Ray and Velma Falconer Collection

Collectors. Diary (1886–1887) of Alice Cornish, and correspondence (1884–1923) of Cornish family members, including James Cornish (father), Esther Cornish (mother), and their six children, Alice, Mabel, Harry, Ed, George, and Arthur, reflecting family matters and photography studios of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Minor Box F-25
Folder:

1. Diary (day journal) of Alice Cornish while she attended school in Oneida, Illinois, which is near Galesburg. She describes events at school, her home life with her parents and other relatives, and church meetings with the "United Brethren." Handwritten, in pencil, November 17, 1886 - March 15, 1887

2. Minutes of Teachers’ Meeting recorded by Alice Cornish. School unknown, Feb. 13, 1886

Note: Folders 3 – 18 contain correspondence dating from 1884 to 1904, primarily between members of the Cornish family: James Cornish (father), Esther Cornish (mother), and their six children, Alice, Mabel, Harry, J.E. (Ed), Geo. B. (George Bancroft), and A.B. (Arthur or Art). The family started out in Oneida, Illinois but by 1887 James had moved to Arkansas City, Kansas. His wife followed him there but James was off again to take up residence for several years in Purcell, Indian Territory. James Cornish was a carpenter who moved from place to place to find work. In 1895, three of the children were still at home in Arkansas City with their mother. The others had moved to San Juan, California (George B. Cornish), Purcell, Indian Territory (J.E. Cornish), and Kansas City (Arthur). Several members of the Cornish family either worked for or owned and operated photographic businesses, i.e. Geo. B. Cornish (T.E. Stanton, Photo-Printer, Los Angeles, CA, and Cornish Studios, Arkansas City, Kansas), Arthur Cornish (D.P. Thomson, Photographer, Kansas City, MO and Cornish Studio, Kansas City, MO), and Alice Cornish (Cornish Studio, Arkansas City, KS). This series of correspondence reflects the family ties between the members of the Cornish family, relates the daily happenings of the letter writers as well as events in the places they lived, and provides some insight into photography studios in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.


Letter to Mrs. E. Cornish (Kitty), Oneida, Illinois, Oct. 16, 1887

Letter to Georgie from father, James Cornish, Oct. 16, 1887.

Letter to Mrs. E. Cornish (Kitty), Oneida, Illinois, from (?), Arkansas City, Nov. 9, 1887.

Letter to Mrs. E. Cornish (Kitty), Oneida, Illinois, from James Cornish, Arkansas City, Nov. 13, 1887.


6. Letter to Jas. Cornish, Arkansas City, Kansas, Mar. 6, 1892.

Letter to Mr. J.E. Cornish, Purcell, Indian Territory, from (?), Somerville, Massachusetts, July 21, 1892.

7. Letter to brother George from brother J.E. Cornish, Purcell, Indian Territory, Mar. 21, 1893.

Letter to James Cornish, Arkansas City from Geo. B. Cornish, Purcell, Indian Territory, Dec. 8, 1893.

8. Letter to brother George, Arkansas City, Kansas from J.E. Cornish, Purcell, Indian Territory, Jan. 7, 1894.

Letter to father from J.E. Cornish, Purcell, Indian Territory, Jan. 26, 1894.

Letter to G.B. Cornish, Arkansas City, from J.E. Cornish, Feb. 12, 1896.


Letter to sister Alice Cornish, Arkansas City, Kansas from Geo. B. Cornish, San Juan, California, Aug. 4, 1895.

Letter to Mrs. E. Cornish (Kitty), Arkansas City, Kansas from James Cornish, Purcell, Indian Territory, Sep. 15, 1895.

Letter to Mr. and Mrs. James Cornish, Arkansas City, Kansas from brother Robert S. Ewing, Pasadena, California, Sep. 20, 1895.
Letter to Miss Alice G. Cornish, Arkansas City, Kansas from Geo. B. Cornish, Oct. 6, 1895.

Letter to Mrs. E. Cornish (Kitty), Arkansas City, Kansas from James Cornish, Purcell, Indian Territory, Dec. 8, 1895.


Letter to Miss Mabel Cornish, Arkansas City, Kansas from Geo. B. Cornish, Tres Pinos, California, Feb. 29, 1896.

Letters (2) to Mrs. E. Cornish, Arkansas City, Kansas from James Cornish, Purcell, Indian Territory, Mar. 15, 1896 and Mar. 19, 1896.

Letter to Miss Mabel Cornish, Arkansas City, Kansas from Geo. B. Cornish, Tres Pinos, California, Mar. 14, 1896.

Letter to sister, Mrs. James Cornish, Arkansas City, Kansas from (?), Brookline, New Hampshire, Mar. 22, 1896.

Letter to Mrs. E. Cornish, Arkansas City, Kansas from James Cornish, Mar. 28, 1896.

Letters (2) to Mrs. Jas. Cornish, Arkansas City, Kansas from Geo. B. Cornish, Tres Pinos, California, Apr. 8, 1896, and Apr. 21, 1896.


Letter to Miss Mabel Cornish, Arkansas City, KS from Roxy Oldroyd (school classmate), Grand Junction, CO, July 5, 1896.


Letters (3) to Jas. and Mabel Cornish, Arkansas City, KS from Geo. B. Cornish, Watsonville, CA, Aug. 28, Oct. 4, and Nov. 29, 1896.

11. Letter to Alice Cornish, Arkansas City, KS from Geo. B. Cornish, Los Angeles, CA, May 9, 1897.
Letter to Alice Cornish, San Francisco, CA from Mabel Cornish, Arkansas City, KS, July 6, 1897.


Letter to Geo. Cornish, Los Angeles, CA from Mabel Cornish, Arkansas City, KS, Aug. 3, 1897.

