

THE  
MURRAY - CONWELL  
GENEALOGY  
and  
ALLIED FAMILIES

“Good reader, blame not the wrytter for that that is myssing  
in this Booke is not his faulte. What he hath founde . . . as  
nere as possybell he coulde he hath sett down.”

English Parish Register of 1582.

Compiled by  
MAUDE LEVERING LAWRENCE  
and  
GERALDINE LAWRENCE LOMBARD

*Available from:*

**HIGGINSON BOOK COMPANY**  
14 Derby Square, P.O. Box 778  
Salem, Massachusetts 01970  
(508)745-7170

This facsimile reprint has been photoreproduced on acid-free paper.  
Hardcover bindings are archival quality.

## *Preface*

Whether a Preface adds anything to the interest of the contents of the book, either history, fiction or genealogy, is a matter of opinion, and I am inclined to agree with Mr. Edward Eggleston, a Hoosier, when he says in his book "The End of The World", "It is a pretty unanimous conclusion of book-writers that prefaces are most unnecessary and useless prependages, since nobody reads them." However, it may be interesting to the readers of this genealogy, when I tell them I have been thirty years in securing the data for this book. At times it was discouraging: Many letters I wrote to many members of the Conwell Family were never answered, and the stamps enclosed were never returned, as it would take another stamp to do so.

I feel particularly grateful to Mrs. Percy Lawrence and her daughter, Mrs. Geraldine L. Lombard of Minneapolis, in type-writing and arranging this book; also Mrs. Edward Feldhauser in Saint Paul, who spent days with me in the Historical Society's Library in looking up my Family Tree, and to Mr. Rollin Conwell of Newark, N. J., for the beautiful Chart he made for me in showing his Conwell Ancestors—to all of these people and others I am very appreciative.

My book has been exceedingly interesting, bringing me in touch with connection of some of my ancestors. My Grandfather Conwell must have been an unusual man, having done so much for the towns of Laurel and Seaford, Delaware, as well as Laurel, Indiana. If any of his descendants were mean and unreliable, I did not discover it in looking up information for my genealogy, but like virtues often unrecognized until after our loved ones are gone, they managed to keep their meanness under cover.

WINIFRED CONWELL MURRAY MILNE.

September 14, 1938.

## THE CONWELL FAMILY

The surname Cornwell is a variation of Cornwall, and Conwell seems to be a shortening of Cornwell, rare or wanting in English records. Roysa de Cornewell is in the Hundred Rolls of County Oxford, A. D. 1273, and means "of Cornwall," the most southwesterly County of England.

The Conwell family is numbered among the old families of America, its first settlers having come over in the early Colonial days.

### FIRST GENERATION

1. WILLIAM CONWELL, the progenitor of this branch of the family in America, was born in Essex County, England in 1615. He was one of the many cavaliers who went to the Barbadoes, in the West Indies, the second possession of England at that time, to escape the "Democratic evils in England during the great Civil War."

In the articles called "Cavaliers and Pioneers of Virginia," is found the statement that "William Conwell, aged twenty, and Thomas King, both from London, went to the Barbadoes November 20, 1635." It was Captain John King of Chester, England, who carried many of these cavaliers in his good ship, "The Falcon," in 1635 and 1636. Among those who accompanied William Conwell to the Barbadoes were his brother, John Conwell, and Robert and John Yeates, all of whom are later to be found in the early Virginia records. They took up land and first appear in York and Princess Anne Counties, and then later they took up other land in Westmoreland County where they figure in the recorded wills.

The name of the wife of this first William Conwell is not known; nor are the dates of their deaths. It is very probable that he had more than the five children listed below, but these

facts are also unascertained. Except for the first child, the order of their births is not positive.

Issue:

William, of whom there are no records other than that of his being the first child of his father.

Peter, born about 1636/7. On June 15, 1675, "Andrew Gilson of Stafford County, Gent., sold to Peter Cornwell a tract of land on the south side of Rappahannock River, adjoining the land of Robert Payne and Valentine Allen—1050 acres. Robert Hoswon witnessed the Deed." Stafford County, Virginia, was originally part of Westmoreland County, Virginia.

