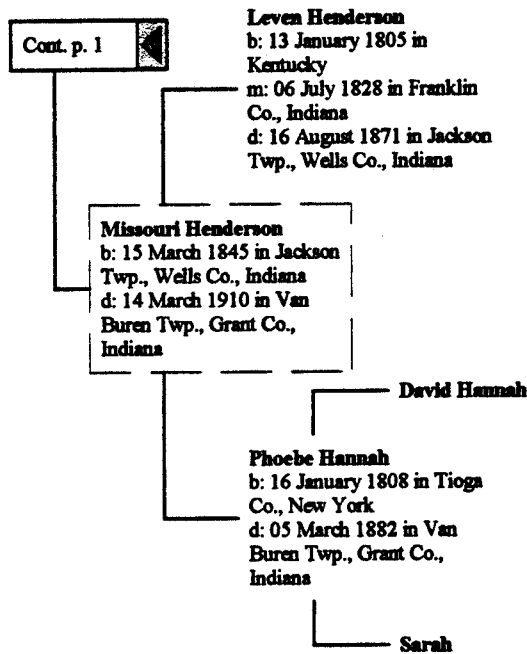
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*Ancestors of Shawn Christopher Conwell (2 of 3)*





*Ancestors of Shawn Christopher Conwell (3 of 3)*



CHAPTER 1

Excerpt from the Vineland Historical Magazine, Vol. 3 No. 3 July 1918  
Written by Oliver D. Conwell, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1918

### THE CONWELL FAMILY

The Pioneers of the family in America consisted of Yeates Conwell and Rebecca his wife. The vessel on which they came from Europe entered Delaware Bay on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 1699 and anchored at Reedy Island. They landed in Delaware, a few miles west of the town of Lewes, and settled in Broadkilm Neck, Sussex County. These facts are recorded in an old family bible by George Conwell, a son of Elias and a grandson of Yeates Conwell.

Tradition says that their second son John was born on the vessel in the bay the day before they landed. This son is the ancestor of our Jeremiah Conwell. An older son, William, who accompanied them across, is believed to have been born in England. They later had a third son, Elias, and a daughter Hannah. All four of these children married and had families. The daughter, Hannah, married Abraham Gum.

Mrs. Yeates Conwell's father, William Fisher, lived at Lewes and in 1705 deeded them one thousand acres of land in Broadkilm Hundred, the deed for the same being on record at Georgetown, Delaware. This land was subsequently divided up into several farms and was occupied by their descendants for many generations.

In early days what is now Milton was known as Conwell's Landing. The firm of Coulter and Conwell built the first grist mill which was for over a century a leading industry of the town.

No records have so far been found stating where Yeates Conwell and his wife lived prior to their leaving Europe, although there are a number of Conwell families scattered throughout both Ireland and England. As there are more Conwells in Ireland than in England it seems reasonable to hazard the guess that our original ancestor came from there. But it is only a guess although numerous and extensive efforts have been made to settle this point positively.

The Conwell family of Colonial days was closely connected with the Claypoole family of England, descendants of John Claypoole, Knighted by King James I in 1604. His descendants, James Claypoole, of the fifth generation, landed in Philadelphia in 1683, and Norton Claypoole in Lewes, Delaware in 1678. Three of Norton Claypoole's grand-daughters were connected by marriage with Yeates Conwell's three sons. Comfort Claypoole married John Conwell, Sr., Rachel married Elias Conwell and Elizabeth married William Conwell's eldest son Thomas.

Betsy Ross, the famous widow, after making the first American flag, married a John Claypoole and four of their daughters grew up and married. Although there seemed to be a strong attraction for each other between the Conwell boys and the Claypoole girls, resulting in several weddings, it does not appear that any Conwell, so far, has courted and married a descendant of Betsy Ross Claypoole, the maker of the first flag.

William, the oldest son of Yeates Conwell, left two sons, Thomas and Yeates. Thomas left two sons, William and John. These two sons sold their Delaware farms and settled in Fayette County, Pennsylvania in 1767 and cleared land in the virgin forests, depending upon hunting wild game for food. In 1774 the two brothers built a fort, or block-house, on Dunlap's Creek to shield themselves from the Indians. This was known as "Fort Conwell" and for years was a retreat for safety, and each brother is said to have had a daughter born within this fort. They took part in the Revolutionary war, William serving as a Captain, or Rangers, on the frontier. His three sons, Thomas, William and Prettyman moved to the Ohio wilderness in October 1827, locating in Tuscarawas County.

