

MICHAEL
BRAUN
OF
THE
OLD
STONE
HOUSE

*Michael Braun
of the
Old Stone House*

His Influence and Descendants

ROSCOE
BROWN
FISHER

EDITOR



THE SCHENCKLER, 1840,
NEWARK, PENN., ARCHT.

DELMAR

Edited by Roscoe Brown Fisher

MICHAEL BRAUN
OF
THE OLD STONE HOUSE



Photo by James Barringer

Old Stone House and Grounds — 1974

Michael Braun (Brown) of the Old Stone House His Influence and Descendants

Compiled and Edited
by
Roscoe Brown Fisher

In cooperation with the Michael Brown Family
Historical Committee

1975

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Dedicated
to the memory of
The Reverend and Mrs. Richard Lewis Brown
great grandson of Michael Braun



Richard L. Brown (1842-1923)
Nancy Agner Brown (1844-1925)

Rev. Brown spent many hours gathering and putting into print valuable information about Michael Braun and the Old Stone House, which otherwise would have been lost forever. His *A History of the Michael Brown Family* was published in 1921.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The editor of this work is grateful for the assistance of all who helped to make possible this publication. Worthy of particular mention are those writers who graciously provided the various chapters of the book. Some of these are descendants of our illustrious and long-ago grandfather, Michael Braun; others are of no relation, but from a sense of history and dedication responded graciously.

I express my abiding thanks to the faithful members of the Brown Historical Committee, who generously gave their loyal support and were patient with my many shortcomings. Their faithfulness over the years compensates for all the hours spent in the preparation of this work.

In speaking as chairman of the Brown Historical Committee, it is a pleasure to acknowledge our gratitude to those who served as consultants: Among these, we mention James S. Brawley, historian and author; the late Heath Thomas, long-time staff writer for the *Salisbury Evening Post*; J. K. Rouse, author of "North Carolina Picadillo" and other books; Misses Adelaide M. and Eugenia W. Lore, genealogists; and the late William D. Kizziah, whose partially prepared chapter, "The Browns of the Revolutionary and Civil Wars" — for inclusion in this work — was never completed.

My gratitude is equally expressed to Dr. Carl Hammer, Jr., Attorney David Rendleman, and likewise to Mrs. Guy M. Beaver, Mrs. Everette Deal and Mrs. M. J. Ragland, members of the Brown Historical Committee, for their faithful assistance and correspondence over a period of years.

The author wishes to thank Miss Edith Clark and our other friends at the Rowan Public Library, Mrs. Gettys Guille and Ernest Hardin of the Rowan Museum, Mrs. Madge Russell of the Register of Deeds of Rowan County, and *The Salisbury Evening Post* for the use of their records and facilities.

The writing of this book has been a long and arduous task, as are all historical works; hence I acknowledge the help of my wife, Pauline Little Fisher, who assisted immeasurably typing manuscripts . . . and for her other help, including the design of the front cover. I am also indebted to our children, Martha, Mary, Miriam, Mildred and Luther, whose assistance and patience were an inspiration during the preparation of the manuscript.



D. Brown



Beaver



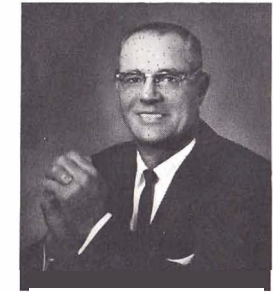
K. Brown



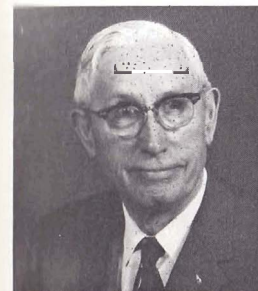
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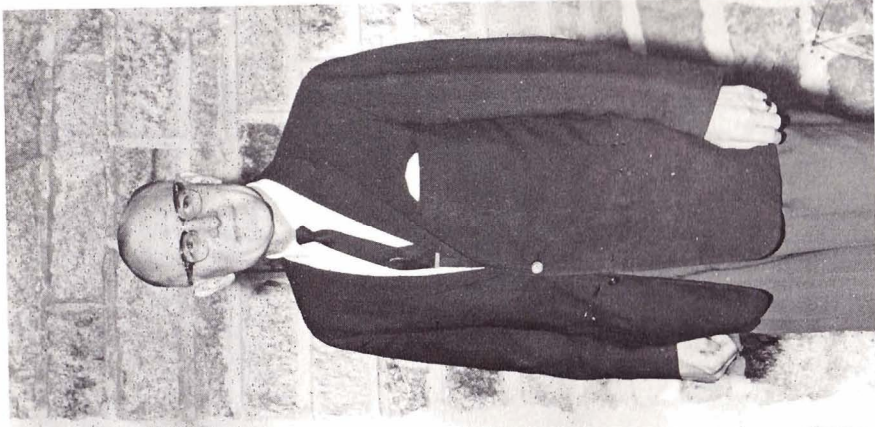
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Ernest L. Hardin
President, Rowan Museum

G. Ray Brown
Preserver of a Landmark

FOREWORD

Both history and its builder come alive in this fine Old Stone House which was erected by Michael Braun over 200 years ago. Now we can see and touch the original structure which Michael Braun put together with such skill and craftsmanship that it has withstood both time and the elements. He was an able and courageous man, a true pioneer, who with great imagination and ability forged out a place in a new country where his family could be reared and where freedom and opportunity would be his.

Nearly two centuries passed after Michael Braun came to Rowan before good fortune enabled the Rowan Museum to acquire this old house and restore it to its original design and structure. We have researched and worked on the project for more than five years. It was our aim to complete the restoration by early Fall, 1966, as a fitting tribute for its 200th anniversary. This we accomplished. We are greatly pleased that this book, the second history of the Brown family, is being published.

Lovers of antiquity, and those interested in Michael Braun and the dwelling he left to posterity, are grateful to the Reverend Roscoe Brown Fisher for his comprehensive work of the life and times of Braun. With the publication of *Michael Braun of the Old Stone House — His Influence and Descendants*, a new chapter is written into the memorabilia of this pre-Revolutionary pioneer.

Fisher has included in his work, published with the cooperation of the Brown Family Historical Committee, much here-to-fore unpublished information concerning the builder of the Old Stone House. The work shows vividly the imprint of Michael Braun and his descendants upon the life of Salisbury and eastern Rowan.

The Rowan Museum Incorporated and its many staunch supporters, together with the Richardson Foundation, donated funds for the restoration. We have made every effort to make it a House Museum that will be completely furnished with authentic pieces of Michael Braun's time. These have been acquired from many sections of the country, but mostly Rowan County. The selections were made with great care to match the authenticity that was followed in the restoration of the house.

We are very grateful to our good friend Frank Horton, Research Director of Old Salem, for his guidance and council in directing this program. Without him, it would never have been possible to capture the true character and meaning of the Old Stone House.

The original family burying ground has also been reconstructed in true likeness. When the landscaping is completed, the Michael Braun Old Stone House will be a thing of beauty and joy for countless years to come.

Ernest L. Hardin, President
Rowan Museum, Inc.

Salisbury, North Carolina

The Coat of Arms

THE MICHAEL BRAUN COAT OF ARMS



Braun
(Braun)

Sometime ago while gathering and preparing materials for this book, the author and members of the Brown Historical Committee began searching for an appropriate Braun coat of arms. Our quest was supported by the increasing interest in genealogy and the kindred subject of heraldry among cultured Americans.

From the beginning of the thirteenth century princes, nobles, knights, and gentry adopted the custom and proudly displayed their arms in architectural and household decorations, in jewelry, and in embroidery, as well as on their paraphernalia of war. From the practice of embroidering the family device on the surcoat, worn over the coat of mail, comes the expression COAT OF ARMS.

Our quest for an acceptable arms for the descendants of our honored ancestor, Michael Braun, was rewarded when, with the assistance of Mrs. Guy M. Beaver, a number of Brown arms were located. A study of each of these evidenced no particular relation to the Michael Braun, who landed in Philadelphia in 1737.

Hence, we turned to Mrs. Jeanne Rhodes of Tryon — who earlier had furnished a coat of arms for a Brown descendant — and provided her with the information that Michael Braun was from Hesse-Darmstadt of the “Palatinate” of Germany. She in turn informed us that the Lion Rampant was the acknowledged emblem of the “Palatinate” and the arms of the Hessian Prince. She also furnished information that “A C. Fox-Davies’ *Complete Guide to Heraldry* cities and depicts a shield dated in the 1200’s with the same Hessian Lion, which is now in St. Elizabeth Church at Marburg.”

Since it was the accepted custom in early days of Heraldry to adopt the arms under whom one served, Braun, as a subject of the State of Hesse, was entitled to the arms of Count Konrad.

Recognizing our indebtedness to Mrs. Rhodes, our research was then directed to Michael Braun’s homeland — Germany. Letters were promptly dispatched to the Mayors of Marburg and Darmstadt. A reply was promptly received from an official of Marburg, whose good grace sent along a copy of the above-mentioned St. Elizabeth Hessian Shield of Count Konrad of Thuringia who died in 1240. Several weeks later the Mayor of Darmstadt likewise responded and enclosed an authentic coat of arms of the city of Darmstadt, Michael Braun’s birthplace. These letters, translated, are included in the *Records and Letters* section of this work.

For reasons of convenience, we turned to Theodore Franklin Thomas of Charlotte, Director of Heraldic Art and Research, who, after several conferences prepared and emblasoned for our Brown Historical Committee *The Michael Braun Coat of Arms* presented along with this book.

The Coat of Arms

The Shield, or Escutcheon, on which the arms is displayed, is “the coat of arms of Count Konrad, Hessian Prince, of Thuringia, who joined the Tuetonic Order (in Marburg) in 1233 and who died as head of this order in 1240.” The coat of arms of the German Order is also shown on the shield at bottom left.

The Crest is the crown of the coat of arms of the city of Darmstadt, where Michael Braun was born. For the occasion of the 25th year reign, the Grand Duke granted the city of Darmstadt the right to picture the crown of the grand-duchy over the city’s coat of arms. The “Arms with the crown is still today the binding coat of arms for Darmstadt.”

The Motto “Est-Concordia-Fratrum,” taken from the Braun arms of Mrs. Elizabeth Brown Huntley, interpreted, means “There is Harmony of Brothers.”

The Mantling, or Lambrequin, is from the coat of arms of the Dan Nicholas family, descendants of Michael Braun. The mantling represents the cloth or leather scarf thrown over the helmet and shoulder areas of the original Arus-Bearer as protection from the elements of weather or foe’s weapons.

Colour Meanings:

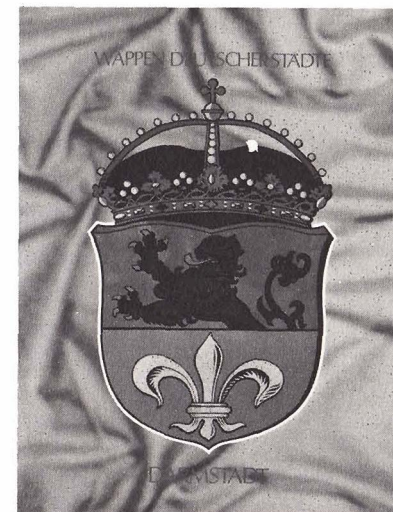
- Azure: (blue) The colour azure denotes loyalty and truth and also signifies divine contemplation and Godliness.
- Gules: (red) Military valour and courage. Red is the warrior’s colour and symbolizes the desire to serve one’s country.
- Argent: (silver) The metal argent represents peace and security. It also signifies everlasting charity and clear conscience.

Hence, we are pleased to provide this *Michael Braun Coat of Arms* for descendants of Michael Braun, particularly those interested in our efforts to establish an acceptable arms related to the “Palatinate on the Rhine” and Darmstadt, the birthplace of Michael Braun.

We include below the original Shield of Court Konrad, Hessian Prince, and the Coat of Arms of the City of Darmstadt.



Shield of Count Konrad of Thuringia
Died 1240



Coat of Arms of City of Darmstadt
Germany

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*"Braun" is used for Michael and Margareta as Michael's will is signed.
The name was already becoming Anglicized during the lifetime of Michael.
Hence, the spelling "Brown" is used for all subsequent relatives.

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INTRODUCTION

Time has marched on since Michael Braun first stepped unnoticed upon American soil at Philadelphia September 26, 1737. Twenty-nine years later and ten years before the signing of the Declaration of Independence of 1776, Pioneer Michael Braun built the Old Stone House . . . in 1766.

More than a hundred years later — in 1881 — the Reverend Jethro Rumble in *A History of Rowan County* wrote: "About three miles southeast of Salisbury, and near the supposed line of the 'Training Path,' stands a remarkable relic of the early settlement of Rowan. It is known far and wide as the 'Old Stone House.' A smooth stone tablet over the front door tells the visitor that Michael Braun (Brown), erected this house in 1766."

Many intervening years passed before the Reverend Richard L. Brown gathered up what fragments he could find of the life and times of Michael Braun and placed them into *A History of the Michael Brown Family* in 1921. Without Richard Brown's history, subsequent studies of Braun and his descendants would be all but impossible.

Now after 54 years, with the help of relatives and friends, we gather again the pieces and add our memorabilia to the remarkable trail Michael Braun left when he "gave up the ghost" on November 25, 1807, at the age of 86.

This book has been written over a long period of time, dating back to the 1950's when the writer accepted the responsibility of preserving Brown family records and up-dating the family history. It has been accomplished amid the ever-present demands of regular professional duty. We acknowledge with sadness that many of our older folk who longed to see a second Brown history have passed off the scene. It is our hope the delay, making possible the inclusion of recent discoveries and heretofore unknown information, will make this publication worthy of the noble pioneer families whose annals it is intended to recover and perpetuate.

One of the enigmas of this study — and to historians past and present — is that much of Braun's history remains obscure, including approximately 20 years spent in Pennsylvania. A man of his stature and accomplishments, who built a monument as the Old Stone House and a family cemetery, walled in with stones, would be expected to leave family records and mementos to his posterity. And yet, the ravages of time, along with the additional

devastations of the War Between the States, could efface many irreplaceable family records. Be that as it is, his home of 1766 has withstood the elements of more than two centuries. The truth of the matter is that this old rock house is really what brought about the difference between Michael Braun and hundreds of other early Americans with like accomplishments, who did not build so well.

Why not a portrait or painting of Michael Braun? Or of one of his seven sons or four daughters? The nearest we can reach him in portrait is through a daughter-in-law, the wife of his son, Peter, included in this volume. What happened to the family Bible and other records a man of Braun's civic pride and religious fervor would be expected to keep?

And yet, thrilling it has been, to watch many of the long-ago-lost fragments fall into place — such as, the second wife of Michael Braun, Rosanna, the mother of Moses Brown. Other discoveries include a son of Michael Braun named Michael, Jr., who died about the same time as his father, and the emergence of the family Bible of another son, Peter Brown, which is now in the Old Stone House under the care of the Rowan Museum, Inc. Other rare documents include the original will of Michael Braun, found among the possessions of William Henry Canup, and an original 1753 land deed of 274 acres related to the Old Stone House, furnished by Mrs. Margaret Peacock Berkshire. We are indebted to Mrs. Mammie G. McCubbins in her *McCubbin's papers* for verifying Michael's birthplace in Germany — Hesse-Darmstadt . . . and to J. K. Rouse and James Brawley for furnishing missing pieces of the Michael Braun story.

