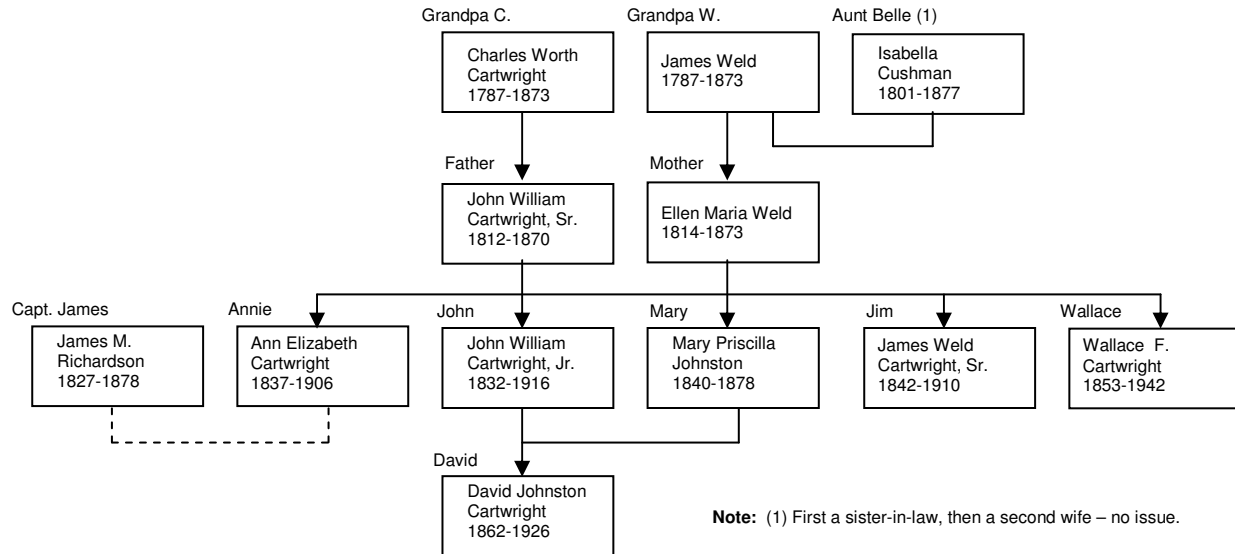


Cartwright Correspondence

Anne Eliza Cartwright to John William Cartwright, Jr. - November 6, 1862

Individuals Mentioned:



Background:

James (Jim) Weld Cartwright [age 20] joined the Union Army in August 1862 and has been sent with the 44th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment by steamer to North Carolina. Jim is a Corporal in Company “E.” Captain James Richardson [age 35], his future brother-in-law, also joined the 44th in September 1862 serving as Captain of Company “A.” Annie Cartwright [age 25] has just received a letter from Capt. James, her fiancé, and is passing on the news from the front to her oldest brother John Cartwright, Jr. [age 30].

Letter dated: Nantucket, November 6, 1862

Dear Brother John,

I don’t know but what Jim may have written Grandpa C. [age 75] but he lost his writing case & all overboard before reaching their landing place “Morehead City.” Mother [age 48] received a scrawl of five lines under the date of Oct 29th [after the regiment has gone to New Bern] in which he said “I have only time to say we are ordered to take 5 days rations and start off tonight, I don’t know where,” but I have received a letter from Capt. James, who says in addition they were to take 60 rounds of ammunition, but could not tell their destination.

They arrived at “Morehead City” Sunday noon Oct 26th and found a train of cars in waiting to carry them to New Bern a distance of 45 miles where they arrived at 6 o’clock P.M. having come all the way in open cars in a hard rain storm. So were completely drenched through. Jim slept in a “corn crib” until towards morning in his wet clothes when he found a house where he dried his clothes and ate breakfast.

Capt. James writes they wandered around until 10 o'clock P.M. before they found a shelter where they sat before a fire all night keeping warm and drying their clothes and had it not been for the 24th Regiment they would have been poorly off as they provided hot coffee for them that night and the next day. He also thinks they are to remain at New Bern this winter as they are building barracks for all the troops there but they expect to have plenty to do around there. They are well, or rather were when the letters were sent, and Jim thinks it is not as hard as he thought it would be thus far. The Capt. Says he will keep a bright lookout for him.

Father [age 50] and I had a delightful passage home [to Nantucket from Boston] last Saturday and found all well and glad to see me. On Monday, instead of going to his own school, Wallace [age 9] thought he would go to Grammar School visiting. Mr. Banker asked him if he was fitted to enter there and he told him he thought he was, so Mr. Bunker tried him and, finding him qualified, told him to go to the Committee and get examined. He passed a very good examination and got a permit and did it all without consulting anyone, came home and said he had got into the Grammar School. We did not believe him and sent to see and found it was as he stated.

We are today having a hard rain storm, the first unpleasant day we have had since my return, but it is pleasant indoors so we don't mind the weather outside. It is pleasant to be home once more but I shall return [to Boston] probably the 1st of the month. I suppose you will try and make Grandpa W. [age 75] a birthday call next Monday the 10th, I hope he is better of his cold. He had quite a severe one when I left and Grandpa C. was also quite unwell. I trust he is enjoying his usual good health by this time. Remember me to him and all at the house.

How does Mary [age 22] and "David" [3 mos] do? Has he grown any heavier? I told Grandpa W. that you would remember his birthday, if pleasant why don't [you and] Mary take the baby and pass that day with them, it will cheer Aunt Belle [age 61].

There is one shirt nearly completed in the under dresser of that bureau in my room so if Mary cares to take it she can, or leave it until I return. The Packet [mail vessel to Boston] will go the first fair wind. We all send much love to you all.

And accept the same from
your affectionate Sister,

Annie