

BIOGRAPHY OF ISAAC BUNNELL

Isaac Bunnell (*John*⁶, *Isaac*⁵, *Solomon*⁴, *Benjamin*³, *Benjamin*², *William*¹) was born May 27, 1797ⁱ (June 13, 1785ⁱⁱ) in Park Settlement, Candor, Tioga County, NYⁱⁱⁱ, the first child of John and Hannah (Jayne) Bunnell^{iv}. About 1815 he married Rachel Brink, daughter of David and Charity Brink of Candor, Tioga County, NY^v. Rachel was born July 1799^{vi}.

Isaac and Rachel had eight children: Annie who died in infancy, John, Margaret, Orville Mortimer, Hannah Jayne, Mary, Temperance, and Elizabeth who died at age 5.^{vii} Annie's burial plot has not been located, but Rachel is buried in the West Newark Cemetery near her grandparents, John and Hannah Bunnell, and her mother Rachel^{viii}. John remained with his father even after he remarried^{ix}

In 1820, Isaac lived in Berkshire in the southeast corner of lot 339. He and his wife Rachel farmed there and had one son under 10 years of age.^x Based on later property maps and current county maps the property was located on the north side of what is now Akins Road where it intersects with Ford Hill Road.

In 1825 Isaac was a Trustee of School District No. 5, in Berkshire and on November 15th of that year, along with Trustees Calvin Jinks and Horace Taylor, purchased 1200 square feet of land probably for a school house^{xi}. The property was located in the southwest corner of Berkshire Township in the area referred to as Jenksville, on County route 208 just where it crosses from Berkshire into Candor. An 1869 map of the township shows a schoolhouse at that location.

On May 12, 1827, Isaac purchased 30 acres of land, for \$150, from Allyn and Phebe Boardman. Its description was "part of the east half of lot no. six in the third section in the twelfth township in Watkins

ⁱ Source MS1: An exhaustive database of the Bunnell Family built and maintained by Mr. Claude Bunnell.

ⁱⁱ a. Source FH5: "Descendents of Thomas Bonnells of Flanders." An unpublished family history compiled by Terri Mulliken Allen, Page 15.

b. Source B73: *Bunnell and Allied Families*, by Joan England Murray, Palatine, IL, 1990, Page 193.

ⁱⁱⁱ a. Source FH5

b. Source B41: *Historical Gazetteer of Tioga County, New York, 1785 - 1888*, W.B. Gay & Co., Syracuse, NY, 1887 (Reprint by Tioga County Historical Society, Owego, NY, 1985), Page 248

^{iv} Source B41: Page 150.

^v a. Source B73: Page 180

b. Source MS1.

^{vi} Source CE1T3: West Newark Cemetery, Newark Valley, NY. Tombstone for Rachel, wife of Isaac Bunnell [sic]; died Sept 5, 1842, aged 43 years, 1 Month & 11 days. *He can make a dying bed, Feel soft as downy pillows are, Whilst on his breast I lay my head,*

^{vii} Source B73: Page 180.

^{viii} Source CE1T4 and CE1T3: West Newark Cemetery, Newark Valley, NY. Tombstones for Elizabeth and Rachel Bunnell respectively.

^{ix} Source CR17: The 1855 New York Census shows Isaac Bunnell (ae. 58, born in Tioga Co.) and wife Fanny (ae. 42, born in CT) farming in Newark Valley. Residing with them are sons John (ae 36), a laborer, William (ae 10), Isaac (ae 8), James (ae 6) and daughter Currence (ae. 4). All of the listed children were born in Tioga County

^x Source B41: Pages 146 and 150.

^{xi} Source DE12: DEED TRANSFERRING LAND FROM: William Scott TO: Isaac Bunnell, Calvin Jenks, & Horace Taylor, Trustees of School District No. 5, in the Town of Berkshire, Tioga Co., NY; LOCATION OF ORIGINAL: Tioga County, NY County Clerk Office, Deeds Book 17, Page 427.

and Flints purchase^{xii}.” The property was situated along Candor’s east border with Newark Valley, just south of West Newark. He sold the property January 26, 1830 for \$184 to Urban Bellitter from Lodi, NY^{xiii}.

In July of 1837 he purchased a few acres of land in Tioga from Nathaniel and Eleanor Catlin^{xiv}. Of all his property purchases in Tioga County, this was the furthest from his home area in Newark Valley.