Elias, the youngest son of Yeates Conwell, married Rachel Claypoole and they had ten children. Their descendants are found throughout Delaware, in southern Indiana and Ohio and other parts of the west. The late John T. and Asa F. Conwell of Milton, Dr. L. S. and Prof. Chas. S. Conwell of near Dover, Delaware, William C. Conwell, Esq. of Baltimore and the late John A. Conwell of Indiana, belong to this branch.

John Sr., the second son of Yeates, was married twice and left six children, five being sons. He seems to have more descendants than either of his brothers, William and Elias. They are found, not only in Delaware, but in various localities both east and west as far as California.

One of them wandered from his native town in Delaware and like the immortal George Washington, "crossed the Delaware," and settled in Vineland, New Jersey, where he was elected Mayor twice.

Among the numerous "members of the family are to be found Professors, Lawyers, Preachers, Doctors and men of affairs. Their names are found among the Alumni of Yale, Princeton, University of Pittsburgh, Vassar and other institutions of learning.

Nearly all the Conwells in America can be traced as the descendants of Yeates and Rebekah, although there are several families of the name scattered over the country, mostly of more recent arrival, which we have never been able to connect up with the original. One such branch is traced to the vicinity of Xenia, Ohio, where one John Conwell was born in 1740 and who has numerous descendants.

Another John Conwell lived at Zanesville, Ohio, and has several descendants, and a third family located at Cadiz, Ohio, are apparently descended from one Hiram Conwell.

Bishop Conwell, one of the most influential leaders of the Catholic faith, resided in Philadelphia for many years prior to the civil war. He came direct from Ireland, accompanied by relatives of the same name and their descendants found chiefly in eastern Pennsylvania.

Rev. Russell H. Conwell, the eminent author, lecturer preacher and educator, is of New England ancestry.

Several families of Conwells live in Virginia and the south and some of these, we have reasons to believe, belong to the Delaware pioneer settlers.

The data collected covers thousands of descendants and at the present time there are hundreds, if not thousands of living descendants scattered all over the United States. Yet the name is a rare one and seldom met, but wherever found it almost invariably means honesty, industry and good citizenship.

## (1)CONWELL, YEATES

## REBECCA (FISHER) CONWELL &amp; YEATES CONWELL

Husband (1)Yeates Conwell  
 Birth 14 April 1660 in Delaware  
 Death 1725 in Sussex Co., Delaware  
 Will Yeates Will dated 10 December 1725 - probated 22 December 1725.

Burial

Father

Mother

Occupation

Church

Married In 1685 at Cape Henlopen, Sussex Co., Delaware

Other Wives, (if any)

Wife (1)Rebecca (Fisher) Conwell

Birth

Children Four

Church

Death 1745 in Sussex Co., Delaware

Will Dated 7 October 1745 probated 20 April 1746

Burial

Father William Fisher

Mother Rebekah/Rebecca Fisher

Other Husb.(if any) 2<sup>nd</sup> - William Cornwallis

Settled in Broadkilm Neck, Sussex Co., Delaware

Children: (2)

1. William Conwell - a firm date of his birth has not been found. Abt. 1697 in England. Died in 1730 in Sussex Co., Delaware.
2. John Conwell, Sr. - born 14 April 1699, Broadkill Hundred, Sussex Co., Delaware. Died 24 April 1782 in Sussex Co., Delaware.
3. Elias Conwell - born abt. 1709 - In 1774 Elias made a deposition that he was "aged 65 years or thereabouts". Another source - born in Sussex Co., Delaware 10 Oct. 1715. Elias died in 1782 in Sussex Co., Delaware.
4. Hannah Conwell - No information has been discovered about her place of birth or birth date. As Hannah Conwell she was named in the 10 December 1725 Will of her grandfather, William Fisher.

Married:

1. Sarah Smith on 21 August 1726.
2. 1<sup>st</sup> - Comfort Claypoole abt. 1730  
2<sup>nd</sup> - Susanah Grove on 29 June 1779 in Sussex Co., Delaware
3. Rachel Claypoole on 25 August 1740 in Sussex Co., Delaware.
4. 1<sup>st</sup> - Abraham Gum  
2<sup>nd</sup> -

Yeates and Rebecca's birth places, dates of birth and date and place of marriage have not been proven.

