

Family Record and History

— *of* —

JOSEPH BROWN

— *of* —

Edinburgh, Scotland

and Wife,

MELTANIE VAIL

— *of* —

Miller's Place, L. I.,

— *and* —

Their Descendants.

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FAMILY RECORD AND HISTORY

* Joseph Brown, the father of Daniel, was born in a little hamlet near Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1731, and when 22 years of age, with no bank account, bare-handed and alone, started for America with nothing but his indomitable will, his unswerving integrity, and his industrious and frugal habits with which to help himself when he arrived in this foreign and new country. But with these accomplishments he soon conquered all obstacles and found himself one of the foremost prosperous citizens in the new home.

Soon after his arrival he married Mehetable Vail, the ninth child of Peter and Thankful Griffin Vail, and settled at Rocky Point, L. I. After their marriage they united with the Presbyterian Church at Miller's Place, L. I., of which they were life-long and devoted members. They were constant attendants and liberal contributors.

They were the parents of 18 children, as follows:

* Information has been received later that "Three brothers, Israel, Richard, and Samuel, with their families came to New Haven about 1641. They remained there four or five years, then with three other families (Tuthills, Youngs and Kings) set sail for the east end of Long Island, where they bought land of the Indians and formed a settlement called Oysterponds, now Orient. Israel, from whom (this line of Browns descended, had a son, Joseph, of whom no information is had except that he had a son, Joseph, who married Dorothy Tuthill. He died in 1751, leaving two daughters and five sons. His son, Joseph, married Mehetable Vail, and they were the parents of the 18 children." We do not find this in any of the records.

First, Elizabeth; 2d, Joseph; 3d, Jeremiah; 4th, Benjamin; 5th, David; 6th, Nathaniel; 7th, Daniel; 8th, Isaac; 9th, Samuel; 10th, James; 11th, Charlotte; 12th, Mehetable; 13th, Joshua; 14th, Youngs; 15th, John; 16th, Hannah; 17th, George; 18th, Dorothy.

Elizabeth married Goldsmith Davis, and had, 1st, Nancy; 2d, Clarissa; 3d, Polly; 4th, Fanny; 5th, Charity.

Joseph, the 2d child, married Miriam Davis, and had, 1st, Joel; 2d, Luther; 3d, Betsey; 4th, Joanna (died young); 5th, Isaac.

Isaac married Charity Yarrington. They had, 1st, Joseph; 2d, Alida; 3d, Sophronia; 4th, Elizabeth Mary; 5th, Almira; 6th, Isaac Edwin; 7th, Adelia; 8th, Joel W.; 9th, Ellen.

The two latter attended the 100th anniversary of the settlement of Daniel and Charlotte Roe Brown in Broome County, held August 29 and 30, 1912.

Jeremiah, the 3d child, is said to have descendants in Owego, N. Y. Benjamin, the 4th child, moved to the far west and no information is had of him. David, the 5th child, died young. Nathaniel, the 6th child, died unmarried. Daniel, the 7th child, married Charlotte Roe and moved to Broome County in 1812. Isaac, the 8th child, moved to Wellstown, Hamilton County, where he has descendants. His great-grandson, Morton J. Brown, of Langdon, has been very faithful in his attendance at the Brown reunions.

Samuel, the 9th child, moved to Broome County with his brother Daniel in 1812, but returned to Long Island. No information is had of James, the 10th child. Charlotte, the 11th child, died young. Mehetable, the 12th child, married Timothy Miller and remained on Long Island. Joshua, the 13th child, settled in Wellstown, Hamilton County, N. Y., where he has descendants. Youngs, the 14th child, died young. John, the 15th child, died young. Hannah, the 16th child, married Samuel Skidmore and remained on Long Island. George, the 17th child, married Prudence Ketchum. No further information of him could be obtained. Dorothy, the 18th child, died young.