This book does not attempt to pick up the story of Braun where the Reverend Richard Brown left off in 1921. Instead the study begins anew and antedates Reverend Brown's work with an entire chapter by Dr. Carl Hammer, Jr., giving the history of the migrations from the Palatinate, that rich Rhineland of Germany from which our ancestor turned westward in 1737.

The major portion of *Michael Braun of the Old Stone House, His Influence and Descendants* is a compilation of 14 qualified writers.

The purpose of this book is to present a comprehensive study of what is known of the life and times of Michael Braun as they are related to the Old Stone House and his posterity. In so doing we offer the results of earlier and recent research, including much

unpublished information. G. Ray Brown presents a complete and continuous story of the ownership of the Old Stone House from the time Braun purchased the land from John Dunn on July 18, 1760, to the present. Heath Thomas deals professionally with the 1966 restoration and the untiring efforts of Ernest L. Hardin of the Rowan Museum, Inc. Mary Fisher Lemons reveals early and recent information relative to the family cemetery. The Brown Historical Committee is indebted to Edward Brown for his research and description of the original will of Michael Braun as shown in the book. The chapter by the Honorable David A. Rendleman provides a new and revealing look at Michael Braun's Salisbury property and plantation in eastern Rowan. An accompanying map vividly tells this story. Historian James S. Brawley in his chapter on "The Influence of the Browns on Rowan County's History" releases interesting information heretofore unpublished. The work would be incomplete without the stories and legends of Betty Ragland Stanback. Of unusual interest is Kaye Sandra Brown's summary chapter, "The Influence of Michael Braun on His Posterity," written several years ago while Kaye was a junior at East Rowan High School. The concluding four chapters deal with descendants of Braun omitted from Brown's history of 1921.

It is our hope the readers will understand a work of this nature will of necessity include some degree of repetition. For this we ask your patience. The various contributors prepared their chapters without the knowledge of what the other writers were presenting, except for their subjects. If together in their comprehensive presentation, the contributors give us a clearer understanding of Michael Braun and the times in which he lived, we should all be grateful.

A special effort is made to relate the descendants of Michael Braun to the son or daughter of Michael from which they descended. This can be noted in the identification of the authors of the chapters, and likewise for the Picture Collection near the conclusion of the book.

Our study does not attempt to include the full genealogies of the thousands of Brown relatives of Michael Braun. This will have to be a separate work, possibly of several volumes, which the writer has tried to say gracefully for a number of years. Grandpa Brown in his 1921 book used half of his volume to list the lineage of only four of the seven sons of Michael Braun — David, James, Moses and Jeremiah. None was given for the two oldest sons —

John and Peter, nor for Michael, Jr., or for the four daughters. Brown carried the family histories of the four sons through the 6th and 7th generations. We are now of the 9th and 10th generations. This should give an understanding of the enormity of a full listing of genealogies.

Nonetheless, this writer is indeed grateful for the many family histories sent in; for if they were not, a host of names of Michael Braun's descendants would never have been preserved. They have come from far and wide, including many states of the nation, and are being kept intact for future compilation. Many of these genealogical lists are beautifully arranged —hence, we deeply regret they could not be included in this work. Others appear impossible to assimilate, since the senders gave no address nor indicated from which family, or from which child of Michael Braun, they descended. Further information is needed regarding many of these.

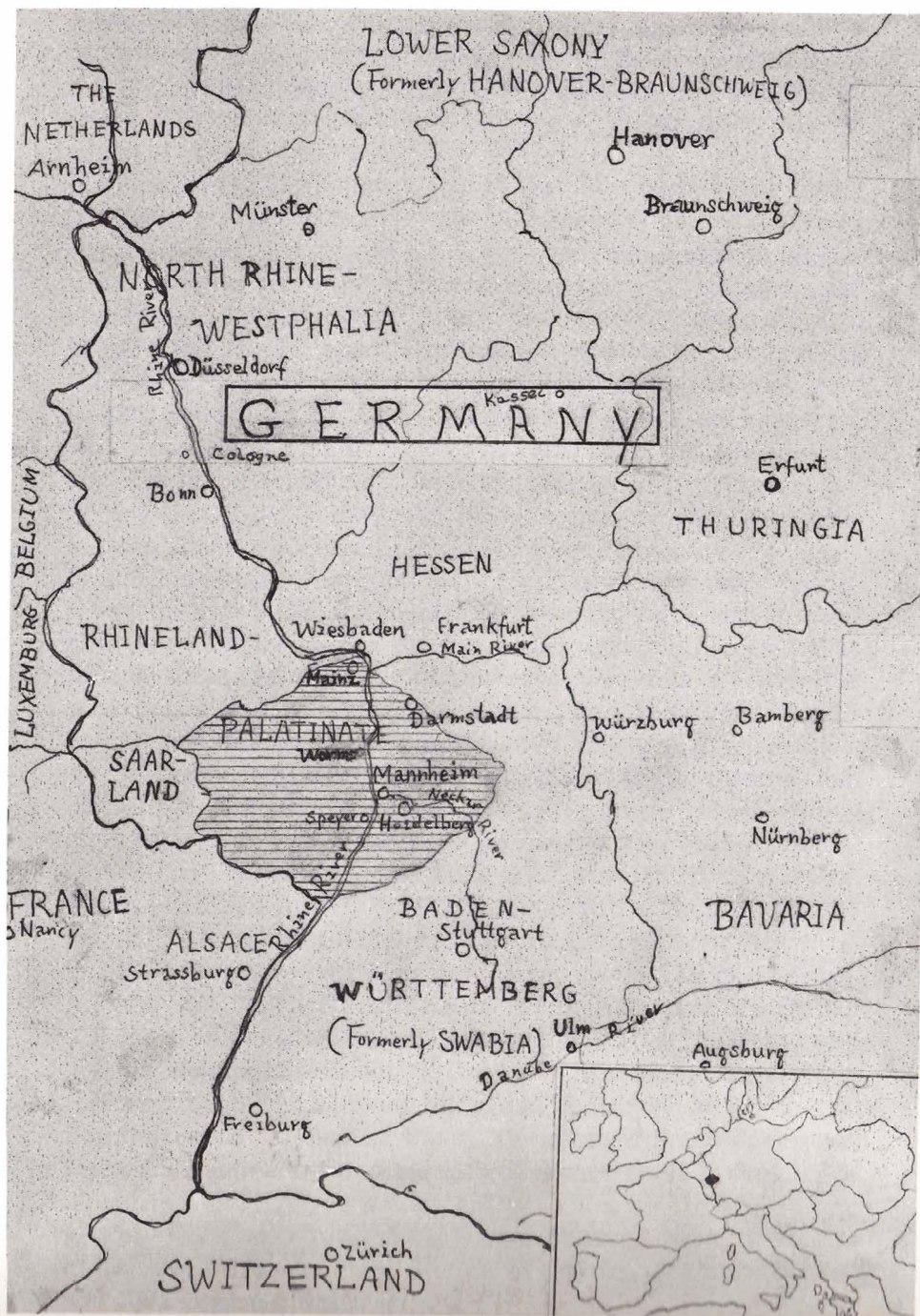
However, this volume does include chapters on the descendants of John, Peter, the Texas Browns, and several daughters of Michael Braun. This became appropriate, since they are omitted in Grandfather Brown's book, and need to be preserved along with the four sons included in his history. He explains in his book that he thought John and the three daughters by Margareta, his first wife, died young and was uncertain which Peter Brown to include. Subsequent research has revealed that John was very much alive, for we have a long list of verified and honorable descendants from his lineage. The same is true of Peter. Also herein — for consideration — are some genealogies of the daughters of Michael Braun, particularly Christina, by Miss Lucy Lee Lancaster. At this writing, we are unable to identify positively the three daughters mentioned only as "she had nine children, six sons and three daughters" on the 1771 tombstone of Margareta Braun in the family cemetery near the Old Stone House. Recent information concerns the descendants of Margaret Brown, a daughter of Michael Braun, who married Wendel Miller's son, Frederick. This information has been furnished by Julian K. Wood of Bagdad, Kentucky, an 8th generation descendant of Michael Braun. The name of Braun's daughter, Susan Clementine, by his third wife, Eleanor Reeves, is a matter of record.

This work also presents a Brown Coat of Arms, a Picture Collection, a Documentary Section of records, deeds and letters, and Genealogical Charts.

We present this book in a spirit of loyalty and love to our forefathers for giving us the privilege of life, and the opportunity to evidence our gratitude for their example and religious faith and fervor.

—Roscoe Brown Fisher

748 Springdale Road
Statesville, N. C.
March 7, 1975



Europe about the year 1740 — Map by Hammer



CHAPTER I

Emigration From the Palatinate

By Carl Hammer, Jr.

When a certain Michael Braun — the one honored by this volume — landed at Philadelphia in 1737, he was by no means a solitary immigrant from Germany. Thousands of his fellow-countrymen were arriving annually in the American colonies, and the City of Brotherly Love was their chief port of entry. More than half a century had then elapsed since Franz Daniel Pastorius led the first German colonists, a company of Pietists, from Frankfurt to Pennsylvania in 1683 and founded Germantown (now a part of Philadelphia). In the meantime an unhappy sequence of events had given rise to a mass exodus from the Rhineland, especially from that province known as the Palatinate. For a proper understanding of the causes, let us turn briefly to an earlier period of German history.

The medieval German Empire, called officially the "Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation," had experienced its most brilliant epoch around 1200 A.D., under the Swabian dynasty of the Hohenstaufens. In the later Middle Ages, however, the Imperial authority steadily declined amid sectional differences and rival contestants for the electoral office of emperor. While there were sometimes accessions to the throne by members of other princely houses, notably those of Bavaria and Luxemburg, it became increasingly the prerogative of the archducal family of the Hapsburgs. Their hereditary domain, Austria (nowadays an independent nation, though German in language and customs), was

Carl Hammer, Jr., Ph.D., is Horn Professor of German, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas.

thus for centuries the ruling state of the German Empire, whose capital was then Vienna. All too often the House of Hapsburg showed more concern for augmenting the dynastic possessions than for the well-being of Germany as a whole. The Reformation and the consequent religious struggles in the sixteenth century further weakened the Imperial power.

It was the Thirty Years' War, lasting from 1618 until 1648, which completed the disintegration of the Empire. At first ostensibly a war of religion, the conflict became more and more political in character, especially with the entrance of Sweden and France into a holocaust that brought widespread devastation to many parts of the land — not just once, but repeatedly. Of more than eighteen million inhabitants of the German Empire in 1618, probably no more than five or six million remained alive in 1648, when the Peace of Westphalia was signed. Beside taking extensive territories for themselves, the French and Swedes dictated a treaty whereby Germany was split up into more than three hundred principalities, the rulers of which became practically independent sovereigns within their borders, owing merely nominal allegiance to the Emperor.

Among the provinces which suffered the worst depredations through the Thirty Years' War was the Rhenish Electoral Palatinate with its capital, Heidelberg. Yet recovery was fairly rapid there in the upper Rhine Valley, noted for its fertile soil, its relatively mild, sunny climate, and especially for the industry and agricultural proficiency of its inhabitants. Under the Elector Karl Ludwig, a wise ruler with the interests of his subjects at heart, conditions seemed really to be improving for the Palatines. Alas, they were soon to fall a prey to even more terrible aggression.

France, as we have seen, had already taken possession of some German territory in the west at the time of the Peace of Westphalia. Now, a generation later, King Louis XIV decided upon further aggrandizement at the expense of his neighbors, particularly Germany, still almost prostrate from the Thirty Years' War. The French monarch first drove Duke Charles of Lorraine out of his hereditary land in 1670 and annexed this province of the Empire. Then, in 1672, Louis attacked the Netherlands. Shortly thereafter he seized control of the ten Imperial towns of Alsace and sent an army under General Turenne to overrun the Palatinate

(1674).¹ In his efforts to acquire neighboring territories, Louis XIV in 1680 instituted the so-called "Chambers of Reunion", French law courts specially appointed to establish plausible justification for French claims of sovereignty over the contested areas. These were, in the apt expression of Lord Bryce, "a pleasant euphemism for robbery in time of peace."² By his seizure of the Imperial city of Strassburg (a leading center of German culture in the Middle Ages) in 1681, the "Most Christian King" completed his annexation of Alsace, at a time when the Turks were threatening the Empire from the east (indeed, they almost captured Vienna in 1683).

Meanwhile a second harassing attack on the Palatinate had occurred in 1680, the year of Karl Ludwig's death. The Elector himself had been forced to pay tribute to the French; his successors lacked both his patriotism and his ability. King Louis began the cruelest and most destructive of his invasions of the Rhineland in 1688. This time he claimed the Palatinate by right of "inheritance" for his brother, since Karl Ludwig's daughter, the Princess Palatine Elisabeth Charlotte, was Duchess of Orleans. We know from her correspondence that she, whom many of her compatriots bitterly reproached, wept over the desolation wrought in her name, while she was powerless to prevent it. In reality, the main purpose of Louis in despoiling the Rhine Valley was to keep it from being a source of supplies and a springboard for a counterattack by the German princes. But for once he had overreached himself, as became evident when the Emperor Leopold and the Elector of Brandenburg (later the Kingdom of Prussia), together with Hanover, Saxony, and Hesse-Cassel, formed an alliance against the common enemy. Thus, in this so-called War of the League of Augsburg, the French king found himself unexpectedly facing a temporarily united Germany, backed by a European coalition with William III of England at the head. When his armies, which had pressed far into German territory, were speedily driven back, it was again the Protestant Rhineland that suffered most severely. By order of General Mélac, the Palatinate was senselessly devastated as never before. This invasion brought destruction to Mannheim, Worms, Speyer, and Heidelberg itself with its beautiful castle — even today, in its ruined state, an architectural marvel.³

If the inhabitants of the cities fared ill, a yet more relentless fate overtook the dwellers in little towns and farm villages during the intensely cold winter of 1688-1689. Some five hundred thousand persons were rendered homeless by the French invaders. Those who escaped the sword had to wander afoot into exile, beset by the further perils of hunger and disease.⁴ In the Netherlands they found sanctuary for the moment, but what then? — There was one answer: America. — How many of those hapless refugees actually reached the New World cannot be determined with exactness, but down to our time in piedmont Carolina there has persisted among the Pennsylvania German folk a fear of Roman Catholicism, resting on the historical tradition (sometimes vague, but always ineradicable) of how their forebears were once driven forth into the snow from their burning houses by the Catholic armies of the King of France.

