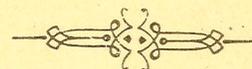


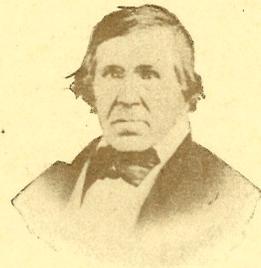
A HISTORY
OF THE
BROWN FAMILY

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WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE
TO THE FAMILY OF
ROBERT BROWN
OF RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO

1909
HERALD PRINTING COMPANY
SHARPSBURG, PA.



ROBERT BROWN

THE SECOND RE-UNION OF THE
BROWN FAMILY WAS HELD AT
THE HOME OF MR. AND MRS.
THEODORE WELCH, TWO MILES
EAST OF LEXINGTON, OHIO, AUG-
UST 5TH, 1908, AT WHICH TIME
THE FOLLOWING HISTORY WAS
READ BY MRS. MARY G. BROWN



SARAH LEDLIE BROWN

WHEN we are young, the world seems bright and our lives are before us. Everything is tinted with the rosy hues of youth. As we grow older, these are merged into the somber shades of work—the responsibilities of life, and the struggle for existence, and it does not dawn upon us, until later, that we are only actors on the stage of time. We appear, we play our little part, and some sooner, some later, leave the stage to be occupied by others. Every man is useful, but no man is essential, and no matter how important we think ourselves to be, we must give place to others. Families arise, branch out and flourish for a time. Some of these branches are merged into others—some are perpetuated for generations.

Our earliest knowledge of the family whose name we perpetuate, was of a William Brown, of County Tyrone, Ireland, who married an Isabella Campbell, and who were the parents of six children. Their oldest son married a Margaret Carson, whose parents were John Carson and Mary McCord, and whose grandparents were John McCord and Mary McIntyre. These people were the descend-

ants of the Covenanters, who fled from the lowlands of Scotland to escape the religious persecutions of the times of the Stuarts. Hence the name "Scotch-Irish." John Brown and Margaret Carson were the parents of four sons and three daughters. Two of these, John and Margaret, died in infancy, the others, William, James C., Robert, Mary and Elizabeth, lived to maturity, emigrated to America, married and brought up families. I have been unable to ascertain the year in which these people came to America, but it was early in the last century.

William Brown, born in 1785, was married to a Sarah Brown, first wife, by whom he had four sons, John, William, James and George, and by his second wife, Mary Miller, one daughter, Frances, now Mrs. John S. Thomas. Mrs. Thomas is the mother of three sons—all married.

James C. Brown, born in 1786, married Eleanor Jane Thompson. These were the parents of four daughters and one son, only one of whom, Miss E. D. Brown, is now living. Their daughter Anna married Graham Scott and died without children. Margaret died unmarried in 1861. Mary married George K. Stevenson, of Pittsburgh, was the mother of nine children, seven of whom are living. Mrs. Stevenson died in 1905, aged 74. John married Esther Hawthorn. They were the parents of four children. John Brown died in 1887. William and James Brown, upon coming to America, eventually settled in Pittsburgh, then a young and growing town.

Mary Brown, of the original family, born 1791, who married Thos. Dickson, was the mother of twelve children, only two of whom are now living, Mr. Thomas C. Dickson and Mrs. Margaret Negley, of Pittsburgh.

Mrs. Dickson's husband and sons were in their day extensive coal operators in the region of Pittsburgh. Mrs. Dickson died in 1864. Her husband, Thos. Dickson, was killed by jumping from the second story of his house during a fire, February 1st, 1865. It is said that while in business, Mr. Dickson used as his private mark, the cry of Cromwell's Ironsides. Elizabeth Brown, born in 1793, was first married to James Duff, by whom she had three sons, who became business men of Philadelphia, her home; also a daughter, who became the wife of John McDaniel. Her second husband was James Downing and they became the parents of two children—a daughter, who died in infancy, and Robert W. Downing, of Philadelphia, still living. None of the first family are living. Mrs. Downing was a woman of remarkable decision of character. She lived to the age of 98 years, dying in Philadelphia in 1902 at the home of her daughter.

¹⁸⁹² Robert Brown, the fourth son of John Brown and Margaret Carson, was born in 1789, and in 1817 married Sarah Ledlie, of Kings Creek, Brooke County, W. Va. Sarah Ledlie's mother was Mary Lusk, of Walnut Bottom, Cumberland County, Pa. Mary Lusk married a Mr. Andrews and was the mother of six children. Capt. Andrews was killed in a war with Indians, near what is now Upper

Sandusky, Ohio. After a widowhood of six years she married Wm. Ledlie, a native of Ireland—a man of education and weight in his day. They were the parents of three daughters. Elizabeth married Mathew Anderson, first husband, and a Mr. Boyce, second husband. Nancy married John Crawford, of West Virginia, and was the mother of four children. Sarah, the youngest, born September 1st, 1793, was married April 17th, 1817, to Robert Brown, and they were the parents of eight children. The husband came to Richland County, Ohio, in 1816, and entered the land upon which the old homestead in Washington Township now stands. The family moved from West Virginia to Ohio in 1821—there being two small children, Nancy and Margaret. These pioneers endured hardships. Ohio was then mostly a wilderness and neighbors few and far between. A cabin was built in a corner of what is now the garden. Enough timber was felled to prevent trees falling upon the cabin in a storm. Here, in February, 1822, Wm., their oldest son, was born. His cradle was a sugar trough. Wild animals were still to be seen. Grandmother told me she saw deer in the woods south of the cabin, and we all know the story of grandmother riding through the woods on horseback, between Sandy Hill and the farm, carrying fresh meat, and hearing wolves howling on her track. Malaria was rife from new soil and undrained swamps, and the pioneers often shook for weeks with ague. Quinine was unknown as a remedy, and they relied upon boneset or other bitter herbs for medicine or shook until frost con-

gealed the sources of malaria. Acres of heavy timber were felled, and being of no commercial value, these logs were rolled into great heaps and burned. They manufactured nearly everything for their own use—even their clothing—the women spinning both flax and wool, and the cloth woven on hand looms. Grandfather Brown owned a loom and wove, not only for their own family, but for neighbors. When the people were much in need of cloth, grandmother would weave until midnight, then her husband would rise and weave until morning. These pioneers brought with them to the wilderness the piety of their Scotch-Irish ancestors. The Sabbath was strictly observed, and public worship attended when possible, the father and mother taking day about going to church, often carrying children with them on horseback.