Letter to Jas. Cornish, Arkansas City, KS from Alice Cornish, Los Angeles, CA, Aug. 9, 1897.

Letter to Mabel Cornish from Harry Cornish, Arkansas City, KS, Sep. 26, 1897.

Letter to Alice Cornish, Arkansas City, KS from Mabel Cornish, Kansas City, MO, Sep. 27, 1897.


Letters (5) to the Cornish family, Arkansas City, KS from J.E. Cornish, Purcell, I.T., Oct. 6, 1897, Oct. 15, 1897, Nov. 22, 1897, Dec. 4, 1897, and Dec. 23, 1897.

Letter to Geo. B. Cornish, Arkansas City, KS from J.E. Cornish, Purcell, I.T., Jan. 8, 1898.


Letter to Jas. Cornish, Arkansas City, KS from J.E. Cornish, Purcell, I.T., Mar. 13, 1898.

Letter to Mrs. Cornish from Evelyn Kane, Kansas City, Mar. 28, 1898.

Letters (2) to George Cornish from A.B. Cornish, Kansas City, MO, Mar. 28, 1898 and Apr. 12, 1898.

Letter to Alice Cornish, Arkansas City, KS from Grace Cornish (wife of Ed Cornish), Purcell, I.T., Apr. 21, 1898.

Letter to Esther Cornish, Arkansas City, KS from Grace Cornish, Purcell, I.T., Apr. 27, 1898.

Letter to Jas. Cornish, Arkansas City, KS from J.E. Cornish, Purcell, I.T., May 22, 1898.
Letter to Jas. Cornish, Arkansas City, KS from A.B. Cornish, Kansas City, MO, June 18, 1898.

Letter to Alice Cornish, Arkansas City, KS from cousin Kathryn, Freeport, Illinois, June 15, 1898.

Letters to Alice Cornish, Arkansas City, KS from J.E. Cornish, Purcell, I.T., June 22, 1898, Aug. 13, 1898, and Aug. 17, 1898.

Letter to Alice Cornish, Arkansas City, KS from Sherman, Clinton, MO, Aug. 10, 1898.

Letter to Esther Cornish, Arkansas City, KS from Edmund Ewing (her brother), Bradford, Illinois, Jan. 8, 1899.

Letter to Alice Cornish, Arkansas City, KS from A.B. Cornish, Kansas City, MO, Aug. 21, 1899.


Letter to A.B. Cornish, Kansas City, MO from (?), Arkansas City, KS, May 12, 1901.


Letter to Geo. B. Cornish, Arkansas City, KS from N.J. Dyer, Connellsville, PA, Sep. 16, 1902.


Letter to George B. Cornish, Arkansas City, KS from (?), Ponca City, O.T., July 5, 1903.


Letter to George B. Cornish, Arkansas City, KS from (?), J.C. Morris Photographer, Kaw River Studio, Lawrence, KS, Apr. 24, 1904.

Letter to George B. Cornish, Arkansas City, KS from Jessie, Wichita, KS, May 10, 1904.

Letters (2) to George B. Cornish, Arkansas City, KS from L.M. Gibson, Isabel, KS, May 18, 1904 and Sep. 21, 1904.

Letters (2) to George B. Cornish, Arkansas City, KS from Jessie, Wichita, KS, May 19, 1904 and July 26, 1904.

Minor Box F-26

1. Letter to George B. Cornish, Kansas City, MO from Alice Cornish, Arkansas City, KS, Mar. 5, 1905.

Letter to George B. Cornish, Kansas City, MO from Gene, Arkansas City, KS, Mar. 7, 1905.

Letter to George Cornish, Arkansas City, KS from Madge, Mar. 15, 1904.

Letter to George Cornish, Arkansas City, KS from J.E. Cornish, Topeka, KS, Apr. 4, 1905.

Letter to George Cornish, Arkansas City, KS from (?), Newton, KS, Apr. 18, 1905.

Letter to George B. Cornish, Arkansas City, KS from Madge, Guthrie, OK, May 31, 1905.


Letter to Geo. B. Cornish, Arkansas City, KS from Chas. D. Kellogg, New York City, Mar. 4, 1907.

Wedding announcement of Eugenia Hull to George Bancroft Cornish, Oct. 16, 1907.

3. Letter to Geo. B. Cornish, Arkansas City, KS from Grant De Loach, Newkirk, OK, Nov. 30,

Letter to George B. Cornish, Arkansas City, KS from Albert Bly, Beaver City, OK, Jan. 20, 1912.

5. Letter to Alice Cornish, Enid, OK from George Cornish, Arkansas City, KS, Sep. 21, 1914.

Letter to Alice Cornish, Arkansas City, KS from Mrs. Don Walker, (?) Canal Zone, Dec. 22, 1914.


Letter to George Cornish, Arkansas City, KS from Arthur Cornish, Los Angeles, CA, June 3, 1916.


Letter to Geo. B. Cornish, Arkansas City, KS from Art Cornish, Utica, NY, Sep. 7, 1918.

Sacramento High School commencement announcement, Jan. 26, 1923.

8. Envelopes, no letters attached.

9. Letter to George Cornish, Arkansas City, KS from Art Cornish, Kansas City, MO, date illegible.

Letter to Alice Cornish, Arkansas City, KS from Geo. B. Cornish, Kansas City, MO, no date.


Greeting cards and post cards.

"Personal Contagion. Also What Our Leader Says" by Mary Baker Eddy, 1909.

Date Book, July 1906 - June 1907.

Note to Geo. B. Cornish from Carrie Houll, no date.

Manual of the Congregational Church, Oneida, Illinois. Includes history of the church, constitution of the Society of the First Congregational Church of Oneida, Illinois, the basis of union between the church and society, names of pastors, form of admission, names of church officers and members, 1886.