On Feb 7, 1838, Isaac purchased 100 acres of land for \$2400 in Newark Valley from his father, John^{xv}. John had purchased the land for \$450 from Isaac Jenks of MA in 1810^{xvi} Why the drastic increase in price is an interesting point of conjecture. Possibly two houses now stood on the site; John’s and John JR’s. The 1820 census indicates that John and his son John, Jr. resided on that lot in separate houses^{xvii}.

Rachel died Sept 5, 1842^{xviii}, most likely in Newark Valley, leaving Isaac with six children, their daughter Elizabeth having died the previous year. Of the six however, John was about 23 years old, Margaret was 21 and Orville was 19. Therefore, they were probably self-sufficient. The three remaining children would have required a bit more “supervision.” Hannah would have been 13 years old, Mary 9 and Temperance only 6. In all probability John and Orville were expected to be out of the house working so the responsibility for the household chores and care of the three girls would have fell on Margaret. Less than a year after her mother’s death, Margaret married Harmon Clark^{xix}.

If that created a child care problem in the Bunnell household, it would have been remedied about a year later (1844) when Isaac married Fanny Lodemia Jackson whose parents owned an adjacent farm^{xx}. The 1855 NY census shows that Fanny is 16 years younger than her husband^{xxi}.

In 1848 Isaac and Fanny began selling off some property. At that time they sold to Asa Stevens 80 acres^{xxii} of land in lot 260 that appear to be a major part of the 100 acres Isaac purchased from his father in 1838. The legal descriptions match except for the point where the line turns north to establish the eastern boundary [A sale of 56 acres to Isaac Ackerman in 1866 brings this theory into question however]. But the document also provide Isaac and Fanny the right to cross that property “East of the Owego Creek road with teams and otherwise in the Winter season at or near where a road is now in use,

^{xii} Source DE13: DEED TRANSFERRING LAND FROM: Allyn and Phebe Boardman TO: Isaac Bunnell; LOCATION OF ORIGINAL: Tioga County, NY County Clerk Office, Deeds Book 23, Pages 231-232. [See Sources section for a copy of this reference]

^{xiii} Source DE14: DEED TRANSFERRING LAND FROM : Isaac and Rachel Bunnell TO: Urban Bellitter; LOCATION OF ORIGINAL: Tioga County, NY County Clerk Office, Deeds Book 23, Pages 234-235. [See Sources section for a copy of this reference]

^{xiv} Source DE29: DEED TRANSFERRING LAND FROM: Nathaniel and Eleanor Catlin TO: Isaac Bunnell; LOCATION OF ORIGINAL: Tioga County, NY County Clerk Office, Deeds Book 35, Page 205. [See Sources section for a copy of this reference]

^{xv} Source DE5: DEED TRANSFERRING LAND FROM: John Bunnell TO: Isaac Bunnell; LOCATION OF ORIGINAL: Tioga County, NY County Clerk Office, Deeds Book 35, Pages 283-284. [See Sources section for a copy of this reference]

^{xvi} Source DE25: DEED TRANSFERRING LAND FROM: Isaac Jenks TO: John Bunnell; LOCATION OF ORIGINAL: Broome County, NY County Clerk Office, Deeds Book 4, Pages 553. [See Sources section for a copy of this reference]

^{xvii} Source B41: Pages 241 and 248.

^{xviii} Source CE1T3

^{xix} Source B73: Page 193.

^{xx} Source B73: Page 181.

^{xxi} Source CR17

^{xxii} Source DE26: DEED TRANSFERRING LAND FROM: Isaac & Fanny Bunnell TO: Asa Stevens; LOCATION OF ORIGINAL: Tioga County, NY County Clerk Office, Deeds Book 5, Pages 118-119. [See Sources section for a copy of this reference]

...” Thus it appears that Isaac and Fanny required a winter route to the remaining properties that they farmed.

In 1854 Isaac sold 4 acres of land to Isaac L. Bush & Co. This property is located in Lot 221 which lies directly south of lot 260 where his other property was located. The deed conveying this property to Isaac hasn't been located. Two items of interest about this property are that (1) only Isaac's name is mentioned in the deed, not Fanny's though we know that she is still alive; and (2) the legal description mentions that it adjoins property that had been previously conveyed to Fanny L. Jackson^{xxiii}.

By 1860, Isaac is an invalid though only 63 years of age, and his son John is operating the farm(s)^{xxiv}.

Ms. Murray describes several other property sales executed by Fanny, Isaac, or both. A sale of 56 acres in 1866 to Isaac Ackerman appears to be a foreclosure action. The property description identifies it as part of the lands sold to Isaac by his father John^{xxv}. This does not square with the 1848 sale of 80 acres, which also appeared to be part of the original 100 acres Isaac purchased from his father.