Having once begun to flow, the stream of westward migration gained steadily in volume. Subsequent happenings conspired to cause ever larger numbers to seek a new home beyond the sea. Foremost among those occurrences was the War of the Spanish Succession, which broke out in 1707 and gave the signal for the armies of Louis XIV once more to ravage the German Territories west of the Rhine. Again untold thousands in the Palatinate were expelled from their homes. Ultimately an emigration of vast proportions resulted, but it started modestly with a band of sixty persons whom a Lutheran minister, Josua von Kocherthal, conducted through the Netherlands and thence to England.⁵

Upon their arrival at London in 1708 the Palatines (German: "Pfaelzer") met with a kindly reception from Queen Anne, who supported them while making arrangements for their transport to the New York colony; before the departure she had them naturalized as British subjects. A further contingent of Rhinelanders came in time to sail with the others. The new governor, Lord Lovelace, accompanied the group on the ocean voyage and up the Hudson to the designated land along Quassaick Creek, where the Germans founded Neuburg, or Newburgh, on the west bank of the river. Fortunately, they continued to enjoy the patronage of Queen Anne and the governor.⁶

The destiny of later Rhenish settlers in that colony was a less happy one. Induced by reports of the generous treatment of

Kocherthals party, by exaggerated accounts (circulated particularly by agents of shipping firms and land companies) of the advantages that awaited settlers in the Hudson Valley, and disheartened by the hardships of the severe winter of 1708-1709, in the wake of a ruinous war, many thousands of Palatines and Swabians (the latter from what is now Baden-Wuerttemberg) resolved to journey to the new land of opportunity. Traveling down the Rhine to Rotterdam in the spring of 1709, they set sail for London. Within a few months some 14,000 arrived there, to the dismay of the inhabitants, who initially, however, showed much kindness to these victims of war and religious intolerance; even so, death took a heavy toll of the refugees the following winter. As public charity gradually wearied in well-doing, the government stepped in and sent a few thousand, mainly Catholics who clung to their faith, back to the Netherlands and Germany. Other thousands were shipped to Ireland to work in the spinning mills, while most of those left in England by April, 1710, were dispatched for New York. Numbering over 3,000 souls, they embarked on ten vessels, of which one sank; its passengers saved their lives but lost all their possessions.⁷

According to Konrad Weiser's diary, as reported by Muehlenberg,⁸ some Indian chiefs who were visiting London had felt sorry for the homeless Rhinelanders and had promised to give them a tract of land on the Schoharie River; the plan did not materialize. Instead, the Palatines were settled on the Hudson, where they were to produce tar and other supplies for the British navy and likewise to serve as a bulwark against the French and Indians. That scheme proved a failure, causing only further trouble and discouragement for the newcomers, who were victimized by official callousness and the trickery of the great landholders as well as by the antagonism of the long-established Dutch. Eventually, about two thirds of the German settlers followed the invitation of Governor Keith of Pennsylvania to come to his colony. One Hartmann Windecker led the first large company in 1723; the second migration occurred in 1728, under the leadership of Konrad Weiser the Younger.⁹ There, where many immigrants from the "Old Country" had preceded them, the Palatines encountered appreciation (likewise from persons of British ancestry) of their diligence and skill, and there at length they prospered.

By that time large groups were arriving directly from Germany each year, landing principally at Philadelphia, but otherwise at Baltimore or Charleston, in preference to New York because of the vicissitudes of the Rhinelanders, as recounted above. Since Philadelphia was attracting ever greater numbers from Europe, the keeping of immigration records was instituted in 1727; along with the name, the country of origin was generally indicated. In the year 1749 about 12,000 people of German nationality reach Pennsylvania.¹⁰ Nearly everyone of the original thirteen colonies had its German element. As early as 1710 a numerous party of Palatines and Swiss, led by Christoph von Graffenried and Louis Michel, had gone directly to eastern North Carolina and founded Neu-Bern (New Bern). That colonization thus antedated by several decades the second and greater influx, namely, from Pennsylvania to piedmont Carolina about the middle of the eighteenth century and thereafter. Concurrent with this later Palatine migration was the founding of the Wachovia settlement, in the present county of Forsyth, by another large body of Germans, the United Brethren, or Moravians, who had first established themselves at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and whose careful records even now afford a comprehensive view of their manner of life.¹¹

Apparently, the southward trek was undertaken by the Pennsylvania Germans because farm land early became scarce and high in the Quaker State. They had first settled in and around Philadelphia as well as in Berks, Lancaster, and Montgomery counties, and later, quite extensively, in at least seven others. In addition to the natural growth of population, there was a steady flow, year after year, of new arrivals from the Fatherland. Probably no less than one third of the German component of Pennsylvania moved, within a few decades to the South, where more and cheaper living space was available. Some were soon attracted to Maryland, others to Virginia, which they entered through the Shenandoah Valley. Further large companies pressed on southward by that same route, making their way along the Staunton River through the Blue Ridge, then across the Dan River country to the fertile reaches of the Yadkin Valley, where the agents of the Earl of Granville were offering inexpensive land in abundance.

It is the settlement in the "forks of the Yadkin" and along Second Creek in Rowan County that immediately concerns us.

According to the evidence presented (with highly impressive documentation) by Dr. Ramsey, most of the German settlers in this area came from Lancaster and Bucks Counties, Pennsylvania, and Frederick County, Maryland.¹² Extant records indicate that only a very few Germans were living in what is now Rowan County before 1752, but an increasingly heavy immigration took place during the ten years thereafter. Not only the court records, but also the fact that the Germans located on the less productive land east, and especially southeast, of Salisbury, instead of in the clay soil region of the western part of the county, seem to prove conclusively the earlier arrival of the Scotch-Irish immigrants.¹³ Still, there is much beautiful country in southeastern Rowan and northeastern Cabarrus — the focal point of the Palatines' Carolina settlement, from which they fanned out westward in course of time through the piedmont counties, joining their neighbors of English and Scottish ancestry in pushing back the frontier. As for the early Rowan scene, thanks to the researches of Messrs. W. D. Kizziah and David Rendleman (the latter has produced a map showing the original land grants throughout the county), it can now be clearly visualized in regard to the boundaries of family holdings, and with greater accuracy as to dates than formerly.

Michael Braun is one of the several most prominent names in our local German annals. Likewise, the Old Stone House that he built, now admirably restored as a museum, stands as one of the truly noteworthy monuments left by those Rhinelanders. One also inevitably thinks, in this connection, of the two massive stone churches, Organ and Lowerstone, Lutheran and Reformed, respectively, which appropriately symbolize the prevailing Christian faiths of our Teutonic forefathers, for which they were once willing to seek a haven in the New World.

Braun left a lasting imprint upon eastern Rowan, where he and his family settled after migrating from Pennsylvania. For reasons not known, he pulled up the stakes planted some 20 years earlier and replanted them in Carolina soil. Now after more than 200 years, writers and historians continue to piece together the fragments of Michael Braun's prosperous years, when Salisbury was young and Granite Quarry was called "Granite Ridge."

Two centuries — a long time! Yet some of us who remember life in the "back country" of Rowan and Cabarrus forty to fifty

years ago can well recall many of the old ways that still persisted. From the material aspect, one found primitive farming methods with homemade implements, yielding but slowly to the new machines; dwelling-houses even then considered quaint; barns of a distinctive type, often with threshing-floors; outdoor bake-ovens of brick, patterned after those formerly used in the distant homeland; and wonderful cooking recipes, handed down from generation to generation. Then there were age-old customs of worship, work, and play; folk superstitions, some of them stemming from the Middle Ages; and deep-seated prejudices, narrow, if you will, but time-honored.¹⁴ Finally, there remained a very few whose mother tongue was "Deutsch" (dialectal for *Deutsch* = German) and who had first learned English at school.

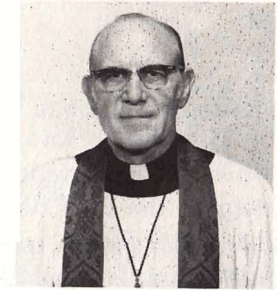
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4. Cf. Albert B. Faust, *The German Element in the United States*, 2 vols. (New York: The Steuben Society of America, 1927), I, 57f.
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12. Robert W. Ramsey, *Carolina Cradle: Settlement of the Northwest Carolina Frontier, 1747-1762* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1964), p. 92.
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CHAPTER II



Michael Braun, The Patriarch by Roscoe Brown Fisher

Every archaeologist knows in his heart when he digs in pity and humility, the dead may live again, and what is past may not be forever lost.

—*The Testimony of the Spade* by Geoffrey Bibby

In connecting the present with the past there are always surprises. Who would have thought that a migrating colonial settler, along with his family and what belongings they could transport by foot and wagon from Pennsylvania to the North Carolina semi-wilderness, would — after these many years — be uniquely honored, simply because he dug deep into Carolina soil.

Esquire Michael Braun left us an intriguing story. The more one delves into the study of the life and records of this pre-Revolutionary pioneer, the more likely he is to become engrossed in its mysteries. And yet, much of Braun's better than 50 years in Rowan County and Salisbury is a matter of record.

The first 16 of his youthful years spent in his native Germany among the beautiful terrain of the Palatinate of the Rhine remain obscure, except the place of his birth — Hesse-Darmstadt. The whereabouts of his approximately 20 years residence in Pennsylvania also continues to escape the researcher.

Rev. Roscoe Brown Fisher, chairman of the Brown Historical Committee and a past president of the Brown-Fisher Association, is a 6th generation (mother) and a 7th generation (father) descendant of Michael Braun, through his son, David. Pastor Fisher is minister of the Bethesda Presbyterian Church of Statesville.

Arrives In America — 1737

This we do know — a whole new world faced Michael Braun when he first stepped upon American soil at the port of Philadelphia the 26th day of September, 1737. Michael, at the time a lad of 16 years, “qualified” on that day, along with 140 German immigrants, when he took the oath of allegiance to his newly adopted country. There are those who suggest Braun’s first years in Pennsylvania were spent as a bonded servant, since many German immigrants had to work two or three years to pay for their passage to America . . . and yet we know that many German immigrants to America were substantial people who paid their own passage.

While in Pennsylvania, among his other interests, Michael Braun learned the trade of “Wheelwright.” J. K. Rouse in his *North Carolina Picadillo* writes, “Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, was the center of the wagon-building business in America during the colonial years, and perhaps it was here that he acquired his knowledge of repairing and making wagon wheels.” Siphoning out colonial data is rather difficult at this late date; yet this Lancaster County information may be rewarding for future researchers interested in the Pennsylvania heritage of our forefather, Michael Braun.

Some years passed until Braun went again in search of new frontiers. Having learned the trades of wheelwright, stonecutter, and printer of one sort or another, he pulled up the stakes planted in Pennsylvania soil and headed for the rolling hills of North Carolina. It was at this time that Michael moved into the focus of North Carolina’s pioneer history. Born in 1721, Braun was a man of some maturity, approximately 37 years of age, when he moved into Carolina territory. His wife, Margareta, was 13 years younger, having been born in 1734. Several of the older children were with them at the time.

Indications are that Braun and his family spent several years in Salisbury before purchasing land in eastern Rowan. Braun’s name appears for the first time officially in 1758 as a member of a jury for the Rowan County Court of Pleas and Quarter Session. Two years later, July 18, 1760, he purchased 274 acres of land from John Dunn, who prior to the formation of Rowan County in 1758, had acquired the same 274 acres from Lord John EARLE

Granville. Granville had secured the property in a Land grant from King George II in the year 1744.

Completes Rock House — 1766

Sometime in the thinking of Michael Braun — amid the struggle of a semi-wilderness — he dreamed of a house and home firmly planted in the rock and clay of a rolling slope in piedmont North Carolina. He and his sons, with what help could be mustered in those pre-Revolutionary days, did their job so well that the ravages of wind, rain and storm have been unable to eradicate their noble efforts. Braun completed his rock house in 1766. This was ten years before the restless colonists could gather sufficient solidarity to formulate the Declaration of Independence.

The lands of Michael Braun are discussed in a subsequent chapter of this work; therefore, suffice it for the present to mention that Braun continued to accumulate his land holdings during his 50 years in North Carolina until he was the owner, or part owner, of a total of 2938 acres. His “Plantation” comprised approximately 3000 acres, more than four and a half square miles of land. This acreage included the present Granite Quarry and reached from the approximate present city limits of Salisbury to within several miles of Rockwell. In addition Braun also acquired considerable property in Salisbury, including a number of valuable lots in the heart of town. One of these he mentioned in article five of his will of 1807 as “I give and bequeath unto my son Jeremiah Brown the house and lot of land in Salisbury where I formerly lived.”

Citizen Michael Braun

Many of the early Germanic settlers who made the Carolinas their new home were somewhat reluctant in accepting civic responsibilities, chiefly due to language barriers, but not so with Braun. Records indicate he was very influential in the early life of Salisbury. He was active in civic and community affairs soon after arrival from Pennsylvania. As mentioned earlier, Braun’s name appeared for the first time officially as a juror in 1758. Several years later, in 1761, we find him appointed constable in place of John Smith. By September 22, 1763, Michael Braun is naturalized. He is appointed constable again January 12, 1764 “in the room of

Jacob Fulewiden.”

The earliest reference to Michael Braun as a Justice appears to be February 6, 1777. *The Mammie McCubbin's Papers* state:

Although Capt. Little died the last of 1775, at which time he was an Esquire of Justice, the excitement of the country probably prevented Inferior Court holding its regular sessions from Feb. 1776 until Feb. 1777 when 'American Independence' was recorded as the first notation, and at which time Capt. Little's will is probated and Esq. Michael Braun qualified as a Justice.

The death of Capt. Little left a vacancy which seems to have been well-filled by Esq. Michael Brown who was certainly faithful through the remainder of the war and century.

Following his appointment as a Court Justice, the name Esquire Michael Braun (Brown) appears numerous in Rowan County Court records and elsewhere. J. K. Rouse reports:

The old minute book of Rowan County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions contain numerous references to Michael Brown's life of service to his fellow countrymen . . . Some years later on May 3, 1780, is this entry in the minutes of the court: 'Michael Brown, Esquire, is in Captain Foust's Company in the Salisbury District as a Magistrate to receive inventories in several Captain Companies.' Several pages later in the court book this entry was made on August 6, 1789: 'Ordered that Michael Brown, Esquire, be added to the Committee for settling estates.'

From the notes of Historian James Brawley taken from the *Mammie McCubbins Papers* we note that on Friday, November 8, 1782, Esquire Michael Brown is one of Justices present. Again on February 12, 1785, Esquire Michael Brown is present as Justice of Inferior Court. Another Brawley reference states: "Michael Brown, Stone House Builder, was one of the Justices in the May term of court 1794."

One cannot be certain how rapidly Michael Braun came into his prosperous years, or if he had considerable means when he first moved into the semi-virgin territory of North Carolina. In either case, it is logical to assume he and his sons wasted little time after the completion of his rock mansion until they began the construction of the large barn, which remained until around 1900 when it burned. The barn stood just south of the present Old Stone House, easily accessible to the much-travelled road from Salisbury to the Pee Dee. There were other buildings — the corn crib . . . the granary . . . the meat house (also called "smoke" house) . . . and other "out houses" which Michael mentioned in his will as "Secondly, I leave to my beloved wife, Eleanor Braun,

the Stone House with the out-houses and plantation . . ." There were also the slave quarters. The U.S. Census of 1790 mentioned Michael Braun as the owner of 15 slaves.

