

**WILLIAM CORNWALL AND HIS DESCENDANTS:
A GENEALOGICAL HISTORY OF THE FAMILY
OF WILLIAM CORNWALL, ONE OF THE
PURITAN FOUNDERS OF NEW ENGLAND, WHO
CAME TO AMERICA IN OR BEFORE THE YEAR
1633, AND DIED IN MIDDLETOWN,
CONNECTICUT, IN THE YEAR 1678**

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William Cornwall and his descendants: a genealogical history of the family of William Cornwall, one of the Puritan founders of New England, who came to America in or before the year 1633, and died in Middletown, Connecticut, in the year 1678 by Edward E. Cornwall

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EDWARD E. CORNWALL

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BY

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PREFACE.

In the following pages is given the history of an average New England family. It begins with a middle class Englishman, a Puritan, who came to New England in the first half of the seventeenth century. His descendants, like the descendants of most of the other Puritan settlers of New England, remained in New England for five or six generations, rapidly multiplying, and then, at the close of the eighteenth century, began to swarm westward. At the present time only a small portion of his descendants are found in New England. The great majority of them are scattered over the northern half of the United States between the Hudson River and the Pacific Ocean, and are particularly numerous in the states of New York, Michigan and Iowa. The history of this New England family in regard to its geographical distribution is an epitome of the history of the whole New England people, who, almost exclusively by the natural increase of a small number of early comers, grew in a century and a half sufficiently numerous to fill their bleak corner of territory, and then, after the Revolution, still rapidly increasing, swarmed westward in a continuous stream, transforming the western wilderness into states of a greater New England, and stamping the Yankee name and character on the whole United States.

The account here given of the emigrant, William Cornwall, and the first five or six generations of his descendants is founded on an extensive examination of early New England records of various sorts, colony, town, church, probate, etc. The account of the more recent generations is chiefly derived from data supplied by correspondents or taken from printed books. No doubt some errors will be found in this work, and for errors that may be found in the account of the early generations the compiler pleads in excuse, that circumstances often compelled him to make very hurriedly the examination of the original records on which that account is founded. For errors found in the history of the later generations he may be not altogether

to blame. And it is not at all his fault that the accounts of some of the recent branches of the family are comparatively meager.

The attempt has been made to include in this book an account of every one of the descendants of William Cornwall born to his surname, and though it has not been successful, the number of those not included is comparatively small.

In nearly all cases the marriages of female members of the family are given, and in a majority of cases an account of their descendants is given for one or more generations.

In the arrangement of the genealogy, simplicity and convenience have been aimed at. After the account of William Cornwall, his descendants are described in regular order to the fifth generation; but the descendants of each one of the fifth generation are given in a bunch, so that those nearly related will find themselves grouped together in the book.

Each descendant of William Cornwall of his surname has a regular number. When he appears as the head of a family this number is inclosed in curves. The plus sign after an individual's name indicates that he will appear farther on as the head of a family. Descendants through females are described immediately after the first mention of their names. The children of each of the females are numbered, 1, 2, 3, etc., her grandchildren, (1), (2), (3), etc., her great-grandchildren, i, ii, iii, etc., and her great-great-grandchildren, *i*, *ii*, *iii*, etc. The abbreviations employed are those in common use.

The book is a history of the family as well as a genealogy. Trivialities, except in the case of the earlier generations, where they are interesting on account of their antiquity, have been to a large extent excluded, but such facts as military services, political honors, academic degrees, particular business success, and other facts of general interest, have been noted as fully as possible. A special attempt has been made to give an account of the services of the twenty-two members of the family who served in the Revolution; and the two Tories of the family have not been overlooked. The only titles mentioned are professional titles, academic titles, and titles which indicate commissions in the army, navy or militia.

In an appendix is given brief accounts of other emigrants of the name of Cornwall who came to America during Colonial

times; also a few notes on early English families of the name, and some facts about the spelling of the name.

The form *Cornwall* has been used uniformly in this book for the spelling of the name, though many of the descendants of William Cornwall still spell it *Cornwell*. In how many other different ways they spelled it formerly may be seen in the appendix. The reasons for using the form *Cornwall* uniformly in this book are first, because the majority of William's descendants at the present time so spell it, and second, because the spelling of this surname should follow the spelling of the name of the English county from which it is derived, which is now fixed as *Cornwall*.

It is a cause of regret to the writer that in this account of the family of William Cornwall he has not been able to include some notice of every one of his descendants of the name. He hopes that those few who are not here included, as they discover themselves, will communicate with him, so that he may include them in a second edition, if that should ever be called for. Any corrections, also, will be gladly received.

There are many persons to whom the writer is greatly indebted for assistance in this compilation. He wishes to acknowledge particular indebtedness to Mrs. Jane M. Taft of Burlington, Vt., to the late Mr. Horace Cornwall of Hartford, Conn., and to his grandfather, Mr. David Cornwall, late of Portland, Conn.

EDWARD E. CORNWALL, M. D.

Brooklyn, N. Y., 1901.

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