

MRS. BEN CORNELL

Etha (Mudge) Cornell

Project Consultant – Hamilton County

ETHA MUDGE, daughter of Israel L. Mudge (1813-1903) and Mary Melissa Olds (1813-1894), was born in January 1856 in Tipton, Cedar County, Iowa. She was married to **BENONI “BEN” CORNELL**, son of Daniel Cornell (1809-1881) and Mariah Hancock (1820-1916), on 11 Jul 1875 in Calhoun County, Iowa. Ben was born in September of 1855 in Boone County, Illinois.

In 1880, Ben and Etha were living in Butler, Calhoun County, Iowa. By 1900, they had moved to Clark, Lincoln County, Missouri, and in 1907, they moved to their farm in Bear Creek, Hamilton County, Kansas. Bear Creek remained their home until about 1936, when they moved to Syracuse, Hamilton County, Kansas, living at the home of their daughter, Blanche Barnett.

Ben died on 4 Jul 1949 in Dodge City, Ford County, Kansas. Etha celebrated her 94th birthday in January of 1950, at the home of her daughter, Beatrice. She died that same year (2 Nov 1950). Ben and Etha's burial was at the Coolidge Cemetery in Coolidge, Hamilton County, Kansas.

Children born in their marriage were:

HUGH BEN CORNELL was born on 31 Jul 1876 in Pomeroy, Calhoun County, Iowa. He was married to Alda Mae Walton, daughter of Randall Rufus Walton and Addie Estelle Leighton, on 23 Nov 1902. During their marriage, Hugh made his living as a manager for the local sawmill lumber company.

Hugh passed away on 14 Sep 1954 in Albany, Linn County, Oregon. Alda died there on 30 Jan 1962. Burial was at the Waverly Memorial Cemetery in Albany.

CLAUDIA CORNELL was born on 17 Jul 1878 in Pomeroy, Calhoun County, Iowa. On 8 Mar 1905, she married Elliot Oglesby Burton, son of George O. Burton and Martha Oaks, in Warren County, Missouri. Elliot was born on 14 Sep 1879 in Wright City, Warren County, Missouri. Three children were born in their marriage: Leigh Burton, Ray Burton, and Isabelle Burton.

Elliot Burton died on 25 Jul 1966 in Castle Rock, Cowlitz County, Washington. Claudia died on 12 May 1969 in Winlock, Lewis County, Washington. Burial for both was at the Winlock Cemetery.

NELLIE CORNELL was born, and died in 1880. (*Census records reveal... there were three other children who were born and died at birth or close to birth.*)

LEW G. CORNELL was born on 5 Jan 1885 in Pomeroy, Calhoun County, Iowa. He married Mary Alice Perkins, daughter of Alexander Perkins (1865-1940) and Mary

Alice Ward (1866-1942). Mary Alice was born on 29 Dec 1897 in the state of Kansas.

Lew worked as a farmer when their home was still in Bear Creek, Hamilton County, Kansas. By 1930, they had moved to Stillwater, Lewis County, Washington. They were still living there in 1950 and Lew was working at a Lumber Mill. He passed away on 31 Aug 1958 at the home of his daughter, Frances (Cornell) Davis, in Olympia, Thurston County, Washington. Mary Alice died on 25 Aug 1983 in Longview, Cowlitz County, Washington.

Besides their daughter, Frances, Lew & Mary Alice had five other daughters, Georgia (Cornell) Macki, Etha (Cornell) Jones, Bessie (Cornell) Korpi, Bonnie (Cornell) Leisi, and Mary Ellen (Cornell) Sherman. They had three sons, Robert Cornell, Lester Cornell, and LeRoy Cornell. Burial for Lew and Mary Alice was at the Winlock Cemetery in Winlock, Lewis County, Washington.

RALPH CORNELL was born on 29 May 1886 in Pomeroy, Calhoun County, Iowa. In the year 1900, Ralph was single and owned a farm in Clark, Lincoln County, Missouri. In 1910, he owned a farm in Bear Creek, Hamilton County, Kansas, and by 1918, he had moved to San Joaquin, Fresno County, California. The last known record found for Ralph Cornell was a World War 1 Draft Registration Card, dated 12 Sep 1918.

BEATRICE M. CORNELL was born 17 Sep 1890. She died in February 1967. Her burial was at the Coolidge Cemetery in Coolidge, Hamilton County, Kansas.

BLANCHE CORNELL was born on 4 Sep 1894 in Pomeroy, Calhoun County, Iowa. In 1914, Blanch was teaching at the Kline School in Colorado. She was married to Jesse Earl Barnett, son of Edward Barnett and Minnie Ann Tolle, on 24 Jan 1918. Two known children were born in their marriage: Beryl B. Barnett (1924-1928) and Barbara Barnett Merrill (1927-2004).

Jesse Barnett died on 6 Apr 1928. Blanche died in 1982 in Casper, Wyoming, while living with her daughter (Barbara) and son-in-law (Wendell Merrill). Jesse and Blanche's burial was at the Coolidge Cemetery in Coolidge, Hamilton County, Kansas.

RAY RUPPERT CORNELL was born on 22 Feb 1901 in Wright City, Warren County, Missouri. He was married to Ruby Sophia Seal, daughter of John Wesley Seal (1869-1941) and Iva May Wilkins (1880-1955) on 13 Feb 1925 in La Junta, Otero County, Colorado. Ruby was born on 27 Sep 1906 in Syracuse, Hamilton County, Kansas and died on 4 Jul 1997 in Wallace, Shoshone County, Idaho.

Ray Cornell passed away on 28 Jun 1989. Seven children were born in their marriage: Etha Mae Cornell Parker Porterfield (1925-1999), Fanny Cornell Moulton Merritt (About 1927), Alice Marie Cornell (1928-1944), Daisy Catherine Cornell Critchfield Baker (1932-2006), George Cornell (About 1934), Rachel Lois Cornell Owens (About 1936) and Harold Cornell (1939-2002).

INTERESTING NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

The Topeka (Kansas) State Journal, 3 Sep 1914

MULES DARKEN KANSAS TOWN

RUN INTO AN ELECTRIC LIGHT POLE AND DESTROY NIGHT SERVICE

Kinsley, 2 Sep – Ben Cornell of the Syracuse area, who was in town this week selling mules, became mixed up in a runaway and was pretty badly shaken up. He was standing by his wagon with the lines in his hand when a boy rode by on a bicycle and frightened his team. They started to run down the street, dragging Mr. Cornell, and finally stopped after taking out an electric light pole.

The electric wires fell onto the telephone wires and put the street lights out of commission for the evening.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

The Manhattan (Kansas) Mercury News – Sunday, 8 Aug 1948

Possibly the oldest married couple in Kansas is Mr. and Mrs. Ben Cornell, of Syracuse, who have been married 73 years. They were married on 11 Jul 1875. Mrs. Cornell was 92 years old in January of this year, and Mr. Cornell will be 94 in September. Both are in reasonably good health.