

Thomas Smith Cornell

Born: 9/5/1832 in
Pontiac, MI

Died:

Period of Service: Civil War
Sources: DCA 11/19/1863
Cornell Family History and
addendum

One of men from Washington Island drafted in the 11/20/1862 call-up, but declined because he was a non-resident. Some of James Cornell's family continued to live on St. Martin's Island (the next island north of Rock Island, and is in Michigan). Also on a 9/17/1863 call-up, and again on the final call-up in March 30, 1865. Since the Civil War ended two weeks later, he probably never served.

He was the second son of James and Elizabeth and was 18 when his parents moved to Lemont, Illinois along with their eight children. On March 4, 1857 Thomas married Anna Marie Steward in DuPage county, IL. Anna's older sister had married Thomas' older brother Joseph a month earlier, Feb 4, 1857. Some records show the name as Stewart, not Steward, which the Downers Grove record shows. Anna was 19 at the time. Thomas and Anna had their first child in Illinois on July 29, 1859. Shortly thereafter they were living on St. Martin's. Anna P was their second child born in 1861 on St. Martin's and Edwin Albert was their third born on Washington Island in 1864, where they had built a log home, a picture of which hangs in the Washington Island Farm Museum.

Thomas was a fisherman and could read and write. He was elected constable in 1871, and reelected again in 1896. Sold some of his fish in Sac Bay, MI where they may have lived briefly. He was back on Washington Island by 1887, where he grew "a cucumber four feet long." He moved to Homer Township near Lemont where he had lived as a young man. Farmed there for a while and moved to Minnesota briefly with Emily (Brooks), but she died soon after Anna died and both are buried in the Brooks cemetery in Homer Township with a big monument.

Thomas had a very loud voice and it was said you could hear him all the way across Washington Harbor even when he whispered!