2. Francis, born about 1638; died in 1691.

John, married, January 5, 1698/9, Elizabeth Tucker. He bought land in Sussex County, Delaware on March 26, 1676. On April 1, 1686, William Cornethwaite granted 500 acres to John Cornwell of the County of York, Virginia, and Edward Atkinson also granted 500 acres to John Cornwell. This immense tract of land was taken up by the said Cornwell on Brandywine Creek in the fourth month of 1687.

(Virginia Magazine, June 6, 1930, p. 184.

Pennsylvania Archives, Series II, Vol. XIX, p. 520.

Virginia Colonial Records, edited by Crozier, Vol. IV, p. 81.

## SECOND GENERATION

2. FRANCIS CONWELL (William 1) was born about 1638 and died in 1691.

The exact date of his removal from Virginia to Delaware is not known, but it was after his marriage which took place in Westmoreland or Rappahannock County, Virginia. His name is sometimes found in the old records as "Cornwall" and "Cornwell", and it is stated that he was an early colonist of Delaware.

In 1664 Delaware became a part of Pennsylvania because William Penn secured rights over Delaware by patent at the same time as he received the Pennsylvania grant from the Duke of York. Until the Revolution, the territory of Delaware was governed under the same proprietary.

In a list of officers for the three lower counties of Pennsylvania is found the name of Francis Cornwell as a sheriff of Sussex County in 1686, under William Penn. He was suspended from this office the same year, possibly because on April 9, 1686 he was appointed a Justice of Peace. According to his affidavit, he was High Sheriff of Sussex County before 1681 and continued in that office until after 1686, but his name is not found in the lists other than at the times named.

The estate of Francis Conwell was settled in November 1691 and was administered upon in 1694 by Justice Westcott.

Francis Conwell married, in Westmoreland or Rappahannock County, Virginia, Mary, daughter of Elias and Mary (Hudson) Yeates.

Issue:

3. Yeates, born April 4, 1660; died 1729/30.

4. Francis, Jr.; married Mary.

Mary; married Rice Wolfe. On January 7, 1706 Rice Wolfe "Petitioned the Court That whereas he had Intermarried with Mary the daughter of Francis Conwell (Intestate) Decd That he may be Ordered his Proportionable Part of the sd. Estate both Reall and Personal according as the Law Directs."

(Pennsylvania Archives, Series II, Vol. IX, pp. 661, 664; Vol. XIX, p. 623.

Old Court Records, Sussex County Deeds, Liber Q, pp. 34, 130, 142.

Turner: Some Records of Sussex County, Delaware, p. 130.

Scharf: History of Delaware, Vol. II, pp. 1210, 1211.

Publications of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, Vol. II, pp. 121, 134.

Vineland (N. J.) Historical Magazine, Vol. III, p. 50.

### THIRD GENERATION

3. YEATES CONWELL (Francis 2) was born in Delaware on April 14, 1660 and died about 1728 or 1729.

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 came entered Delaware Bay on April 15, 1699 and anchored at Reedy Island. They landed in Delaware a few miles west of the town of Milton, and settled in Broadkiln Neck, Sussex County. These facts are recorded in an old family Bible by George Conwell, son of Elias and grandson of Yeates Conwell. This information reads as follows:

"Grandfather Yeates Conwell & Rebukah his wife to North A Mericay April 15th, 1699—anker at Redy Island the same day they come—Drawn from an old book he fetch with him. George het—."

Tradition says that their second child was born on the vessel in the Bay the day before they landed.

In 1685, at Cape Henlopen, Delaware, Yeates Conwell married Rebecca, daughter of William and Edith Fisher. As her second husband, she married William Cornwallis, alias Riddledon of Grey's Inn, County Middlesex, England, Esquire, and of Sussex-on-Delaware. Rebecca Fisher (Conwell) Cornwallis executed her will on October 7, 1745 and it was proved on April 20, 1746. In it she names her sons John and Elias Conwell, her daughter Hannah Gum, her grandson Thomas Conwell and her grandson Yeates Conwell.