Religious Life

Amid other responsibilities, Michael found time for religious opportunities. Most German-Americans were zealous in their relationships to God and apologized to no one for it. Many who migrated from Pennsylvania to North Carolina remembered that they were driven from their native lands in the Palatinate by Louis XIV and the Thirty-years War. In the freedom of the new land of America, the Brauns must have found among the tall pines and massive oaks of North Carolina the serenity their religious faith merited. There they fellowshipped with the parents and children of neighbors and relatives of Jacob and Abraham Braun (brothers of Michael), who supposedly migrated from Pennsylvania to North Carolina along with Michael.

In colonial days much social and religious life centered around the "meeting house." Rowan County Court Records show that on August 8, 1771, Michael Braun was made overseer of the road from Salisbury to the Dutch Meeting House. Other records evidence that several years earlier, in 1768, John Lewis Beard "transferred lot number 17 in the township of Salisbury to Michael Brown, Michael Moore, Casper Grunter, and Peter Reeb, trustees of the German Lutheran Church located in the village of Salisbury, North Carolina." Records also show that Michael Braun along with Frederick Fisher found both time and money to secure land on Crane Creek for the Dutch Pine Meeting House, later to become known as Union Lutheran Church. Other churches closely related to the Browns and Fishers of pre-Revolutionary times in eastern Rowan County include Organ Lutheran Church founded in 1745 and Lower Stone Reformed Church organized the same year, 1745. Numerous cemetery headstones of Braun's descendants are found in these locations.

The life and times of better than 200 years have not dimmed the religious enthusiasm of the descendants of these early German settlers. Their faithfulness to their churches and the unusually large number of ministers from succeeding generations are evidences of their religious zeal.

Michael Braun was among the early settlers who "were men of principle, integrity, industry and friendship," as one writer describes them. Michael's long-standing associations with men of integrity as Irishman John Dunn, Daniel Little and others are indicative. The Dunns and Littles settled north of Braun. Their farms joined.

Although it is seemingly difficult to think of Michael Braun apart from the fact that he is chiefly remembered because he built the most substantial colonial home in Western North Carolina, we should endeavor to picture him in the truer perspective: an industrious businessman, colonial planter and father, surrounded by a big family, fashioned by German customs, religious, ambitious, never forgetting the blessings of a large dinner table and the lapping flames of a huge open fireplace . . . and the trips of the Braun girls and Margareta, their mother, to the nearby spring, only a stone's throw from the "rock house" . . . and the excursions of his sons, to the nearby Pee Dee River (now Yadkin) — a symbol, perhaps, of the long-ago-remembered Rhine River, which he left when a lad of sixteen.

Braun was 45 when he completed the Old Stone House. Margareta was 32, thirteen years younger.

Margareta Dies at Age 37

The blessings of the large dinner table and the tranquility of the Braun home was suddenly interrupted by the death of Margareta at the early and fruitful age of thirty-seven. She left Michael with "six sons and three daughters," supposing they were all living at the time. Margareta shared the blessings of her handsome "rock house" for only five years. The passing of Margareta at this early age was undoubtedly a traumatic experience for the entire family, especially so amid the trials and cares of colonial life in "Old Rowan."

Again, Michael Braun faced a whole new world! Here we take knowledge that it was only two months and four days after Margareta's death that Michael purchased his first Salisbury property, September 24, 1771. If Michael moved to Salisbury soon after purchasing his town property, we know he later returned to the "Rock House," the focal point of his large plantation. How much later we do not know. We do have a record that by 1772 he

had taken a second wife Rosanna, since a son, Moses, is born Feb. 24, 1773. Mammie McCubbins writes, "Just when Esq. Michael Brown took unto himself another wife, I cannot say for I do not find the marriage bond in Rowan. However, the proof of his wife being Rosanna (who makes F as her mark), may be found among the enclosed papers." A copy of this document is included in the *Records and Letters* section of this work. At this writing we have no records to indicate how long Esquire Michael Braun was married to Rosanna. We know Rosanna was still his lawful wife five years later, for on February 16, 1779, she attached her signature with the letter "F" to a deed when she and Michael sold a lot in Salisbury to his son, Peter Brown. Because of her use of the letter "F", many conclude that Rosanna was the daughter of Frederick Fisher.

Braun's third and last wife was the widow of Samuel Reeves, born Eleanor Wakefield. She had four children by her first husband, two of who she brought with her into the Braun family. In article seven of Braun's will, he refers to two of these children as "my wife's two daughters, Sally Reeves and Nancy Reeves." This writer learned recently (from the research of J. K. Rouse) that Michael Braun and Eleanor Reeves were married by the Reverend Carl Augustus Storch, Lutheran minister, on March 22, 1804. (*Reference: Storch Diary — "Michael Braun mit Nally Reeves March 22, 1804*). Subsequent records from the files of Historian James Brawley establish the death of Mrs. Eleanor Braun as October 8, 1842, at the age of 68. Hence, at the time of marriage Michael Braun was the ripe age of 83; his bride, Eleanor, 30. By marriage to Braun, Eleanor had one child, a girl, Susan Clementine, born a few days before her father's death. November 25, 1807.

At this writing, it is still uncertain about the names of the three daughters by his first wife, Margareta. However, the names of two of Braun's daughters, Margaret and Christina, by his first wife, Margareta, have been established through DAR and other records. Braun's children — from the best information available at this time — were, according to their births: John, Peter, Margaret, unknown daughter, Michael Jr., Christina, David, James and Jeremiah, born to Margareta . . . and Moses, born to Roxanna . . . and Susan Clementine, born to Eleanor.

The names of two other children, Catherine and Sophia, appear in old records, along with Jeremiah, as orphans of Michael Braun. It is possible Catherine and Sophia Braun, as well as Moses, were born to Roxanna; for court records of 1808 reveal that three children — Jeremiah, Catherine and Sophia Braun — were bound over to Jacob Ribelin as “orphans of Michael Braun.” Some think they may have been the orphans of Michael Braun, Jr., who died about the same time as Michael, Sr. This could be supported by the fact that Catherine and Sophia are not named in the will of Michael Braun, Sr.

We do know that Michael Braun, Sr., the builder of the Old Stone House, was married three times and was the father of at least 11 children, seven sons and four daughters.

From these children, Braun’s descendants, now in the 9th and 10th generations, have markedly influenced the history of Rowan County and have left their heritage indelibly implanted in the rolling slopes of eastern Rowan and elsewhere.

(For additional information see: Editor’s Note — The Mystery of the Old Stone House Inscription: Addendum to Chapter IV, The Old Stone House and the 1966 Restoration, by Heath Thomas, page 37.)

CHAPTER III



The Preservation of a Historical Landmark

By G. Ray Brown

The preservation of the Old Stone House involves the loyalty and efforts of many people. In our extensive search of the minutes of the original Brown Memorial Association of 1914 and the Brown-Fisher Association, begun in 1925 — and other records — we are able to assemble an amazing story of the ownership of the “Old Rock House,” as it was known in its earlier history. As this story falls into place, the names of a number of personalities emerge. From among the long list of the faithful, we mention the following: (1) Rev. Richard L. Brown, the motivating influence in organizing a Michael Braun Family Association — and its first president — who continually insisted upon the preservation of the Old Stone House as “a sacred relic” . . . (2) Mrs. Martha Jane (Brown) Bernhardt, who gave the family graveyard to the Michael Braun Family Association in 1929 . . . (3) The eight trustees of the Brown-Fisher Association, R. M. Brown, T. J. Brown, W. A. Brown, W. H. Canup, M. G. M. Fisher, J. L. Fisher, J. S. Fisher and Ed M. Marsh, Sr., who purchased the house and adjoining property from Benjamin E. Sumner in 1927, replaced the roof, and promoted the restoration efforts of 1930 . . . (4) Presidents G. Ray Brown and the Rev. P. D. Brown, D.D., of the Brown-Fisher Association, whose untiring efforts brought about the purchase of the house and property by the four Brown relatives . . . (5) Bob, Aaron, Dolph and Dodd Brown, who purchased the Stone House

G. Ray Brown, a past-president of the Brown-Fisher Association, is a sixth generation descendant of Michael Braun, through his son, David.

and property in 1948 at its worst stage of deterioration, and with the help of other Brown relatives and friends, actually salvaged the pre-Revolutionary landmark . . . (6) And Ernest L. Hardin of the Rowan Museum, Inc., of Salisbury, whose sense of history and love of antiquity brought about the beautiful and authentic "Restoration of 1966" on the 200th Anniversary of the building of the Old Stone House.

Land Purchased

It was in the year 1760 that Michael Braun first purchased a tract of land from John Dunn. This fact is substantiated by records in the office of the Register of Deeds in Salisbury. On this tract of land Michael Braun built the Old Stone House in 1766.

Braun willed the house and property to his son, David, in 1807. It remained in the David Brown family for 104 years, until 1911.

In 1911 John M. Brown sold the Old Stone House (Rock House as it was then called) to Benjamin E. Sumner, for \$650.00. This deed is recorded in Book 125, Page 291 in the office of the Register of Deeds in Salisbury.

In 1914 at the first meeting of the Brown-Fisher Association, then known as the Brown Memorial Association, the descendants of Michael Braun expressed the desire to get the Old Stone House back into the hands of the Browns. They set to work to purchase the old shrine, to restore it and to keep it as a memorial to its builder.

In 1915 the Association of the Browns put the wall around the graveyard in good condition, using cement between the stones that were there in order that the wall would be secure and permanent. The committee appointed to look after the matter of the old family graveyard discovered the graveyard had been left off the deed when the land around it had been sold. Also, there seemed to be two titles to the land around the graveyard and some difficulty about the road from the family graveyard to the Old Stone House. Many of the stone markers for the graves had fallen and these were securely set up as far as possible.

Family Graveyard Deeded to Browns

It was not until 1930 the records state that Mrs. Martha Jane

Bernhardt, the former Martha Jane Brown, deeded the old family graveyard, near the Old Stone House, to the Michael Brown Family Association. This was just one year prior to her death in 1930. Mrs. Bernhardt, daughter of Jacob Brown, who was the son of David Brown and grandson of the original Michael Braun, was born in the historic Old Stone House in 1853.

In 1925 the name of the association was changed from the Brown Memorial Association to the Brown-Fisher Association, since many of the Browns and Fishers had intermarried. The Fishers joined the Browns in continuing to work toward getting the Old Stone House back into the hands of the descendants of its builder.

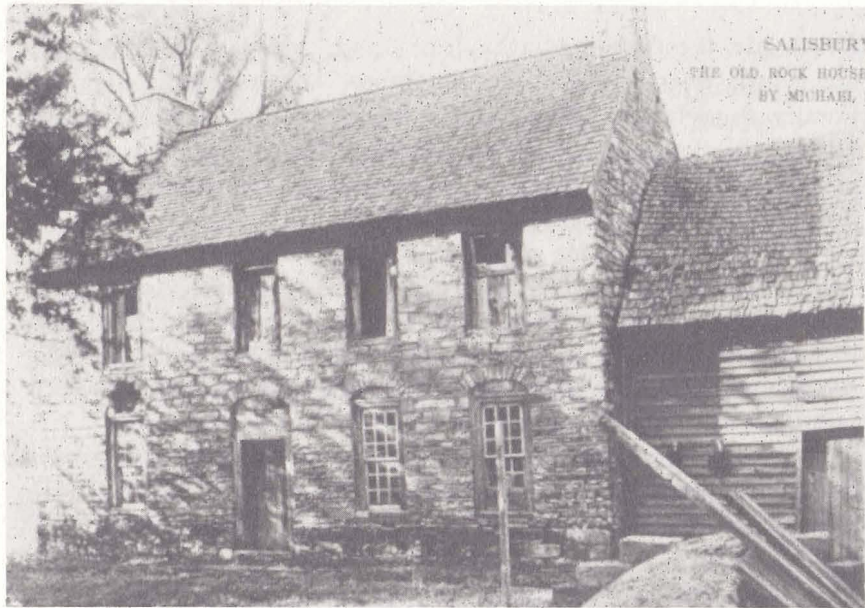
In 1927 Benjamin E. Sumner and wife, Alberta P., of Buncombe County sold the Old Stone House and two acres of land to the Trustees of the Brown-Fisher Association: R. M. Brown, T. J. Brown, W. A. Brown, W. H. Canup, M. G. M. Fisher, J. L. Fisher, J. S. Fisher and Ed M. Marsh, Sr. for the sum of \$1000.00. This deed is recorded in Book 178, Page 236. These men are referred to as donors.

In 1930 the above list of donors offered the Old Stone House and the two acres of land to the Michael Brown Family Descendants Association under the condition that the association would raise an equal amount to restore the Old Stone House within two years. If this provision was not met within said date, the property would revert to the eight donors. The challenge was accepted and the descendants set out to restore the Old Stone House. They accepted the bid of Trexler and Kesler.

1930 Restoration

The agreement states:

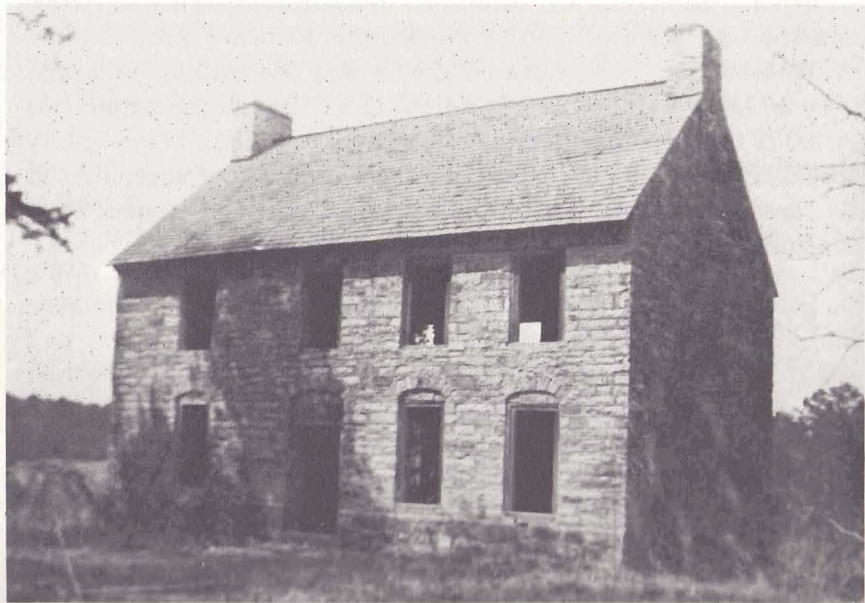
We, Trexler and Kesler, promise to do the necessary repairs, to furnish necessary stone, cement, labor, scaffold work and any other materials needed to do the following work on the Old Stone House. Tear down and rebuild all rear walls that is necessary to put the building back in original state, also to repair tops of each chimney, reset all loose stone on each end of wall, to take out and replace all loose stone in front wall, paint up the front wall, also the west end wall, all work to be done to look as near as possible as the building did when constructed. We, also, agree to keep scaffolds for the timber on second floor and roof. Mortar used on job to be mixed three of sand and one of cement. Price for the above not to exceed \$235.00.



