

(Note to accompany pictures of John and Polly Cameron)

The Rev. and Mrs. John Cameron.

(From photographs taken in California many years ago, in the possession of Hon. Wm. J. Orendorff, Canton, Ill.)

John Cameron, who ~~was~~ helped James Rutledge found the village of New Salem, was a Cumberland Presbyterian minister. In this picture, he holds a bible in his hand. Most people in the vicinity of New Salem making any ~~pretensions~~ religious pretensions seem to have been Cumberland Presbyterians--indeed, no other denomination appears to have gotten much of a foot-hold there except the "Hard Shell" Baptists--and John Cameron, whenever he preached, always had an appreciative ~~congregation~~ congregation. He was a devout and courageous man, and one ~~highly~~ held in the highest esteem by his neighbors. Yet, according to Daniel Green Burner, the clerk in the Berry & Lincoln grocery--and the fact is mentioned merely as illustrating ~~the~~ universal custom among the pioneers--"John Cameron always kept a barrel of whisky in the house."
~~John Cameron~~

Polly O. Cameron was born in Wilkes County, Georgia, April 23, 1798. Her maiden name was Orendorff, and the Hon. Wm. J. Orendorff of Canton, Ill., who is the owner of these photographs, is her nephew. The family is a large one, and many of its members have won wealth and distinction. The house of John Cameron, according to tradition, was for a time the boarding place of Lincoln; and it was Mrs. Cameron, and not Mrs. Rutledge,

2.

as the biographers have it, whom Lincoln affectionately called "Aunt Polly." The Camerons, ~~about~~ in 1836, moved to Fulton County, Ill., and ~~near Bernadotte~~ at or near Bernadotte John Cameron is said to have built the first mill on Spoon river. Two or three years later they moved to Iowa, first settling near Birmingham and later near Oskaloosa. ^{Afterwards} ~~later~~ they moved to California, where John and Polly Cameron died ~~many~~ many years later at a ripe old age. They reared thirteen children--twelve daughters and one son.