In October of 1866 Fanny sold off several pieces of land in lot 221 which she had purchased prior to her marriage to Isaac^{xxvi}. Then on November 3, 1866 they appear to have sold the last of their properties. Fanny sold to David Taylor 56 acres of land in lot 261, the legal description of which states that it is part of the original 100 acres bought by Isaac from his father^{xxvii}. On that same day, Isaac & Fanny sold to Alexander Bostwick 4 1/5 acres of land in lot 260 that was adjacent to the 56 acres sold to Isaac Ackerman^{xxviii}.

The reasons for the sell-off may have been multiple and reinforcing. It appears that some of the land was sold due to debts and one of the deeds mentions that Fanny had sold some of her land in lot 221 for taxes. Times could have been rough. Age and infirmities probably prevented Isaac and Fanny from actively farming. Most of the family had already moved to Illinois by that time^{xxix} so there was little left in Tioga County for Isaac and Fanny.

Sometime after the sale of the properties Isaac, Fanny, sons William, Isaac, and James and daughter Currence moved to Illinois. Son John appears to have already moved there. In September 1869, less than 3 years after selling off the rest of the Tioga County properties John died in Dekalb, Illinois. Fanny followed her sons James and Isaac as they moved around the Midwest, dying 5 Jan 1892 in Trenton, Grundy County, Missouri^{xxx}.

In all Isaac Bunnell had 12 children; 8 by Rachel Brink and 4 by Fanny Lodemia Jackson^{xxxi}.

Children by Rachel Brink

Annie: died in infancy, birth date unknown

John: b. 1819/1820 Tioga Co. NY; d. 1880 – 1890, DeKalb Co., IL

^{xxiii} Source DE27: DEED TRANSFERRING LAND FROM: Isaac Bunnell TO: Asa Bush & Co.; LOCATION OF ORIGINAL: Tioga County, NY County Clerk Office, Deeds Book 54, Pages 75-76. [See Sources section for a copy of this reference]

^{xxiv} Source B73: Page 181

^{xxv} Source B73: Page 182-184

^{xxvi} Source B73: Page 185-186

^{xxvii} Source B73: Page 185-186

^{xxviii} Source DE28: DEED TRANSFERRING LAND FROM: Isaac & Fanny Bunnell TO: Alexander Bostwick.; LOCATION OF ORIGINAL: Tioga County, NY County Clerk Office, Deeds Book 76, Page 470. [See Sources section for a copy of this reference]

^{xxix} Source B73: Chapter Twenty-One

^{xxx} Source B73: Chapters Nineteen, Twenty, and Twenty-One

^{xxxi} The majority of the information pertaining to the children of Isaac Bunnell is from Source: B73: Page 193; additional data is from B41, page 150; CE1; CR17

*Compiled by:
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Margaret: b. 1821, Tioga Co., NY; m. July 4, 1843, Harmon Clark; d. unknown

Orville Mortimer; b. Aug 4, 1823, Cayuga Co. NY; m. abt. 1861, Nancy Palmer; d. Mar 14, 1896, Chicago, IL

Hannah Jayne: b. Nov. 14, 1829, Tioga Co., NY; m. Dec 24, 1852, Albert Freeland; d. 1915, DeKalb Co., IL

Mary: b. 1833, Tioga Co., NY; m. abt. 1853, Russell Allen; d. unknown

Elizabeth: b. Dec. 31, 1835, Tioga Co., NY; d. Aug. 14, 1841, Tioga Co., NY

Temperance: b. 1836, Tioga Co., NY; m. before 1855, James Tracy; d. unknown

Children by Fanny Lodemia Jackson

William Luther: b. 1845, Tioga Co., NY; m. Feb. 10, 1869, Agnes K. Field; d. unknown