Old Rock House — 1881 — (From *Rumple's History*)
The Authentic Restoration of 1966 Was Made From This Photo



Brown Family Restoration — 1952
(From Aaron Brown Family Collection)



In State of Neglect Before Brown 1930 Restoration
(From Mrs. Elma Beaver Collection)



Rowan Museum Authentic Restoration — 1966
(Photo by James Barringer, Salisbury Post)

This work proved favorable.

The roof on the Old Stone House was in bad condition and the association appointed a committee to investigate the price of shingles and work. It had been decided that cypress hand cut shingles, similar to the original shingles used by Michael Braun, should be used. W. A. Brown found that such shingles could be bought and the work of reroofing the historic shrine went forward at once. At the completion of these repairs, the association was in debt \$547.97.

Forty-five donations from the Brown-Fisher families and friends amounted to \$440.25 and helped defray the indebtedness. The association was never in a position to meet the requirements of the eight owners; therefore the association never had in its possession the deed to the Old Stone House.

N. C. Historical Association Approached

During a period of years the association tried very hard to get the Michael Brown Stone House into the North Carolina Historical Association for restoration and preservation, but it was unsuccessful in its effort. During the eight years that G. Ray Brown was president of the Brown-Fisher Association, he and later his wife put forth a lot of effort to get the Old Stone House into a state of permanent preservation without success.

In 1948 the association agreed that something must be done to restore the Old Stone House, which was rapidly falling into decay. At this time it was learned that a couple of individuals were interested in securing the Old Stone House at their own expense. Mr. Bert R. Marsh, son of Mr. Ed H. Marsh, Sr., offered to pay \$1000.00 for the Stone House and two acres of land on which it was situated. It was intimated at intervals that some individuals were interested in acquiring the Old Stone House for the purpose of crushing the stone house for road beds. At this point Mr. Bob Brown stated that he would like to see the property remain in the hands of the Browns and all agreed. Mr. Bob Brown announced his two brothers, Ivey and Aaron, were interested in buying the property. The final decision was to wait one week, seven days, until all offers could be made in writing. At the sixth meeting of the officers of the Brown-Fisher Association, Dr. P. D. Brown read the offer made by the following Browns: R. M., Aaron, T. J. and

Ivey S. Brown. However, Ivey S. asked to have his named removed from the list. Dodd Brown became the fourth member of the group which was later known as "the four Browns."

At a meeting in 1948 of the Brown-Fisher Association, the following offer was made.

"We, the undersigned, offer the Trustees of the Brown-Fisher Association \$1000.00 for the Michael Brown House and approximately two acres of land. We plan to make some needed repairs to the house at present and it is, also, our intention to restore the house as near as possible to its original state. The following provisions as outlined by the Trustees are entirely agreeable to us. Namely:

1. The house shall always be known as "The Michael Brown House."
2. The entire tract of land on which the house stands shall always remain in one tract. No part or subdivision of it shall ever be sold separately.
3. The house and its premises shall be kept free from activities that are lawfully objectionable.
4. In case of sale by the owners, the Brown-Fisher Family Association shall have the first refusal of purchase.

Sincerely,

R. M. Brown (Robert)
T. J. Brown (Dolph)*
J. A. Brown (Aaron)
Dodd Brown

The association voted unanimously to accept this offer of \$1000.00 and the provisions made by these four men."

These four Browns did an excellent job of preserving the old shrine. First they built a tenant house on the grounds to prevent vandalism which was destroying the Old Stone House. They drilled a well and built back the kitchen. The original wooden kitchen had been torn away and used for roasting wieners and building camp fires. They used cypress since that was the wood used by Michael Braun when the house was built. Also, they repaired the inside, replacing wood, and painted the walls and stained the woodwork. Hence, after four years of consistent work, the repairs completed, the Old Stone House was opened the first time to the public at the April 14, 1952 Granite Quarry Festival . . . and was known as the "Restoration of 1952."

*T. J. Brown, commonly known as Dolph, reportedly was never fond of his baptismal names, Theophilus Jeremiah, and doubtless was pleased in acquiring the nickname, Dolph. The Rev. Richard L. Brown seemed willing to dignify this acquired title of T. J. by listing his name as "Adolphus" in Brown's 1921 history. — the EDITOR



R. M. Brown Dodd Brown

J. A. Brown Dolph Brown

The four Brown descendants of Michael Braun who are responsible for restoring the Old Stone House in 1952.

In 1958 only two of the four Brown owners of the Old Stone House, Dodd and Aaron, were living. Aaron, a very sick man, called Dodd over to his home to discuss the future of the Old Stone House. Some of the heirs were interested in getting their share out of the Old Stone House and had expressed their desires. So again the Old Stone House was up for sale. These two Browns, Dodd and Aaron, still held hopes that some way, somehow the shrine might be saved and put into a state of permanent preservation. It was decided by these two men, that since G. Ray Brown had worked so faithfully to get the Old Stone House in a state of permanent preservation over the years, to approach him and ask him to be their agent in handling the transaction. Mr. Brown agreed to do what he could. Over the years G. Ray and his wife, who was as deeply interested in the fate of the Old Stone House, made many trips and many phone calls trying to accomplish this goal.

Mrs. Cannon Contacted

First they contacted the State Antiquity Society through Mrs. C. A. Cannon, who was president of the State Antiquity Society at the time. The State was interested, but they had many other projects going and stated they did not have the funds to take on another one at that time. The next step was to go to see Mrs. John H. Rutledge, the sister of A. L. Brown, general superintendent of the Cannon Mills chain hoping that with her help they could get Mr. A. L. interested in buying the Old Stone House. Mr. Brown stated that he would buy it, but what did they want him to do with it? This question could not be answered.

So, in 1959 at the request of Dodd and Aaron Brown, the efforts were renewed for getting the Old Stone House into a state of preservation and furnishing it with original antiques and implements of the period. They hoped eventually to bring into being a place where the future might learn from the past, which G. Ray and the association had dreamed of and worked to accomplish for so many years.

First the owners, Dodd and Aaron, had offered the Old Stone House back to the Brown-Fisher Association as stipulated in the deed, but due to lack of funds the association had to decline. At this point it was learned that the Rowan Museum was interested in purchasing the Old Stone House and G. Ray followed this lead.

Mr. E. L. Hardin, as president of the Rowan Museum, agreed to buy the Old Stone House for the Museum if the transaction could be worked out with the two living owners and all the heirs of the two deceased. All the heirs were approached by G. Ray and agreement to sell to the Museum was unanimous. G. Ray made many trips from the Court House to each of the heirs and living owners for the approval to sell, the signing of the deed and the distribution of each heir's share of the estate from the Rowan Museum.

One Day A Year

All the owners asked for the Old Stone House was the actual amount of money they had in it, which was \$10,215.71. They asked nothing for their time, labor or interest, "Except that one day a year the Brown-Fisher Association be permitted the use of the Old Stone House property for its Annual Reunion." According to G. Ray Brown, President of the Association at the time, this was agreed upon with Ernest L. Hardin, purchaser for the property. The statement of this agreement is found in the records of Mrs. Guy M. Beaver, as taken from a story in the Salisbury Post. Mrs. Beaver is a past-president of the Association. G. Ray and Howard W. Brown, trustee and treasurer of "The Brown Stone House Project," as it was called, worked together in handling the transaction of the sale, and in 1959 the Old Stone House was in the hands of the Rowan Museum. Soon steps were taken by the Museum under Mr. Hardin to acquire the lands around the family graveyard and adjacent to the Old Stone House. In 1970 Vernon Benson and P. H. McKinney sold the additional acreage to the Rowan Museum.

The Brown-Fisher Association is now relaxed and proud that the Michael Braun Old Stone House is at last in a state of permanent preservation and restoration, and shall always be grateful to the four Browns, R. M., Aaron, T. J. and Dodd, who were personally responsible for saving the Old Stone House.

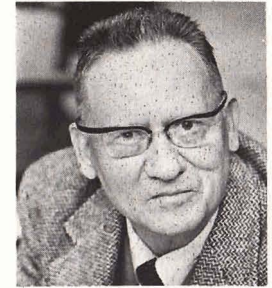
(Acknowledgement is made to Mrs. G. Ray (Jo) Brown, who ably assisted her husband in the preparation of this chapter. Jo was secretary of the Brown-Fisher Association for 12 years. She and G. Ray are the parents of one son, Michael Ray, a 7th generation descendant of Michael Braun — the EDITOR.)

Deeds

Related to Old Stone House
1760 to 1959

- 1760 — John Dunn sold 274 acres to Michael Braun (on which he built the Old Stone House in 1766)
Book 4, Page 254
- 1807 — Michael Braun willed to his son, David, the tract of land on which the Old Stone House stands.
Registered in Book D, A. L. O.
- 1909 — Commissioners of Court to heirs-at-law of Thos. M. Brown, deceased 1909, to John M. Brown, one lot of 19 acres.
Book 121, Page 222
- 1911 — John M. Brown (great, great grandson of Michael Braun) sold Rock House to Benjamin E. Sumner for \$650.00.
Book 125, Page 291
- 1927 — Benjamin E. Sumner and wife, Alberta P., of Buncombe County sold Rock House to R. M. Brown, T. J. Brown, W. A. Brown, W. H. Canup, M. G. M. Fisher, J. L. Fisher, J. E. Fisher and Ed M. Marsh, Sr., Trustees of the Brown-Fisher Reunion Association for \$10.00 and other considerations.
Book 178, Page 236
- 1948 — Brown-Fisher Association to R. M. Brown, T. J. Brown, J. A. Brown, Dodd Brown a list of covenants.
Book 331, Page 52
- 1957 — Brown-Fisher Association and J. E. Fisher, surviving Trustee, and J. A. Brown and Dodd Brown et al.
Book 422, Page 537
- 1959 — Howard W. Brown, Executor and Treasurer of the "Brown Stone House project," to Rowan Museum Old Stone House.
Book 432, Page 187

CHAPTER IV



The Old Stone House and the 1966 Restoration

By Heath Thomas

Three miles east of Salisbury, near the ancient now vanished old Pee Dee Road, the oldest residential building in Western North Carolina stands majestically. The authentic restoration of the pre-Revolutionary residence by the Rowan Museum was begun in 1963 and completed in 1966 in time for the 200th anniversary of the original building by Rhinelander Michael Braun in 1766.

Braun, who emigrated from the German Palatinate to Philadelphia in 1737, completed the structure in 1766. It is believed that his residence, now known as the Old Stone House, was six years abuilding, for local court house records show that he bought the land in 1760.

It is reckoned that Braun believed his home, used as a tavern and an inn, would last through the ages. On the east side near the second floor he carved an inscription on a slab of granite that is embedded in the two-foot-thick granite wall:

“Michael Braun Mrichreda Braun 1766.”

Numerous initials were carved which are believed to represent abbreviations for the names of his children as written in the Pennsylvania Dutch dialect. High above the second floor are four portholes, one on each side of the massive chimneys that were built at each end of the house.

The supposition by some amateur historians that the portholes were built into the structure for ventilation seems inaccurate. Both the first and second floors are well equipped with windows.

In Memoriam

Heath Thomas served as a staff member of the *Salisbury Evening Post* for many years.

Pockets in the walls underneath the portholes would seem purposeless except to hold stanchions on which ladders were anchored to give defenders, armed with long rifles, quick easy access to the portholes. And tradition which can be traced back more than a century spells out the theory that the portholes were built to ward off Indian attacks. History also supports the theory. For Michael Braun bought the tract of land the same year the Cherokees attacked Ft. Dobbs near Statesville which then was a part of Rowan County.

According to tradition the main body of Cornwallis' army passed by The Old Stone House on the afternoon of February 2, 1781, on its march to Trading Ford. An American officer on a reconnoitering expedition met headon with the British forces. He whirled his horse and was pursued by British dragoons.

As the red coats thundered down the hill, the Revolutionary officer spurred his horse through the open front door, then leaped the horse through the opposite back door and escaped across the branch bottom and through the thickets toward Salisbury.

Michael Braun (The surname later evolved to Brown) arrived in this country, according to records of the Pennsylvania Historical Society, aboard the St. Andrew Gally — John Stedman, Master — “from Rotterdam but last from Cowes as by clearance thence.”

One Of 140

Michael, a boy of 16, was one of 140 immigrant passengers, who on arrival took the oath of allegiance to “his present Majesty King George the Second and his successors kings of Great Britain . . .”

It is not known how long he stayed in Pennsylvania. However, he certainly drifted southward with many other Rhinelanders who migrated to Rowan County. He was an important citizen in colonial Rowan. He served two years, 1759-61 as a constable and he later was a justice of the Rowan Court, a high judicial office.

A history of Rowan, written in 1881 by Jethro Rumble, noted that Michael Braun “was married several times.” A later account said he was “twice married, his first wife named Margareta, was the mother of nine children; his second wife, Mrs. Eleanor Reeves, a widow, was the mother of a daughter, Clementine.

However, genealogist — historian W. D. Kizziah recently discovered another wife of Michael's whose marriage occurred after the death of Margareta and prior to Braun's union with Mrs. Reeves. Kizziah found an old record in the court house showing transfer of land by Michael Braun and wife, Rosanna.

“There may have been others,” said Kizziah with a laugh.

Tons of Granite

Another court house record turned up by Kizziah, covering estate settlements by Michael Braun's heirs made mention that the Stone House contained 3500 tons of granite.

Restoration of the Old Stone House proved an exciting adventure for local stock broker Ernest Hardin, in charge of the project. It was equally exciting for project advisor Frank Horton, research director for Old Salem. Horton declares that it is to be one of the finest restoration jobs in the whole South.

Unlike most of the buildings at Williamsburg, the Old Stone House is not a replica. Except for the wooden kitchen wing, which was rebuilt some 20 years ago by the Brown-Fisher Association, the exterior is the same as it was when it was constructed by the doughty German immigrant who died November 25, 1807 at the age of 86.

Hardin said that advisor Frank Horton has an uncanny knowledge of the old, old Pennsylvania German houses. He offered several examples. At the back of the eight-foot wide kitchen, is an opening which originally contained an “Elizabeth Furnace,” a metal box-like contraption into which wood and embers were placed to pipe heat into the room in the main structure at the rear of the chimney.

Standing in the room at the rear of the chimney and facing the “Elizabeth Furnace,” which has been replaced at considerable cost through purchase of a 1766 furnace in Pennsylvania, is a partition to another room to the left.

“Horton,” said Hardin, “took a pencil and made a cross mark on the wall. He said, ‘Dig into that plaster (which had been applied in comparative recent times) and you will find an opening which was originally made to allow warmth from the furnace to enter this other room.’ Sure enough, the opening was found exactly where Horton made his mark.”

Hardin asked Horton why the mantels were so high.

"So grandpappy could keep his whiskey out of reach of the young'uns," Horton replied.