Because his wife, as Rebecca Cornwallis, conveyed land to their sons William and John Conwell in April of 1729, Yeates Conwell probably died about 1728 or 1729.

Issue:

5. William; married, August 21, 1726, Sarah.
6. John, born April 14, 1699; died in 1782.
7. Elias, born October 10, 1715.  
Hannah; married Abraham Gum.

(Old Court Records, Liber A, Sussex County Wills, folio 417, 418.

Queen Anne County Deeds, I, K, No. 6, folio 218.

Vineland (N. J.) Historical Magazine, Vol. III, p. 50.

## 4. FRANCIS CONWELL, JR. (Francis 2) married Mary.

It is thought that they went to England and Ireland with his brother and sister-in-law, Yeates and Rebecca Conwell, because at a quarterly meeting for the County of Philadelphia, held at the meeting house upon the front of Delaware on the 3rd of the 7th month, 1687, a communication was received from the meeting of Ulster in Ireland, concerning Francis and Mary Cornwall. Robert Turner and William Southerby were directed to lay it before the Yearly Meeting.

On the records for the 25th day of the 3rd month, 1688, is inscribed this information: "This day two papers, one from Francis Cornwall, and the other subscribed by Thomas Wynn and William Clark concerning the aforesaid Cornwall, was read and not well approved."

His estate was settled by Order of the Court in September of 1708. His widow, Mary Wescott, was administratrix.

"September 6, 1709. Mary Wescott widow and adstratix of Francis Cornwell gent. decd. appeared and according to a former Order of the Court in Sept 1708 forthwith Devided between ye two Heirs Francis and Mary by a Jury of twelve men & Captn Pemperton Surveror." This was referred to the Orphan's Court. According to this division, Francis Conwell and his wife had only one child.

## Issue:

Francis III, born near Lewes, Delaware, March 14, 1687/8.

"Francis Cornwell, of Sussex County, in a Petition or Cavet Sets forth that his late ffather, FFrancis Cornwell, many Year since obtained a Grant for 100 acres of Marsh in the said County (on Rent, viz't, 1 d Sterling p. acre), but by some supposed mistake either in the Patent or Returne his Neighb'r, David Gray, by a late Warr't hath run Considerably into the said Marsh, wherefore the said FFrancis desires a Warrant to resurvey the same and that he may have liberty to purchase the overplus, if any be within the Lines of his Patent, and desires that David Gray may not have a Confirma'on for any Part of the said Marsh till his Return be made and himself further heard upon the Premisses.



A Warrant of Resurvey is accordingly signed, dated ye 13th, 11 mo., 1717."

(Turner: Some Records of Sussex County, Delaware, p. 132.

Pennsylvania Archives, Series II, Vol. XIX, p. 623.

#### FOURTH GENERATION

5. WILLIAM CONWELL (Yeates 3) married, August 21, 1726, Sarah. He had land in Queen Anne County, Maryland, conveyed to him and his brother John by their mother, Rebecca Cornwallis on April 2, 1729. As William Conwell is not named in his mother's will, which was made in 1745, it is likely that he died before she did. Sarah, the wife of William Conwell, died about 1730.

Issue:

8. Thomas, born November 13, 1727.

Yeates, born February 29, 1729.

(Turner: Some Records of Sussex County, Delaware, p. 132.

Queen Anne County Deeds, I, K, No. 6, folio 218.

Vineland (N. J.) Historical Magazine, Vol. III, p. 51.

Publications of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, Vol. III, p. 271.

6. JOHN CONWELL (Yeates 3) was born April 14, 1699 and died in Sussex County, Delaware between April 24 and July 22 of the year 1782. He was the child, according to tradition, who was born on board ship in Delaware Bay the day before his parents anchored upon their return from England.

He patented land in Delaware in 1727, and then became a part owner of some land in Queen Anne County, Maryland, which was conveyed to him and his brother William by their mother, Rebecca Cornwallis on April 2, 1729.