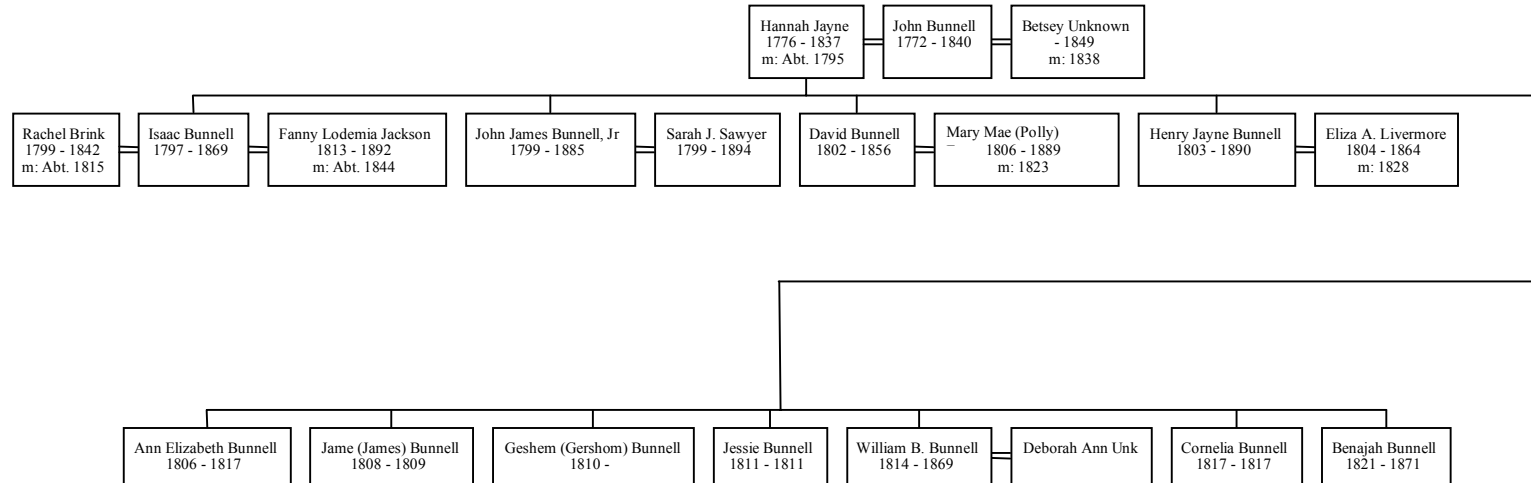
Isaac Melancon: b. Jun. 15, 1846, Tioga Co., NY; m. Feb. 26, 1870, Sarah Sofronia Leonard; d. May 17, 1918, Benton Co., AR

James Torry: b. Oct. 7, 1848, Tioga Co., NY; m. Oct 7, 1872, Ella Delphine Leonard; d. Oct 15, 1940, Grundy Co., MO

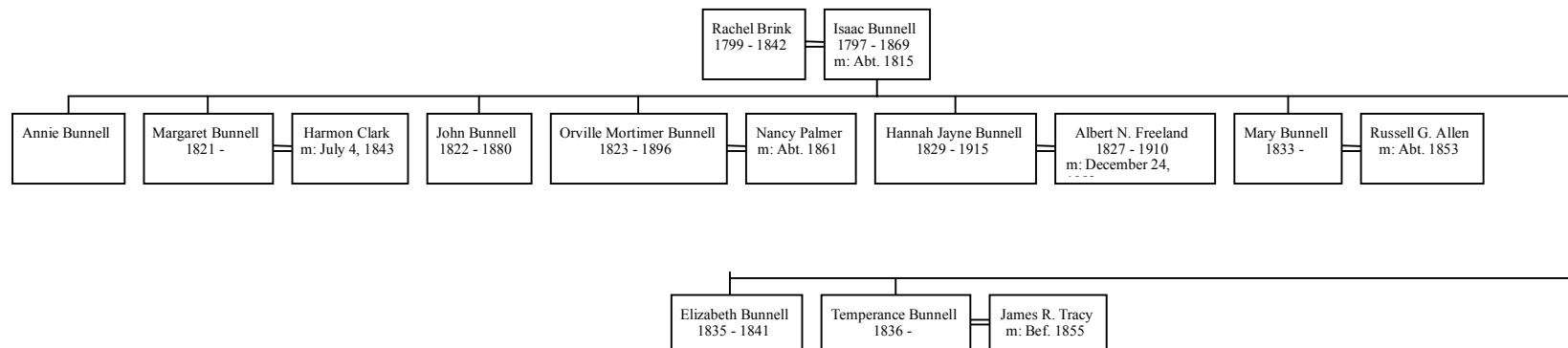
Currence Meranda: b. 1851, Tioga Co., NY; never married; d. unknown

This appears to end Isaac Bunnell's line in Tioga County, NY, so this compiler will not pursue Isaac's line any farther at this site. For an excellent continuation of this Bunnell line in the Midwest, I recommend Ms. Murray's book referenced in the endnotes.

Siblings (and their spouses) of Isaac Bunnell



Children (and Their Spouses) of Isaac and Rachel (Brink) Bunnell



Children (and Their Spouses) of Isaac and Fanny Lodemia (Jackson) Bunnell