Some of the old plastering was found. Identifiable substances include pine needles, straw, animal hair and hog bristle. Numerous artifacts were found underneath the house. Several old coins, which had rolled through the cracks of the floor, were found and preserved for display.

Interior drawings of woodwork made by an architect who was commissioned by the Browns to do the work about 40 years ago by Mrs. C. A. Cannon of Concord, have been an invaluable aid in the restoration work.

Most of the original partitioning was removed by occupants long after Michael Braun went to that other country. Through careful inspection the original floor plans were disclosed — largely through the tell-tale mark of 18th century nail holes.

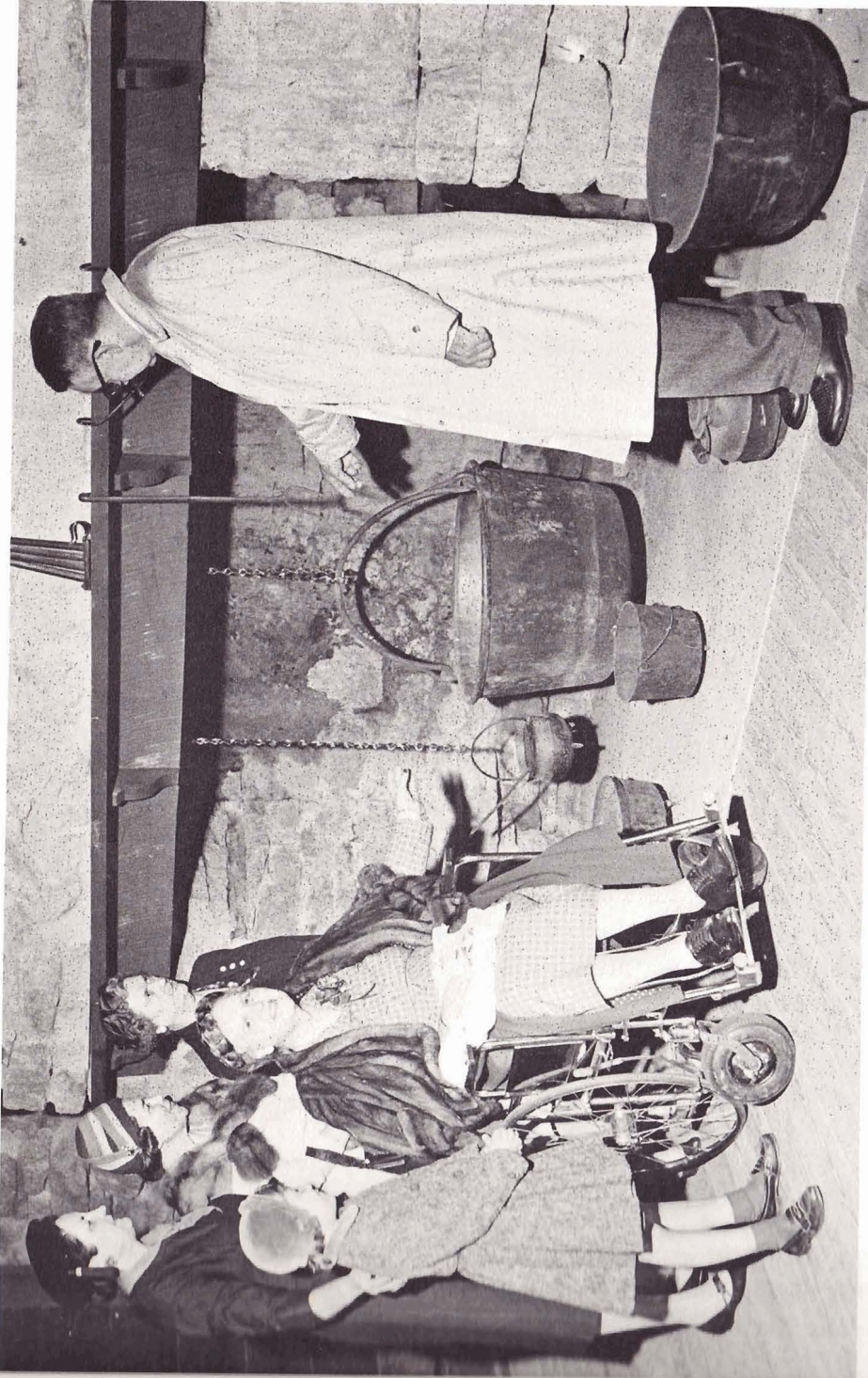
It is assumed that the room directly at the rear of the kitchen fireplace was a bedroom. At the opposite end of the house are corner fireplaces in two rooms opening from a single massive chimney.

Apparently, the room at the left of the "Elizabeth Furnace" and to the left of the bedroom behind the kitchen fireplace was used to store provisions. This room has the original flooring which is eroded, apparently by grease from pork which hung overhead to cure.

On the second floor is a wide open area which housed guests at the Braun tavern and inn. They slept, as was the custom in those days, on straw and corn husk mattresses. Under this method, there was always room for another guest. That outside kitchen fireplace indicates that here was where the Braun family circle held forth.

Hardin spared neither time nor money in interest of true restoration. The new plastering was finished by using a sheared-off broom which left marks in true reproduction of the way walls were finished in the 18th century. Two massive 18th century locks for the two outside doors were purchased in Pennsylvania at a cost of \$450.

Much lumber for flooring and other woodwork needing replacement was secured from a 175-year-old-house in West Rowan which was being used for grain storage. The portions of the newly



Kitchen Fireplace

Ernest L. Hardin, President of Rowan Museum, explaining use of large utensils to visiting group: Mrs. Elma Sloop Beaver, Mrs. Wilbur F. Roberts and daughter, Jean Roberts, Mrs. W. Gettys Guille, Director of Rowan Museum, and Mrs. Charles Cannon, in chair.

installed 175-year-old flooring have been scraped. If it had been sanded, it would be out of harmony with the true 18th century pattern.

Amazingly, some of the window frames, installed there by old Michael Braun, are in hale condition. Underneath the oaken door facings is the original walnut framing.

The rebuilt wooden kitchen was completely shorn away and restored to its original lines with ancient lumber. There is no ceiling. A center "summer beam" runs lengthwise to which joists running from the eaves level are anchored. All heavy woodwork was replaced to the mortice and peg treatment. Only 18th century nails, most of which have been recovered from the attic, are used.

One of the most difficult materials to find was the wavy type window panes which have not been manufactured now for about 100 years. The state-wide search and purchase was expensive. Distortion of the view results when looking through a wavy pane. For example, grandpa when looked at through a wavy pane may look 10 or three feet tall.

Another discovery by the sleuths guiding the restoration was that the house was originally equipped with pent eaves. A series of holes, about midway, between the roof and the ground, were found on the south end and the north side of the old house. Some contained remains of rotted timbers. These timbers were authentically replaced by chief carpenter, G. Spencer Thomason of Salisbury, upon whom Hardin relied heavily during the restoration project.

'Keepers'

Originally, it was deduced, the holes were fitted with "keepers" (a sort of protruding joist) on which pent eaves were constructed. The pent eave was a baffle that protected the mortar from erosion from rainfall. The sidewall pent eave also protected the doorway.

While all the unhewn granite stones — unhewn except for the smooth slab on which old Michael Braun carved his name and the date on which the house was completed — were still in place, much of the mortar had been eroded by the rains and snows of nearly 200 winters. The restoration workers experimented with around 30 mixes before they matched the pinkish hue of the old sand and bull tallow clay which Braun used in the side walls. For

some reason, he used a flat type mix on the end walls which was less difficult to duplicate.

By modern building standards, a two foot-thick granite wall would seem sufficient foundation for any two-story house. But old Michael Braun's standards were not gaited that way. The foundation stones which extend well above the ground are of considerable more width than the two foot wall which they support. The restoration explorers dug four feet beneath the house but did not reach the bottom stones of the foundation.

The Old Stone House is being furnished with authentic furnishings of the 18th century period. One wardrobe, which predates 1766, was purchased in Pennsylvania for \$400 with money donated by the Brown-Fisher clan, all descendants of Michael Braun. There is one authentic original on the second floor — an old hand loom that has been restored and put into working order.

The restoration project has attracted wide attention from individuals and organizations interested in the preservation of antiquities. Hardin was awarded the Cannon Cup and a number of other awards for his untiring efforts. Catawba College honored him with a Doctor of Letters degree. The 1966 restoration of The Old Stone House has received three state awards and is listed on the National Register of Historic Sites.

The Mystery of the Old Stone House Inscription



See Next Page

EDITOR'S NOTE:

When Michael Braun carved the inscription upon the three-foot slab of granite gracing the front of his house, he doubtless had no thought that future generations would fail to understand his handiwork. In fact, the very purpose of placing the stone was to prevent any uncertainty concerning his well-constructed edifice.

For years historians and other writers believed the second line represented the first two letters in the names of the children of Michael and Margareta. Research of recent date prompts the editor to include an actual photograph of the inscription and the following information.

The late Heath Thomas writing in the *Salisbury Evening Post*, just prior to the Rowan Museum's October 30, 1966, Bicentennial Celebration of the building and restoration of the Old Stone House, reiterated his belief that the numerous initials "represent abbreviations for the names of his (Braun's) children as written in the Pennsylvania Dutch dialect." Some evidence continues to support this assumption . . . such as the recent information that Braun had a son Michael, Jr., which would explain the heretofore unexplained "MI" on the slab.*

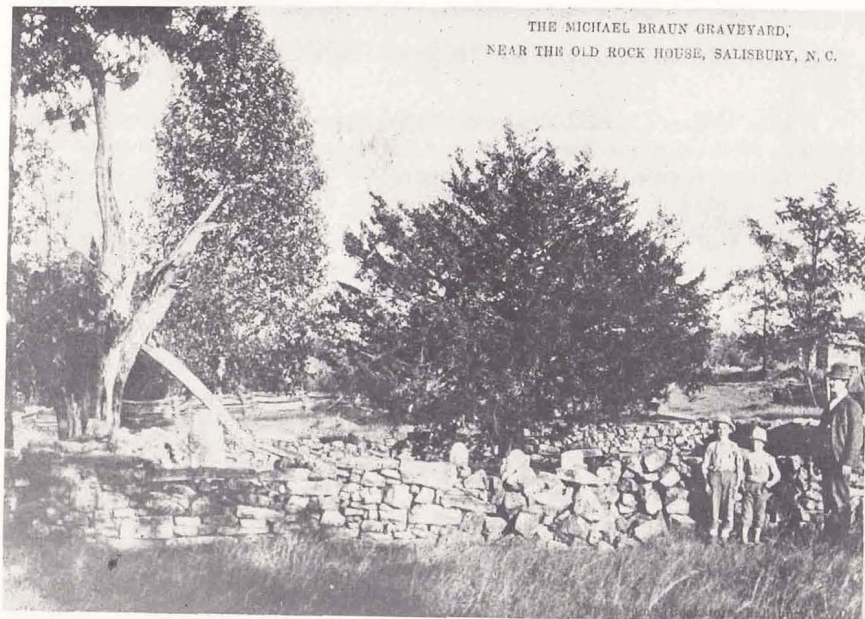
Nonetheless, rather recently a Lutheran minister, Rev. Frank P. Cauble, Ph.D., who served parishes in North Carolina, explored the possibility of the initials being translated from the German to mean "My undertaking completed with thanks to Christ," following a German custom to inscribe on a new house. The abbreviated words, according to Cauble, appear to be: PEnsum MEines BEndigem Mit CHristim DAnk.

However, no less an authority than Carl Hammer, Ph.D., German scholar and Rowan County native, and others, have reservations about Dr. Cauble's interpretation. Recent communication from Dr. Hammer states, "I find the names of the children of Michael Braun a much more plausible theory than the explanation suggested by Cauble. It appears obvious that the 'I' is the same as in 'MICHAEL' and that is not to be confused with the plainly different numeral 'J' in 1766. Thus the IO would stand for IOHANN(ES) and not the 10th month."

To the best of the editor's knowledge, if the initials represent seven children of Michael and Margareta, they were John, Peter, Margaret, Michael, Jr., Christina, David, and another son or daughter for which the "BE" represents. The "six sons and three daughters" referred to upon Margareta's tombstone would increase their children to nine, meaning Margareta had two additional children from 1766 (the date upon the house) to 1771 (the date upon her cemetery headstone). We know there were other sons: James, Jeremiah, and Moses, named in Braun's will. Moses is a son born to Roxanna, Braun's second wife, since his birth is recorded as February 24, 1778.

It is as Mammie McCubblin writes in her *Papers*, "Unfortunately the Bible of Esq. Michael Braun has disappeared." The Germans were known to keep their family records in their Bibles. Hence, for the present the representation of the lettering on the Old Stone House slab of granite remains one of the mysteries of the Michael Braun story. —R.B.F.

*Even more recently, the author has obtained the date of birth of Braun's son, David, who was born in 1766, the year Michael's "rock house" was finished. The "DA" is the last initial of the inscription.



1881 photo of Brown Family Cemetery taken from Dr. Jethro Rumble's, "A History Of Rowan County," written in 1881.



1966 photo of Family Cemetery after restoration of wall. Margareta's marker, tall stone at left. Large stone at right is marker for Solomon, grandson of Michael Braun.

CHAPTER V



The Michael Braun Family Cemetery

by Mary Fisher Lemons

Two large granite posts staunchly mark the entrance of the graveyard which is just a few hundred yards southwest of the Old Stone House. Perhaps at one time a wooden gate joined these two large stones and provided a little privacy to this family burial ground. However, today there are no traces of any gate. Once a large mulberry tree spread its branches high over the remains of our ancestors. But time and elements have taken even this mulberry tree from the cemetery.

At one time a crude wall of stones surrounded the grave plots. As generations passed, the old cemetery was neglected and much of this rock wall collapsed. Years of undergrowth and thickets practically hid the old wall from sight. A recently deceased fifth generation descendant of Michael Braun, Miss Beulah Lyerly, recalled that when the Brown Family Association was first organized in 1914 one of the first projects was the rebuilding of the stone wall. In a letter written on November 4, 1965, to her cousin the Reverend Roscoe Brown Fisher, Miss Lyerly relives those earlier years, "Bob Brown and Henry Canup were on the committee to have the work done rebuilding the stone wall around the cemetery. I was on a committee to help raise funds. The rock and work cost around \$200.00. For several years afterwards Bob Brown went with some of his colored help, every summer and kept the place in tip top shape. This he did just before the reunion date."

Mrs. Greg Lemons is a social worker with the Stanly County Department of Social Services, specializing in child adoption. She is the daughter of Rev. & Mrs. Roscoe Brown Fisher, and is a 7th and 8th generation descendant of Michael Braun through his son, David.

It was actually on August 26, 1915, at the second meeting of the Brown Family Association in Granite Quarry that the Brown descendants resolved to rebuild the wall. Cement was mortared between the stones, once more enclosing the old family gravesite within a rock wall. The Association appointed a committee to keep the wall and cemetery grounds in good condition. To their delightful surprise, this committee discovered the graveyard had purposefully been left off the deed when the land surrounding it had been sold. The original owner Mrs. Martha Brown Bernhardt, formerly Martha Jane Brown, had not sold the family cemetery site when she parted with her share of the homestead. In 1929 Mrs. Bernhardt deeded the graveyard near the Old Stone House to the Michael Brown Family Association. If this organization ever ceases to exist, possession of our ancestors' burial ground will go to the heirs of Mrs. Martha Brown Bernhardt. This woman who made it possible for the Brown family to retain ownership of the graveyard was the great granddaughter of the original Michael Braun. She was born in the Old Stone House in 1853.