One source says - After his marriage, Yeates Conwell and his wife went to England or Ireland, but they returned to America with their son William. The vessel on which they arrived entered Delaware Bay on 15 April 1699 and anchored at Reedy Island. They landed in Delaware a few miles west of the town of Milton, and settled in Broadkin Neck, Sussex County, Delaware. These facts are recorded in an old family Bible by George Conwell, son of Elias and grandson of Yeates Conwell.

On 1 May 1705, William Fisher conveyed to his daughter, in a deed of gift, 1000 acres of land.

Where was information on this sheet obtained?

The Conwells of Dyer's Delight by T. C. Conwell, 1984. Murray-Conwell Genealogy and other Allied Families by Lawrence and Lombard 1936.

Mike Sapp lineage. Delaware Public Archives. Sussex Co., Delaware Genealogy Sources. Calendar of Sussex Co., Delaware. Will of William Fisher, Esq. Jeremiah Claypoole Will, and Rebekah Cornwallis Will. Colonial Delaware Records 1681-1713 by Bruce A. Bendler.

(2)CONWELL, JOHN, SR.

COMFORT (CLAYPOOLE) CONWELL & JOHN CONWELL, SR.

Husband (2)John Conwell, Sr.  
 Birth 14 April 1699 in Broodkilm Neck, Sussex Co., Delaware  
 Death Between 24 April 1782 and 22 July 1782 in Sussex Co., Delaware. Will dated 24 April 1782 - allowed on 22 July 1782.  
 Burial  
 Father (1)Yeates Conwell  
 Mother (1)Rebecca (Fisher) Conwell  
 Occupation Farmer and owned land  
 Church  
 Military  
 Married abt. 1730  
 Other Wives(if any) 2<sup>nd</sup> Susanah Grove on 29 June 1779 - daughter of Thomas Grove

Wife (2) 1<sup>st</sup> - Comfort (Claypoole) Conwell  
 Birth She was baptized in Christ Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on 31 May 1713  
 Children Six  
 Church  
 Death Date of her death is not known though it was before 29 June 1779 in Sussex Co., Delaware.  
 Burial  
 Father (1)Jeremiah Claypoole  
 Mother (1)Sarah (Sheppard) Claypoole  
 Occupation  
 Other Husb.(if any)

Settled in - Patented land in Delaware in 1727 and part owner of land in Queen Anne Co., Maryland.

Children: (3)

1. William Fisher Conwell - born in 1732 in Broadkilm Neck, Sussex Co., Delaware  
Died 20 February 1782 in Sussex Co., Delaware.
2. Joseph Conwell - born 1734 in Broadkilm Neck, Sussex Co., Delaware. Died before his father in 1782.
3. David Conwell - born - abt. 1736 in Broadkilm Neck, Sussex Co., Delaware.  
Died 1778 in Delaware.
4. Elias Conwell - born 28 April 1738 in Broadkilm Neck, Sussex Co., Delaware.  
Died before 1782.
5. John Conwell, Jr. - born abt. 1740 ('nearly 55 in 1794" Chancery Court) in



Broadkiln Neck, Sussex Co., Delaware.

Died 1811 in Sussex Co., Delaware.

6. Lydia Conwell born 10 June 1743 in Broadkiln Neck, Sussex Co., Delaware.  
Died 8 July 1834 in Pennsylvania.

Married:

1. 1<sup>st</sup> - Rebecca Claypoole on 2 November 1752 in Christ Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.  
2<sup>nd</sup> - Mrs. Sarah Lewis on 9 January 1780 in Sussex Co., Delaware.
2. Ruth Miller on 13 June 1758 in Christ Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
3. Mary Houston
- 4.
5. Elizabeth Waller "Betsy" in 1760 in Sussex Co., Delaware.
6. Thomas W. Coulter in October 1762.

Where was information on this sheet obtained?

Deeds - Sussex Co., Delaware to John Conwell, Jr. on 23 Apr. 1782 -  
1275 acres.

Mention - son David Conwell - deceased.. Granddaughter Hannah Conwell,  
daughter of his son David..

The Conwells of Dyer's Delight by T. C. Conwell, 1984. The Reconstructed  
Delaware State Census of 1782.

