

Name	Thomas CORNELL	
Birth		Hertfordshire, England
Death	23 May 1673	Portsmouth, Newport, Rhode Island ¹²⁴ , p 256; date only, 707, p 26
Father	Thomas CORNELL (~1595~1655)	
Mother	Rebecca BRIGGS (1600-1673)	
Other spouses: Elizabeth FISCOCK		
Individual Notes		
1673. His will was ordered by the Assembly to be made by the Town Council, and division of estate made to his wife and children of said Thomas Cornell, “lately executed for murdering his mother Mrs. Rebecca Cornell.”¹²⁴, p 139 <u>Notes on the Trial of Thomas Cornell</u> The Friends records state “Rebecca Cornell, widow, was killed strangely, at Portsmouth, in her own dwelling house, was twice viewed by the Coroner’s Inquest, digged up and buried again by her husband’s grave in their own land.” Her son Thomas was charged with her murder, yet although the jury’s verdict in regard to this affair was, that “he did murder his mother Rebecca, or was aiding or abetting thereto;” yet the evidence in the case would seem to have been no way conclusive. There was much evidence taken. The son said in his own defense that having discoursed with his mother about an hour and a half he went into the next room and staid there three-quarters of an hour. His wife then sent his son Edward to his grandmother to know whether she would have some milk boiled for her supper. The child saw some fire on the floor and came back and fetched a candle. Then Henry Straight, myself and the rest, followed in a huddle. Henry Straight saw what he supposed was an Indian, drunk and burnt on the floor, but when Thomas Cornell perceived by the light of the candle who it was, he cried, “Oh Lord! It is my mother.” Her clothes and body were much burned, and the jury found a wound on the upper most part of the stomach. John Briggs testified as to an apparition of a woman that appeared at his bedside in a dream, and he cried out, “In the name of God what art thou.” The apparition answered, “I am your sister Cornell” and thrice said “see how I was burnt with fire.” John Russell, of Dartmouth, testified that George Soule told him (since the decease of Rebecca Cornell), that once coming to the house of Rebecca, in Portsmouth, she told him that in the spring she intended to go and dwell with her son Samuel, but she feared she would be made away with before that. Thomas, Stephen, Edward, and John Cornell (sons of Thomas), gave testimony as to their grandmother’s death, saying their father was last with her. Mary Cornell, wife to John, aged twenty-eight years, testified that three or four years past being at her mother-in-law, Rebecca Cornell’s, and meeting her on returning from the orchard to the house, to deponent that she had been running after pigs and being weak and no help and she being disregarded, she thought to have stabbed a penknife into her heart, that she had in her hand, and then she should be rid of her trouble, but it came to her mind “resist the Devil and he will flee from you” and then she said she was well satisfied.⁶⁵⁷, pp B54–5 - He had five children with his first wife, Elizabeth Fiscock and three with Sarah. Ezra (founder of the University), and Alonzo (former NY governor) are related to him – I don’t know how.⁷³⁷ - The year 1673 appears 3 times. Rebecca was murdered. Her son Thomas was hung for the murder. Thomas’ wife Sarah was pregnant at the time. She named her daughter Innocent, because she did not believe her husband was guilty.⁷³⁷ - For some years I had been searching for the parentage of Innocent, the wife of Richard³ (John², Richard¹) Borden of Portsmouth. The husband was born Oct. 24, 1671, and died July 12, 1732. If this fragment told the truth, the mystery was solved. It was a small scrap of time-stained paper, without date or signature, bearing these words: “Cornell hung, killed mother with spindle. his daughter Innocent m. a Borden. his d. m. Robert uncle of Thos. B. Hazard. his d. Sarah m. Stephen Champlin father of Smooth Stephen, Jeffrey, Thomas, and dau. who married Sam Congdon and was father of George Congdon. Smooth Stephen m. a Perry.”¹²⁴, p 255		
Marriage	abt 1666 ¹⁷ , p 183; marriage only, 61, p 392; marriage only	
Spouse	Sarah EARLE	
Birth	abt 1636	Boston?, Suffolk, Massachusetts
Death	1690	Tiverton, Newport, Rhode Island ⁶² , p 26 Age: 54
Residence	Portsmouth, Little Compton, and Tiverton, RI ⁶² , p 26	
Father	Ralph EARLE (-1678)	
Mother	Joan SAVAGE (1609->1699)	
Other spouses: David LAKE		
Children		
1 F	Innocent CORNELL	
Birth	1673	Portsmouth?, Newport, Rhode Island
Death	aft 12 Jul 1732 Age: 59	

Name	Thomas CORNELL	
Spouse	Sarah EARLE	
Individual Notes		