At the Sixth Annual Reunion of the descendants of Daniel and Charlotte Roe Brown, held at Ross Park, in Binghamton, in 1911, a resolution was offered and passed to the effect that whereas, the tombstones of our grandparents in the Mountain View Cemetery in Lester had become broken down, that a collection be taken and a suitable monument be purchased and erected to their memory, with such memorial services as the committee appointed for the purpose should arrange at the next annual reunion, to be held at the old homestead in Lester, N. Y., in 1912.

A very appropriate programme for the dedicatory services was carried out by the president, Clarence H. Brown, of Wallingford, Conn. A prayer was offered by Lewis H. Brown, of Binghamton. C. H. Brown delivered the following address:

"In the year 1812, a man with his wife and children might have been seen wending their way from Long Island to this town. The children were nine in number, and of various ages, the eldest being nearly nineteen, and the youngest only a few months old. This man was Daniel Brown, who, with Charlotte Roe, his wife, and their children, were moving from their Long Island home to the (then) far west to make for themselves a new home in a large country where there was plenty of room for them all. A square mile section in this town was selected where the virgin forests were still standing, and where very little, if anything, had been done towards making a clearing. It is stated that the very large size of the trees led them to locate here, thinking that the soil must be very fertile where forests attained such remarkable growth. There was put up the inevitable log cabin of the settler near the creek, and later on, only a little way across the stream, was built the house which is now standing. Two more children came to them in their new home, making eleven in all. Leaving their home in Long Island was a great undertaking in those days.

There were no trains such as we have now, and their mode of conveyance was primitive in the extreme. The roads were poor, some of

the way only a trail through the unbroken forest, and several days were required to make the journey. They were earnest, God-fearing Christians, however, and came with a purpose to worship God. They both united with the Presbyterian Church in Windsor, April 27, 1817, by letter, and Daniel Brown was elected an Elder, February 23, 1827. They gathered daily around the family altar and brought up their children to fear the Lord. The Sabbath was sacredly devoted to His worship and religiously kept as a holy day. And here our ancestors lived and died. Their remains were placed in this God's acre, here to sleep till the last trump shall sound and they that are in their graves come forth.

It has seemed fitting to us, the descendants of Daniel and Charlotte Roe Brown, to erect this monument in the year of 1912, the 100th anniversary of their settlement here, to mark their final resting-place, and we are met at this time to dedicate it as a tribute to their memory—as a token of our love and esteem—as an expression of our appreciation of their sterling worth and unblemished Christian character. This monument has been placed here so that those coming after us may know that we have in mind, at least, those who have gone before. Do you not think it would be wise to form an association so arranged that it shall be self-sustaining with officers and a fund and just enough machinery to make it perpetual? In this way providing against neglect and carelessness in caring for this, the last long home of our grandparents."

The second day was given up entirely to visiting and feasting. Potatoes and green corn were boiled in a large kettle in the grove, and it was remarked that Belshazzer's feast was no comparison to this.

Thus ended the Seventh Annual Reunion of the Brown family, with the best of feeling and love for each other. The account of the Reunion as printed in the *Windsor Standard* is as follows:

BROWN-ROE REUNION

"Notwithstanding the anxiety caused by the continual wet

weather, the rain held up for the two days' Reunion to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the settling in Broome County of Daniel and Charlotte Roe Brown. The Reunion was held in a grove on the original farm at Lester, August 29th and 30th.

Two long tables tastefully decorated with ferns and flowers were spread side by side, and over one hundred partook of a sumptuous dinner, after which a business meeting was held. Officers chosen for next year were: President, William Knoeller, of Binghamton; Vice-President, Fred Brown, of New Haven, Conn.; Secretary, Mrs. D. M. Moore, of Hooper; Treasurer, L. H. Brown, of Binghamton. The date and place of the next meeting were fixed on the third Wednesday in August at the Bible School Park, Binghamton.

Letters of regret were read from A. S. Roe, of Worcester, Mass.; Mary Bigler, Newburg; Mrs. Weston, Honesdale; Charlotte Roe Blakeslee, Dover, N. J., and Curtis Brown, of London, England.