Years ago Mrs. Bernhardt and Miss Beulah Lyerly together with Beulah's mother, Margaret Brown Lyerly, and the Reverend Richard L. Brown, author of the first Brown family history, visited the cemetery together. In an interview with Heath Thomas for the *Salisbury Sunday Post*, July 24, 1966, Miss Lyerly recalled that on the cemetery visit, Mrs. Bernhardt pointed out an area of the cemetery where the Brown's slaves were buried. Tradition claims there are graves outside the walls of the family cemetery — perhaps the resting places of other family slaves. One slave, George Brown, was killed while the Old Stone House was being built. Allegedly, he was buried just outside the cemetery gateway, near the mulberry tree which no longer stands.

Just inside the two large stone posts marking the cemetery entrance is a large marble slab approximately twelve inches wide, four inches thick, and three to four feet tall. This plain old headstone, most notable of the monuments still standing, marks for all future generations the grave of Michael Braun's first wife, Margareta Brown. Again tradition comes alive, explaining that the old mulberry tree was originally planted to shade the grave of Margareta Brown who died just five years after the Old Stone House was built. In a Pennsylvania Dutch dialect this inscription



Miss Beulah Lyerly examining the 1771 tombstone of Margareta Braun, first wife of Michael Braun. Miss Beulah is a 5th generation descendant of Michael Braun through his son, David.

engraves the stone marker:

1771

Gestorban Julius 20,
Heir Lieght der leib
Marcareda Brown des
Ml. Braun's ehe weibe
Hat 9 kinder, 6 Sons
3 d.—Alt. 37 Jahr 2 mo.

Translated the epitaph reads, "1771. Here lies the body of Margareta Brown, the wife of Michael Brown, died July 20, 1771, age 37 years and two months. She had nine children, six sons and three daughters."

This sturdy tombstone singly marks the location of the grave of Braun's first wife, Margareta. Numerous indentations around Margareta's grave site indicate the burial spots of other members of Michael's immediate family. Individual stones mark many of the numerous other graves of Brown relatives which practically fill the small cemetery. These are the graves of Michael's descendants. The markers which at one time must have noted the grave of Michael Braun and of other members of the immediate family are no longer standing. In the earlier-mentioned article in the *Salisbury Sunday Post*, Heath Thomas wrote, "Retired school teacher Miss Beulah Lyerly . . ., on a recent visit to the old cemetery, pointed to the spot where older people of the clan told her when she was a young girl that Michael and one of his wives were buried." Tradition claims that Michael and his other wives, Rosanna and Eleanor, died in the Old Stone House and were buried somewhere in the family cemetery. About fifteen feet to the right of Margareta Braun's grave is a plot that is said to be filled. Perhaps therein lies the remains of the renowned Michael Braun.

The most substantial evidence that Braun is buried in the family cemetery was recorded in 1881 in *A History of Rowan County* by the Reverend Jethro Rumple, D.D., Presbyterian clergyman. He wrote, "In the little graveyard, walled in with stones, a few hundred yards from the stone house, lie the remains of Michael Braun, and his wife, with quite a number of his descendants." Forty years later Lutheran clergyman Richard L. Brown, great grandson of Michael Braun, in *A History of the Michael Brown Family* (1921) stated, "All history, posterity and tradition testify to the fact that Michael Brown was buried there."

A note uncovered through recent research may have significance here. It reads as follows:

Sept.—1927: Now owned by Mrs. Theodore Buerbaun, whose husband had been a member of the Rowan County Historical Society, is a stone taken from the Esquire Michael Braun's stone house, cut as follows: 'Michael Brown W1766' and another which looks somewhat like a tombstone 'MK & FB 1798.'

Surely Braun's tombstone and those of other members of the immediate family would have been handsome bounty for looters and others not respectful of an old family burial ground or souvenir hunters.

In our modern day we forget the importance funerals and family cemeteries played in the lives of our ancestors. Jim Brawley's article "Colonial Conditions" recalls for us that funerals were "public affairs and among the most important social functions. Private burials were illegal and every planter was required to 'set apart a Burial Place and fence the same for the interring of all such Christian Persons whether Bond or Free that shall die on their plantations.' Considerable publicity was given to the burial of the dead. Invitations were sent to relatives and friends and there was an abundance of things to eat and drink for the entertainment of the guests."

Rev. Richard L. Brown in his history of 1921 enumerates the following Michael Braun descendants as buried in the Old Stone House Cemetery:

David Brown (son of Jacob Brown), born 1835, died 1844.

Joseph Brown (son of Jacob Brown), born 1844, died 1846.

Jacob Brown (son of David and grandson of Michael Braun), born 1810, died 1853.

Sarah L. Brown (unmarried daughter of Jacob Brown), born 1831, died 1857.

Sarah L. Brown (daughter of Solomon Brown), born 1839, died 1857.

Jeremiah Brown (son of Jacob Brown), born 1840, died 1861.

Solomon Brown (son of David and grandson of Michael Braun), born 1811, died 1863.

Margaret Brown (daughter of Jacob Brown), born 1836, died 1867.

Margaret Beck (daughter of William Beck and Margaret Brown Beck), born 1867, died 1867.

Annie Edleman (wife of Jacob Brown), born 1813, died 1876.

Karamiah B. Brown (daughter of Solomon Brown), died young.

Rebecca Brown (daughter of Solomon Brown) died young.

Martha Ann (daughter of Solomon Brown) died in her teens.

Andrew Brown (son of David and grandson of Michael Braun), dates unknown.

George Brown (son of David and grandson of Michael Braun), dates unknown.

James Brown (son of Michael Braun) dates unknown, but believed to be buried at Old Stone House.

Reverend Brown also tells us in his history (page 87) that his grandfather, David Brown, the son of Michael Braun, is buried in the Braun Family Cemetery. In speaking of David, Reverend Brown says, "He was born at the Stone House and is buried there." Of James Brown, son of Michael Braun, Reverend Brown writes (page 147) "We do not know when he was born, when he died or where he is buried (but believe it was at the Stone House)."

The diary of the Reverend Samuel Rothrock (now in the North Carolina Lutheran Synod's archives in Salisbury) relates that he attended the funeral of Jacob Brown's child (noted in Brown's list) at the Stone House on January 28, 1844 . . . also, that he "attended the funeral of the widow Sarah Brown and buried her at the Stone House" — 1850.

The Carolina Watchman of May 31, 1877, makes reference to a Mrs. Michael Brown 1812-1877, "She was 65 years old and lived in the Old Rock House built by her grandfather. She was the widow of M. Brown and buried in family cemetery."

After the organization of Christiana Lutheran Church in 1811, most of the Michael Braun descendants of the vicinity used the graveyard of Christiana to bury their deceased instead of the Old Stone House family cemetery. In fact, Solomon Brown was buried in the family cemetery at the Old Stone House in 1863. His wife, Amy, was buried in the Christiana Lutheran Cemetery in 1900. Church records also list Solomon as buried in the Brown family cemetery. His descendants, unable to locate his marker in the old cemetery, erected a monument for him, which is now one of the more noticeable tombstones.

Information from the records of James Brawley reveals in 1950 that James Thompson, a Granite Quarry High School student, found the following from tombstones near a pig pen in a pasture on the Granite Quarry — Faith Road:

David Brown, died Aug. 18, 1811

Mumear Brown, died Dec. 11, 1819

Catherine Brown, 1778-1850

Susan Brown, 1778-1850

Moses Brown, 1778-1841

Michael S. Brown, 1797-1849

In his *A History of the Michael Brown Family* Rev. Richard Brown mentions that there was a family graveyard on the Moses Brown farm (the Haines place), but no evidence that any of Michael Braun's immediate family was buried there, or anywhere else but in the Old Stone House graveyard.

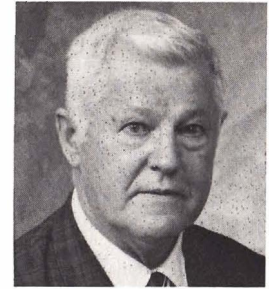
When Reverend Brown wrote his history in 1921 he testified that the Old Stone House was "in a neglected state and in the hands of strangers." Pathetically he added, "and if something is not done for its care and restoration it will soon be a thing of the past."

Brown further wrote:

At one time it was thought that if the old house was in the hands of this Association, it might be repaired and used as an archive for our minutes, records, history, etc.; but as it has gone so far towards demolition as to be almost beyond repairs, it may be wiser in the end to build some kind of a monument or archives on the ground of the graveyard that will be substantial and modern. We hope these lines will suggest some thought, and conclusion, that in time will materialize in something substantial to the sacred memory of the dead, and in everlasting memory to the posterity of Michael Brown.

Grandfather Brown's admonitions were apparently taken seriously. Most of his dreams came true. He would rejoice in knowing that the Old Stone House, in 1927, passed into the hands of members of the Brown family long before it was sold to the Rowan Museum . . . and that it was not beyond restoration. Brown would further be pleased with the knowledge that the family burial ground was, in 1929, deeded to the "Michael Brown Family Association."

When Ernest Hardin and The Rowan Museum authentically restored the Old Stone House in 1966; they likewise used their restorative knowledge on the old family burial ground. The authorities of the Museum under the personal direction of Hardin rebuilt the rock wall surrounding the cemetery, using as their guide the photograph made in the 1880's shown in this book. In order to construct a road to the cemetery from the highway and to protect the burying site, the Rowan Museum purchased additional property surrounding the graveyard at a cost of \$8,750. Hence persons now, and for many future generations, can visit this burial ground and reflect upon the lives of Michael Braun and his descendants, the once-inhabitants of the Old Stone House.



CHAPTER VI

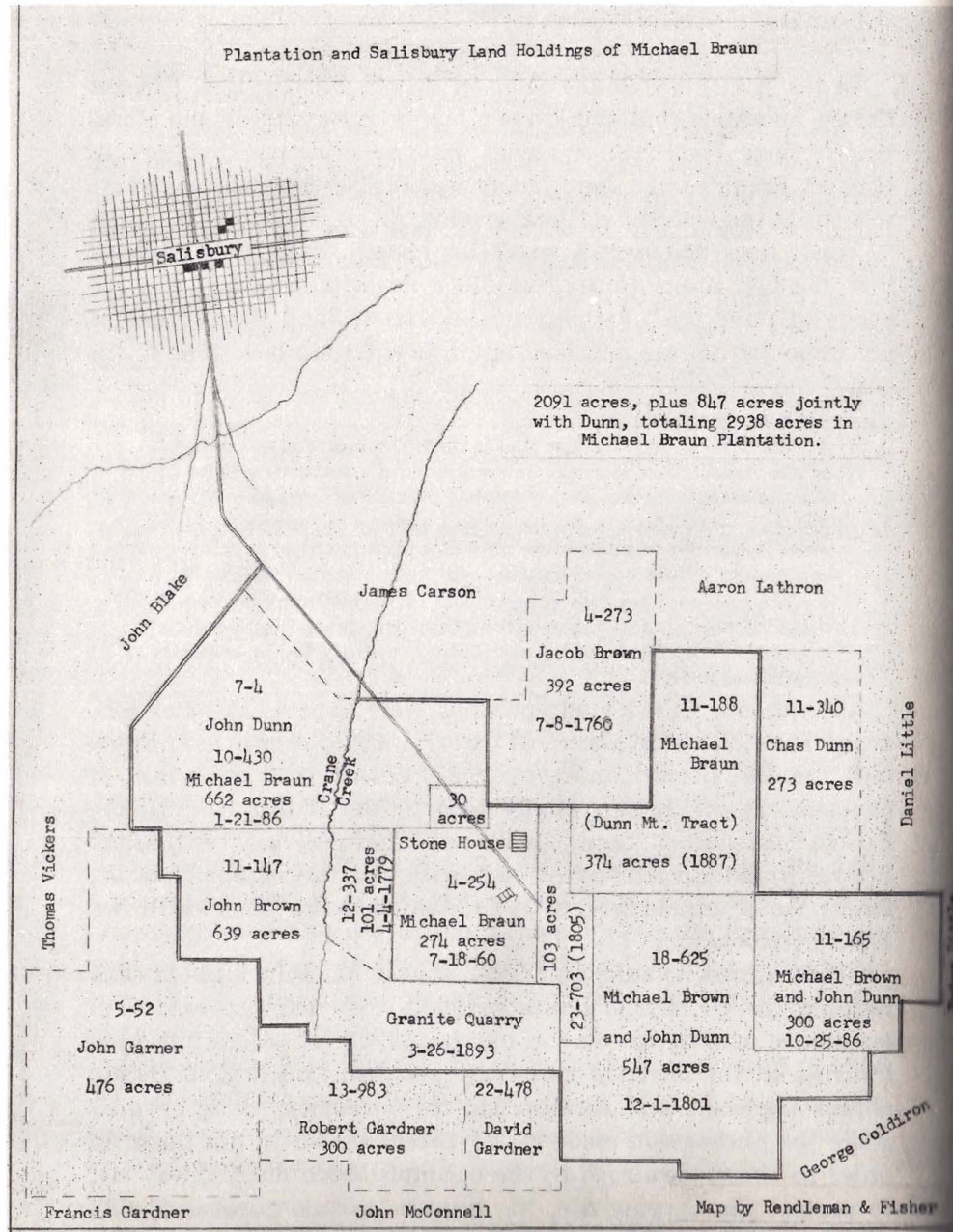
The Lands and Property of Michael Braun

By David Rendleman

John Dunn, a native of Ireland, early attended Oxford University but left that institution when he was about twenty years of age and immigrated to America, landing in Charleston, South Carolina. After a brief residence there, he came to Salisbury where he spent the remainder of his life, with a large town residence and office at the North corner of Innes and Church Streets where the Lutheran Church now stands. He became Clerk of Court in 1753, a licensed Attorney in 1755, State Attorney for Rowan County in 1777, and was one of the prominent men of the county until his death in 1783.

Prior to the formation of Rowan County in 1753, Dunn, a lifetime neighbor, associate and friend of Michael Braun, acquired from Lord Granville two tracts of land near Salisbury. The first, by a deed which was never recorded in Rowan, 274 acres lying about a mile South of Dunn's Mountain, and the second, by deed dated May 25, 1852, recorded September 5, 1758, in Book 7 at page 4, 662 acres touching and lying Northwest of the first tract. On this tract were Dunn's country residence and plantation, and on it he was buried.

On July 18, 1760, by deed recorded in Book 4 at page 254, the Irishman John Dunn, after whom Dunn's Mountain was named — although he never owned it or any land near it — with his wife, Mary, sold his first acquired 274 acre tract to Michael Braun. It was upon this tract that the stone house was built, near the upper



Land Holdings of Michael Braun

Squares in upper map indicate approximate location of Braun's Salisbury properties.