## (2)CONWELL, JOHN SR.

## SUSANAH(GROVE) CONWELL &amp; JOHN CONWELL, SR.

Husband (2)John Conwell, Sr.  
 Birth 14 April 1699 in Broodkilm Neck, Sussex Co., Delaware  
 Death Between 24 April 1782 and 22 July 1782 in Sussex Co., Delaware  
 His Will dated 24 April 1782 - allowed on 22 July 1782.  
 Burial  
 Father (1)Yeates Conwell  
 Mother (1)Rebecca (Fisher) Conwell  
 Occupation Farmer and owned land  
 Church  
 Military  
 Married 29 June 1779 in Sussex Co., Delaware by Parker, Esqr.  
 Other Wives(if any) 1<sup>st</sup> - Comfort (Claypoole) Conwell  
 Wife (2) 2<sup>nd</sup> - Susanah (Grove) Conwell  
 Birth  
 Children  
 Church  
 Death By 1787  
 Burial  
 Father  
 Mother  
 Other Husb.(if any)

Settled at

Children:

Married:

Where was the information on this sheet obtained?

The Conwells of Dyer's Delight by T. C. Conwell, 1984

Leses &amp; Coolspring Presbyterian Church records, Lewes, Sussex Co., Delaware.

Delaware - 1782 Tax Assessment and Census Lists

(3)CONWELL, JOHN JR.

ELIZABETH (WALLER) CONWELL "BETSY" & JOHN CONWELL, JR.

Husband (3)John Conwell, Jr.  
 Birth Abt. 1740 in Broadkilm Neck, Sussex Co., Delaware  
 ("nearly 55 in 1794" Chancery Court)  
 Death 16 September 1811 in Sussex Co., Delaware  
 Burial  
 Will Dated 21 August 1811  
 Father (2)John Conwell  
 Mother (2)Comfort (Claypoole) Conwell  
 Occupation A sailor and ship owner on the coast of Delaware  
 Church  
 Military He was a Lieutenant Colonel in Revolution - Delaware Militia  
 Married 1760 in Sussex Co., Delaware  
 Other Wives(if any) none

Wife (3)Elizabeth (Waller) Conwell "Betsy"  
 Birth Abt. 1744 in Sussex Co., Delaware  
 Children Nine  
 Church  
 Death 1815 in Sussex Co., Delaware  
 Burial  
 Father (2)  
 Mother (2)  
 Occupation  
 Other Husb.(if any)

Settled in Sussex Co., Delaware

Children: (4)

1. Mary Conwell - born abt 1762 in Broadkilm Neck, Sussex Co., Delaware  
 Died - by 1811.
2. John Conwell "66" - born 17 September 1766 in Broadkilm Neck, Sussex  
 Co., Delaware. Died 20 February 1840 in Sussex Co., Delaware.
3. Charles Conwell - born 11 June 1769 in Broadkilm Neck, Sussex Co.,  
 Delaware. Died 23 January 1790 in Sussex Co., Delaware.
4. Betty or Betsy Conwell - born February 1772 in Broadkilm Neck, Sussex  
 Co., Delaware. Died by 1811.
5. George Conwell - born 21 June 1773 in Broadkilm Neck, Sussex Co.,  
 Delaware. Baptized May 1774 (Presbyterian records). Died 30 July  
 1831.
6. Deborah Conwell - born abt. 1776 in Broadkilm Neck, Sussex Co.,

## Delaware.

7. William Conwell - born 12 October 1778 in Broadkilm Neck, Sussex Co., Delaware. Died 2 January 1841 in Sussex Co., Delaware. Buried with Lydia at Conwell Cemetery, Dyer's Delight, Sussex Co., Delaware. Was a Captain on his vessel.
8. Sarah Conwell - born abt. 1781 in Broadkilm Neck, Sussex Co., Delaware.
9. Jeremiah Conwell - born 28 May 1786 in Broadkilm Neck, Sussex Co., Delaware. Died 10 April 1867 in Laurel, Franklin Co., Indiana.

## Married

1. Augustus Miller                      Their child was Rebecca Miller
2. Sarah Waller in 1787 in Sussex Co., Delaware
3. Sallie Bell (Sally or Sarah) in October 1789 in Sussex Co., Delaware
4. Milby Simpler
5. Hannah Gum on 10 February 1795
6. John Rowland on 12 January 1802 in Sussex Co., Delaware.
7. Lydia Stevenson on 25 April 1802 in Sussex Co., Delaware.
- 8.
9. Catherine Arcada Kendrick abt. 1809 in Sussex Co., Delaware.

Note: John Conwell, Jr's, two brothers David and William Fisher fought in the American Revolution.

Where was information on this sheet obtained?

The Conwells of Dyer's Delight by T. C. Conwell, 1984. Central Pennsylvania Genealogy Magazine March 1931. Probate record - John's dated 1811 and Elizabeth dated 1816. DAR Patriot Index - Centennial Edition - Part 1 page 647.