The historical committee, Miss Emily Brown, of Binghamton, gave a very interesting account of the migration from Long Island to what was then the far west. Daniel and Charlotte Roe Brown and nine children, Samuel, his brother, with wife and one child, came from Rocky Point, L. I., in April, 1812. They came up the Hudson River, over the Catskill Mountains, through Deposit to Windsor, and up Kent Street. Two wagons brought all their household goods. When they arrived at Grigg's Corners, they had to wait until trees were cut down before they could get through with wagons to the log house where the homestead now stands. The log house had only one room; boards were laid on the ground for a floor, a pile of stones in one corner served as a fireplace, the smoke escaping through a hole in the roof.

They bought the farm, one mile square, paying \$1,600 for it. On their arrival they found several squatters on the land. One man paid them \$25 for his claim, another a stack of straw, and a third built a barn for them to pay for his tract of land. Samuel's wife was so

homesick that she pined away and died in a few months and was buried in the mountain cemetery. Samuel and little child soon after went back to Long Island.

The question was asked, "What was the attraction to Broome County?" The answer was, "The large trees to be used in shipbuilding and indicating a strong soil." They could have secured one square mile of land where Binghamton is now situated for the same price, but that being covered with scrub oaks like those on the land from which they had come they were convinced that the soil would not be as desirable. Mrs. Garrett, daughter of the oldest of Daniel Brown's children, said although they had left a home of comfort, she never heard her mother complain of the hardships of pioneer life.

Daniel and Charlotte Roe Brown united with the Presbyterian Church at Windsor in 1817. He was elected an Elder in 1823. All the children embraced the religion of their parents and early in life united with the Presbyterian Church.

The descendants had lately erected a monument to the memory of Daniel and Charlotte Roe Brown, and the company at this time repaired to Mountain View Cemetery, where the stone was dedicated. Prayer was offered by L. H. Brown, of Binghamton, and fitting remarks were made by President C. H. Brown, of Wallingford, Conn. All joined in singing "Nearer, My God, to Thee."

After the services at the cemetery a social hour was enjoyed at the grove and supper was served to all.

The second day was spent in reminiscences, visiting and a general good time. After the dinner, which was even better than that served on the previous day, an association was formed for the purpose of caring for the cemetery lot. Post card pictures of the monument and homestead were on sale during the two days. Just before leaving they went outside the grove and a picture of those present was taken by Miss Leva Larrabee, which have been on sale since.

At the close of the afternoon, after the most delightful Reunion

ever held by the Brown-Roe family, the farewells were exchanged with regret, but with the mutual feeling that we would meet again next year.

Those from a distance were Mrs. Curtis Brown and three children, of London, Eng.; Miss Ellen Brown, Sag Harbor, L. I.; Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Brown and two daughters, of Wallingford, Conn.; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Brown, New Haven, Conn.; Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Brown and daughter, of New York; Mrs. Bessie Brown Rogers and two children, of Rutherford, N. J.; Mrs. Florence Laskey and two children, of New York; Miss Ellen Brown, Buffalo; Bruce Moore, of Chicago; Mrs. Louise Emerick and two children, of Saugerties, N. Y., and a great many from Binghamton and vicinity."

Joseph Cook, America's greatest lecturer and author, once said, "Fame is largely a matter of accident, but character is inherited," and what better illustration can be had of this wise saying when applied to the descendants of those truly pious and devoted great-grandparents? We, the descendants, should be proud of our illustrious ancestors, and the more regularly we attend these annual reunions the more we think of our kindred, and should go from these gatherings with new and greater inspirations for living higher and nobler lives.

Daniel Brown, the 7th child of Joseph and Mehetable Vail Brown, was born February 17, 1765, and died February 27, 1838. He married Charlotte Roe, November 18, 1772. She died June 21, 1839. They had, 1st, Harriet; 2d, Hette; 3d, Emma; 4th, Joseph; 5th, Fanny; 6th, Hannah; 7th, James Y.; 8th, Daniel Roe; 9th, Charlotte Roe; 10th, Alfred N.; 11th, Brewster.