• Note that the year 1673 appears three times in connection with the Cornells. Rebecca was murdered. Her son Thomas was hung for the murder. Sarah was pregnant at the time. She named her daughter Innocent – she didn't believe he was guilty.⁷³⁷ • Perhaps named as a protest against [her] father's unjust execution.⁷⁰⁷, p 25 • A further search among those interested in Cornell genealogy made clear the fact that no other marriage has ever been ascribed to this Innocent. One correspondent, in declaring his assent to the identification of Innocent Cornell with Innocent Borden, ventured the interesting conjecture that Innocent, whose birth must have been near 1673, may have been a posthumous child, and that her name may have been her mother's indignant protest at the cruel judicial murder of the father of the babe. Certainly no man would in these days be executed on such evidence as the records contain in this case.¹²⁴, p 256		
Spouse	Richard BORDEN (1671-1732)	
Marriage	abt 1692	Portsmouth?, Newport, Rhode Island ¹⁷ , p 84, 64, p 66
Children	Sarah (1694-1767)	
Marriage Notes		
• The record of his marriage I have not found. It probably occurred about 1692, as his eldest child was born in 1694.⁶⁴, p 66		
Sources		
17. New England Marriages Prior to 1700, Author: by Clarence Almon Torrey, Publisher: <i>Genealogical Publishing Co.</i>, Baltimore, MD, Date: 1987, Date: NEHGS, 17 Feb 1989, Document Location: Mills Library. Files (3): 17.Title.jpg, 17.2.jpeg, 17.3.jpeg 61. Earle Family of Bishop's Stortford, Co. Herts, England, Author: contributed by Dr. Spencer Miller, Page(s): 390-93, Publisher: <i>New York Biographical & Genealogical Record</i>, Date: Oct 1936, Document Location: West LA Family History Library, 22 April 1989, URL: https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/aneakmn47dune0u36l32n/61.Earle.pdf?rlkey=bzqnp59mu5jq7pctsxggvwse2&dl=0, Scan/Download Date: 4 page PDF assembled 2 June 2026, Other surname(s): Browne; Lawe; Cornell; Savage. 62. Ralph Earle and his Descendants, Author: compiled by Pliny Earle, Northampton, Massachusetts, Publisher: <i>Charles Hamilton Press</i>, Worcester, Mass, Date: 1888, Document Location: NEHGS Lending Library, August 1989, Other surname(s): Borden; Walker; Lake; Hutchinson, URL: https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/84x6050sahtdl0llk9t3b/62.Earle.pdf?rlkey=c2zv9ghqmr0ir4tdol83mfmwi&dl=0, Scan/Download Date: 16 page PDF assembled 2 June 2026. 64. Descendants of Richard and Joan Borden, Author: compiled by Hattie Borden Weld, Publisher: <i>Joel Munsell's Sons, Albany, NY</i>, Document Location: NEHGS Lending Library, August 1989; Google Books scans, Date: 19 Sep 2022, Other surname(s): Earle; Cornell; Fowle; Hazard. Files (9): 64.Title.jpg, 64.10.jpg, 64.11.jpg, 64.36.37.jpeg, 64.38.39.jpeg, 64.48.49.jpeg, 64.66.67.jpeg, 64.68.69.jpeg, 64.92.93.jpeg 124. Genealogies of Rhode Island Families, Vol. 1, Adams – Slack, Author: indexed by Carol Lee Ford, Publisher: <i>Genealogical Publishing Co.</i>, Baltimore, Date: 1983, Document Location: WLA FHL, 7 Jul 1990, Scan/Download Date: 25 Sep 2024, Other surname(s): Lake; Albro; Borden; Stafford; Eldred; Congdon; Cornell; Knowles; Northup. Files (13): 124.Title.jpg, 124.85.jpeg, 124.86.87.jpg, 124.88.89.jpg, 124.90.91.jpg, 124.92.93.jpeg, 124.94.95.jpg, 124.96.97.jpeg, 124.98.99.jpeg, 124.139.jpeg, 124.255.jpeg, 124.256.jpeg, 124.472.473.jpeg 657. Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island, Author: by John Osborne Austin, Publisher: <i>reprinted by Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc.</i>, Baltimore, 1982, Albany, N. Y., Date: 1887, Submitter: also received 23 Mar 1989 from Jim Scofield (Hazleton), Submitter: also received 13 Dec 1991 from NEHGS Enquiries Service (Davis), Submitter: also received 22 Jan 1996 from Beverly Kosarowich, Document Location: Pasadena FHL, Date: 21 Aug 1990, Other surname(s): Brownell; Champlin; Denison; Clarke; Congdon; Cornell; Davis; Hazelton; Westcott; Lake. • Notes on the trial of Thomas Cornell sent by Beverly Kosarowich, [pp B53, B54] Files (10): 657.Title.jpg, 657.53.jpeg, 657.62.jpeg, 657.63.jpeg, 657.64.jpeg, 657.232.jpeg, 657.B53.jpeg, 657.B54.jpeg, 657.B63.jpeg, 657.Hazelton.jpeg 707. Genealogy of the Cornell Family, Subject: <i>Being an Account of the Descendants of Thomas Cornell of Portsmouth, R. I.</i>, Author: by the Rev. John Cornell, M. A., Publisher: <i>Press of T. A. Wright</i>, New York, Date: 1902, Document Location: NEHGS Lending Library, April 1989, Document Location: complete PDF available; downloaded 5 June 2026 from archive.org, Document Location: scans downloaded 14 Sep 2023, URL: https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/w9k3csa34y0linixvupjx/707.Cornell.pdf?rlkey=kn9g4tg28pytm50jpzzfq6gyu&dl=0, Scan/Download Date: 15 page PDF assembled 5 June 2026, Other surname(s): Borden; Briggs; Fiscock. 737. FGR of Thomas Cornell & Sarah Earle, Author: as modified by Beverly Kosarovich, Date: received Jan 1996, Other surname(s): Fiscock. File: 737.jpeg		
		by Dave Mills: davemillsaz@icloud.com