When our ancestors came to Richland County, feed was so scarce in spring, that trees were cut down so that cattle might browse on the tender twigs, and during one severe snow storm in spring, people emptied straw beds to feed cattle. The facilities for work were most primitive. Where now we cook on steel ranges, or put a match to natural gas, our pioneer mothers cooked for barn raisings and log rollings on open fires, with outside chimneys built of sticks and mud. Sickles, and cradles were used in harvesting the crops in the stumpy fields. But as time wore on, more land was cleared, and circumstances improved. In May, 1824, Sarah Brown was born and in August, 1826, John Brown was born. About the year 1828, Mrs. Ledlie, mother

of Mrs. Sarah Brown, died, aged 80. Robert and Sarah Brown now left their Ohio home, and returned to West Virginia, remaining there seven years, until the death of Mrs. Brown's father, William Ledlie. He died at the age of (about) 89. During this stay of seven years in Virginia James Brown was born in August, 1830; Mary Brown—now Mrs. King—in 1832, and Robert Carson Brown in 1834. When Robert was one year old, the family returned to Richland County. By this time much land was cleared and neighbors plenty. They prospered and their children grew up and married. Nancy, the oldest, born in 1818, married Robert McCune. They were the parents of seven children—three of whom are living—married and have families. Mr. McCune died in 1896.

Mrs. McCune died in November, 1902, aged about 85. Margaret, the second daughter, in 1837 married John Hays. They removed to Northern Indiana, where they both died the next year.

Wm. Ledlie Brown married Elizabeth Ritchie, of this county. They were the parents of nine children, seven of whom are living, married and have families. Elizabeth Ritchie Brown died in May, 1870, aged 39. Wm. L. Brown died in January, 1892, aged about 70. Sarah, who married Wm. Campbell, was the mother of ten children, seven of whom are living, married and have families. Mrs. Campbell, whose home was in Iowa, died in May, 1869, while on a visit to her father, who was hopelessly ill, and was buried, as are most of her kindred, in the cemetery at Lexington. Her age was 45. Her

oldest son, Robert—but a boy—enlisted in the war of 1861 and 1865—went out one day with a small party, while in the army, and never returned—his fate being unknown.

John Brown, in 1853, married Unity A. Knox, of this county. They were the parents of 9 children, 8 of whom are living—6 of them married. They removed to Iowa in 1867, where they have since lived, and where John Brown died in August, 1907, aged 81 years.

James Brown, in 1857, married Lillis A. Short, of Ashland County. These were the parents of 4 children, all married, 3 sons residing on the Pacific coast, and one daughter, Mrs. Welch, at whose home we meet to-day. Mrs. Lillis Brown died in September, 1899, aged 71. Mary Brown, in 1858, married Thos. Adams and they were the parents of three children—two of whom, sons, grew to manhood—married and have families. Mr. Adams died in 1862. In 1872, Mrs. Adams married Albert Watson, of West Liberty, Iowa. One son was born of this marriage, who died about the age of 14. Mr. Watson died in 1877, and in 1881 Mrs. Watson married Mr. Joseph King, who died some 5 years ago.

Robert Carson Brown, the youngest of the family, after serving four years in the War of the Rebellion, was married in 1868 to Mary E. Gailey. They were the parents of 2 children, both living.

Robert C. Brown died in June, 1898, in the 64th year of his age.

Of the original Brown family, who have been identified with the history of this township, to a greater or less extent for more than 80 years, but two remain—James Brown and Mary Brown King. The father, Robert Brown, Sr., died July 4, 1869, at the age of 80, of a lingering illness and the infirmities of age. To him "wearisome nights were appointed," but he was a man of deep and humble piety, and died "sustained and soothed by an unfaltering trust—approached his grave like one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him, and lies down to pleasant dreams." His wife, Sarah Ledlie Brown, outlived him 18 years—dying July 5, 1887, aged nearly 94—retaining in a remarkable degree her mental faculties to the last. Of the descendants of Robert Brown, Sr., there were 45 grandchildren, and more than 70 great-grandchildren—these scattered from Richland County, Ohio, through various states to the Pacific coast.

In religion we believe most of these Browns in America were attached to some form of the Presbyterian faith—Reformed, United, Old School or Cumberland. Those who settled in the east engaged in some line of business—those in the west mostly in agriculture—of late years, a sprinkling of professional men. We believe they have always been found on the right side of every moral issue.

This history is largely the history of any family—birth, marriage, death. We believe it may be said of those who have passed away, that "these all died in faith" and having "served their generation

by the will of God, have fallen asleep"—that their flesh rests in hope, and that "they will be satisfied with His likeness when they awake."

Since our re-union in 1906, there have been two deaths—that of John Brown, of Bloomfield, Iowa, and a Dickson, of Indianapolis, Ind.

Births—A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Brown, of Olathe, Kan.; a son to Mr. and Mrs. Grant Brown, of Beaverton, Oregon; a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Carson Adams, of Douglass, Wyo., and a son to Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Palm, of Mansfield, Ohio.