Harriet, the first child of Daniel and Charlotte Roe Brown, was born December 19, 1793, and died April 11, 1884. She married Daniel Moore, November 11, 1813. He died May 25, 1851. They had, 1st, John Roe; 2d, Daniel Youngs; 3d, David; 4th, Selah; 5th, Fanny.

Hette, the second child, was born October 19, 1795, and died February 4, 1802.

Emma, the third child, born October 17, 1797, died April 8, 1887. She married Joseph M. Smith, July 9, 1818. He died January 4, 1847. They had, 1st, Harriet; 2d, Hette; 3d, Clarrissa; 4th, Charlotte Roe; 5th, Erastus.

Joseph, the fourth child, was born April 20, 1800. He died November 6, 1887. He married Sophia Swezey, November 20, 1828. She was born October 28, 1809, and died December 27, 1894. They had, 1st, Julia A.; 2d, James S.; 3d, Jason; 4th, Harriet; 5th, Austin Roe; 6th, Emma; 7th, Ruth; 8th, Silas P.; 9th, Cordelia; 10th, Clarrissa; 11th, Charles Buck.

Fanny, the fifth child, was born March 18, 1802, and died March 3, 1888. She married John B. Allen, September 6, 1838. He died May 9, 1878. They had, 1st, Hattie; 2d, Bennett; 3d, Sarah.

Hannah, the sixth child, was born March 6, 1804, and died March 14, 1866. She married Marcus Sage, April 15, 1857. He died July 13, 1867. They had no children.

James Y., the seventh child, was born September 6, 1806, and died April 13, 1860. He married Nancy Porter, September 23, 1835. She died October 26, 1836. He then married Mary E. Myer, January 7, 1841. She died June 3, 1842. He married for the third time Persis Cordelia Pease, October 8, 1844. She died December 28, 1894. They had, 1st, Lorenzo; 2d, Nancy; 3d, James; 4th, Persis C. All died young except Persis C.

Daniel Roe, the eighth child, was born September 5, 1808, and died January 12, 1853. He married Sarah A. Wood, June 22, 1834, who died December 16, 1889. They had, 1st, Joseph Wood; 2d, Charlotte Roe; 3d, Sidney, who died young.

Charlotte Roe, the ninth child, was born March 26, 1811, and died July 31, 1813.

Alfred N., the tenth child, was born March 26, 1813, and died March 8, 1888. He married Mary E. Smith, March 8, 1838. She was born March 29, 1810, and died July 14, 1896. They had, 1st, Burritt;

2d, Lewis; 3d, Ellen; 4th, Nettie; 5th, Willard W.; 6th, Merritt L., which are all now living but Willard W.

Benjamin Brewster, the eleventh child, was born September 24, 1815, and died July 31, 1900. He married Emily B. Hotchkiss, July 9, 1843, who died April 1, 1887. They had, 1st, Clarence Henry; 2d, Frederick Hotchkiss.

As to the religious life of Daniel and Charlotte Roe Brown, we have very little record. In the Presbyterian Church of Windsor it is recorded on the minutes that they brought letters from a church in Long Island and were received as members of the Windsor church, and later Daniel Brown was made a ruling Elder. We have no sermons, books, or hymns, written by them, no record that they were leaders in any religious movement, and yet we have the best evidence possible of their true faith and piety. Their large family of children were brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and each one as they grew up united with the church in Windsor. All led exemplary lives and established and maintained family worship in their homes, humbly taking their places as sinners saved by the blood of Jesus Christ, through the grace of God.

The testimony of these children: "All my righteousness are as filthy rags. In looking back over my life no work which I have done gives me assurance of eternal life, but I am depending on Christ's work, not mine, and face death in peace."

Where could their children learn these great truths except at home, through the scripture taught by pious parents? And what need have we, their descendants, of surer testimony than that given by these living witnesses, of the piety of Daniel and Charlotte Roe Brown?