The Honorable David A. Rendleman, attorney of Salisbury, is a 5th generation descendant of Abraham Brown, thought by many to be a brother of Michael Braun.

East boundary. Michael did not find it necessary to add to his property until April 4, 1779, when by deed recorded in Book 12 at page 337, he purchased 101 acres of the 639 acre "John Brown" tract hereinafter considered. I give the book and page numbers of these deeds for the reason that many of them contain interesting information, witnesses and adjoining landowners etc., and some readers may find pleasure in examining the instruments. This 101 acre purchase extended from Michael's original Western boundary towards Salisbury to and along the middle fork of Crane Creek, and ran along the North side of the public road then running from Salisbury to and through the present site of Granite Quarry.

After the death of John Dunn in January, 1786, "John Dunn and wife, Elizabeth, labourer (eldest son and heir at law of John Dunn, late of Rowan County, Attorney at Law, deceased)" by deed recorded in Book 10 at page 430 and for a consideration of 425 pounds, conveyed Dunn's 662 acre tract, excepting 59 acres theretofore sold off, to Michael Braun. This land, as stated in the deed, lay on both sides of Crane Creek, on both sides of "the road leading from Salisbury to the Pee Dee (Yadkin) river," now the Granite Quarry road, and extended from the creek about three quarters of a mile towards Salisbury. It marked the Western boundary of Michael's plantation holdings. In November, 1799, by deed recorded in Book 17 at page 343, Michael purchased from Conrad Brem, whose home is still standing on South Main Street in Salisbury between the old Security Bank building and the theater, the outstanding 59 acres of the 662 acre plantation. On February 3, 1807, shortly before his death, Michael conveyed by deed recorded in Book 19 at page 869, 15 acres of the 59 acre purchase, described as lying on Tar Kiln branch and indicating some kind of industrial use, to his son Jeremiah.

On October 25, 1786, Michael Braun and John Dunn jointly obtained a State grant for 300 acres lying a little more than a mile directly East of the Stone House tract (11-165) and on August 9, 1787, Michael obtained a grant from the State covering 30 acres lying between his home and the large Dunn tract purchased by him (11-242). On this date he also obtained from the State a grant recorded in Book 11 at page 188 for 874 acres lying northeast of his home and upon which a part of Dunn's Mountain is located.

Immediately East of this tract Charles Dunn, another son of John Dunn, Sr., resided upon his 273 acre plantation.

On December 1, 1801, Michael Braun and John Dunn recorded in Book 18 at page 625 another State grant for 547 acres, connecting, as they thought, the Stone House tract and the 300 acre tract obtained on October 25, 1786. Probably when this tract was surveyed it was ascertained that neither it nor the Dunn's Mountain tract adjoined the Stone House tract, as was originally believed, but that about 100 acres separated these properties. Accordingly, in November, 1805, by grant recorded in Book 23 at page 703, Michael acquired the intervening tract which was surveyed at 103 acres. This interesting grant makes reference to and definitely locates many of the other properties.

On August 9, 1787, by grant recorded in Book 11 at page 147, John Brown, the son of Michael known as "Continental John," obtained 639 acres lying South and West of the Stone House tract, and upon which most of Granite Quarry is now located. He sold 101 acres of this tract to Michael, as above stated, but it does not seem that he was as provident as the other Brown children. At any rate, he allowed one John Haislett to take a judgment against him in the relatively small amount of 26 pounds and 10 shillings, failed to pay it, and on March 26, 1793, the sheriff (13-403) sold the remaining 538 acres to Michael for 201 pounds (less than \$500.00). In November, 1793, Michael sold this land to Frederick Miller (130381) who also lost the property through judgment and execution, possibly for the purchase price. In 1807 Michael obtained a judgment against Miller for \$900.00 under which Edward Chambers, then sheriff, sold the property back to Braun by deed recorded in Book 21 at page 139.

From the above it will be seen that Michael Braun acquired 2091 acres, more than three square miles of land, North, East and West of, and including Granite Quarry, in his own name, together with half interest in 847 acres with John Dunn, Jr. This was in addition to his Salisbury property. In his deeds he was described first as a "Wheelwright," then as a "merchant" and a "planter." He was a man of many activities, and the census of 1790 showed him as the owner of fifteen slaves.

Michael's first town property, purchased from John Dunn, Sr., on September 24, 1771, soon after construction of the Stone

House, by deed recorded in Book 7 at page 288, was a lot 90 x 198 feet at the South corner of Main and Fisher Streets where the Owen building now stands, including the later residence of Conrad Brem, now standing. In this deed, Michael was described as a "Wheelwright." On February 16, 1779, Michael and his wife, Rosanna, conveyed this lot to their son Peter by deed recorded in Book 9 at page 15, and it was doubtless their place of business or one of their places of business.

Michael's next purchase of town property, from John Howard on July 30, 1774, by deed recorded in Book 8 at page 183, was lot 29 in the North Square, about 200 x 200 at the East corner of Liberty and Jackson Streets. At that time a branch ran through this lot, under our present city water works property and through our City Park and Country Club to Granite Creek, known as "Tan Yard Branch." Michael also owned lots 200 x 400 feet along the West side of Jackson Street, from Liberty to Kerr Streets.

On September 22, 1786, Michael became the owner of lot 17 in the East Square of Salisbury by deed recorded in Book 11 at page 603. This lot, about 200 x 200 at the East corner of Innes and Lee Streets, was the town residence of Michael, where he lived until he returned to the Stone House, and its history will be of interest. By his will, recorded in Book D at page 17, Michael devised "the house and lot in Salisbury where I formerly lived" to his son Jeremiah, requiring him to pay 100 silver dollars to Michael's widow. In 1810, by deed recorded in Book 21 at page 818, Jeremiah purchased lot 18, giving him a property fronting about 200 feet on Innes Street and running back about 400 feet to Council Street. In June, 1830, at the liquidation of Jeremiah's estate, by deed recorded in Book 31 at page 115, Moses Brown, possibly the most active of Michael's sons, purchased the property, "two lots in the town of Salisbury now occupied by Mrs. Jeremiah Brown, one with a house on it and the other a back lot, Nos. 17 and 18, sold subject to the widow's dower."

On February 8, 1842, Michael, Moses L., Peter M., Alfred, Henry and Sarah Brown, with John and Sophia Bost, heirs of Moses Brown, sold the lots to Thomas Dixon, Jr., and wife, Margaret, and others, by deed recorded in Book 35 at page 449. In 1868, the Executor of Margarretta Dixon, sold the two lots to William H. Crawford by deed recorded in Book 44 at page 389,

and in January, 1774, by deed recorded in Book 58 at page 36, Crawford sold the corner at Lee and Innes Street, 100 x 200 feet "known as the Dixon house and lot to Peter A. Frercks, whose wife held the property until her death in the 1920's.

On May 10, 1799, Michael purchased two other residence properties by deed recorded in Book 17 at page 80. These lots, 25 and 26 in the South square known as the "Dayton Lots" lay on the South side of Innes Street, adjoining and West of the present railroad, running through to Fisher Street and fronting about 200 feet on Innes Street. By his will, Michael devised them to Polly and Nancy Reeves and at the time the lots were occupied by a Mrs. Balfour and one John H. Gitchey (Ketchie).

On September 19, 1800, by deed recorded in Book 18 at page 20, Michael purchased from John and Mary Steele lots 4 and 12 in the East Square, about 200 x 400 opposite the "goael" lot at the South corner of Main and Liberty Streets. In 1880 Holmes Tannery was located on the rear, or Lee Street, half of this property, and since a good sized branch ran through the lot it could have been put to some such use by Michael. In 1822, Moses, a son of Michael, purchased these lots from Michael's estate by deed recorded in Book 26 at page 843.

Michael also owned and in 1779, by deed recorded in Book 9 at page 68, sold to Mathew Troy, parts of lots 2 and 10 in the East Square. This property fronted about 49 feet on Corbin (Main) Street and ran back about 400 feet with Freemason (Council) Street to Wake (Lee Street). Here Horace Beard subsequently erected his large brick residence, now occupied by Klutz and Hamlin as law offices.

As will be seen from Michael's will, dated October 12, 1807, he devised the Stone House to his surviving wife (Eleanor Reeves) for her life. The remainder of the Stone House tract was devised together with 30 acres adjoining to his son, David. He devised one-half of the large "Dunn's Place" to his son James and the other half to his son Moses. These two sons were then living on the Dunn plantation and it is probable that the Salisbury-Granite Quarry road divided their inheritances.

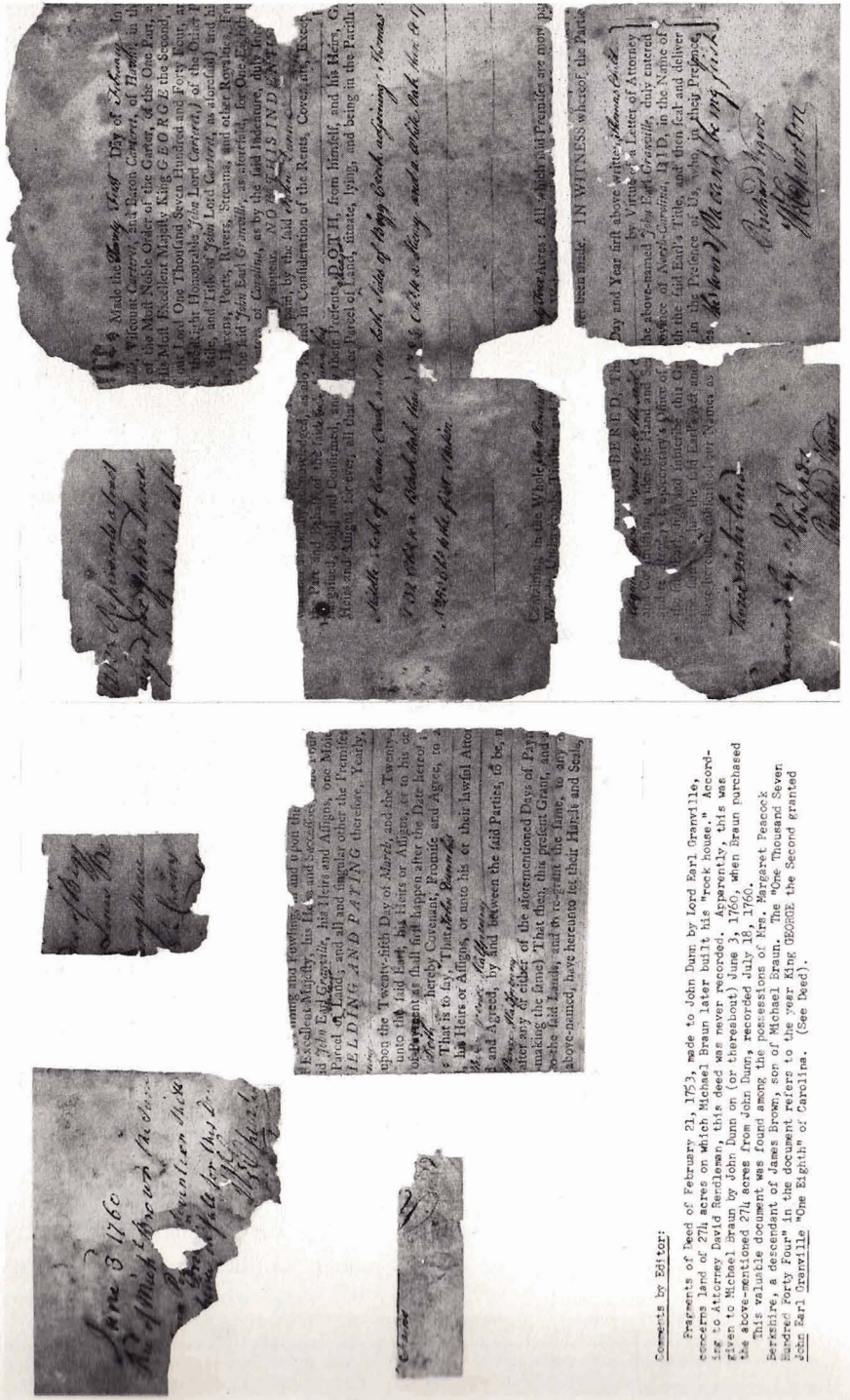
Michael's sons, Peter, Moses and James, with Joseph Pearson, were appointed Executors of Michael's will and were directed to sell the remainder of his property, dividing the proceeds among all

of his children. Under this authority, the Executors made the following sales:

- a. 538 acres remaining in the "Continental John" tract to John Pool for \$1,400.00, by deed recorded in Book 22 at page 270. As above indicated, this tract covered about all of present day Granite Quarry. In 1814, by deed recorded in Book 24 at page 94, Michael's son, Moses, re-purchased 280 acres of this property from Pool.
- b. 300 acres on the South side of Dunn's Mountain to Peter Cauble for \$255.00 by deed recorded in Book 22 at 319.
- c. About 300 acres of the Dunn's Mountain tract to Louis Beard for \$100.00, 75 acres of this tract having been conveyed by Michael to Jacob Brown on July 7, 1792, by deed recorded in Book 13 at page 11.
- d. 103 acres adjoining the Stone House tract to Louis Beard for \$50.00 by deed recorded in Book 22 at page 608.
- e. Michael's interest in the 547 acres granted to Michael and John Dunn, to Louis Beard, for \$146.00, by deed recorded in Book 22 at page 693.
- f. Lots 37 and 38 in the North Square of Salisbury, 200 x 400 on the West side of Jackson Street between Liberty and Kerr Streets, to Louis Beard for \$35.00 by deed recorded in Book 26 at page 103.
- g. Lot 29 in the North Square, about 200 x 200 at the East corner of Liberty and Jackson streets, to Michael Brown, a grandson, by deed recorded in Book 26 at page 449, this for a consideration of \$32.50.
- h. Lots 4 and 12 in the East Square, about 200 x 400 at the South corner of Main and Liberty streets "including a spring" to Moses Brown, son of Michael, for \$306.00 by deed recorded in Book 26 at page 843.

It should be noted that three Browns came to Rowan County at about the same time. In addition to Michael, there was Jacob, also a large land owner whose property adjoined Michael's Stone House Tract to the North. Jacob's two grants aggregated 871 acres and extended for more than two miles North and a little East of the Stone House. Abraham, from whom I am descended, settled about two and a half miles East of Union Church and a short distance Northeast of Providence Church, if his land did not include the Church grounds.

1753 Deed from Lord Granville to John Dunn Concerning 274 acres of Land Related to Old Stone House



Comments by Editor:
 Fragments of deed of February 21, 1753, made to John Dunn by Lord Earl Granville, concerns land of 274 acres on which Michael Braun later built his "rock house." As noted by Attorney David Randleman, this deed was never recorded. Apparently, this was given to Michael Braun by John Dunn on (or thereabout) June 3, 1766, when Braun purchased the above-mentioned 274 acres from John Dunn, recorded July 18, 1766.
 This valuable document was found among the possessions of Mrs. Margaret Peacock Braschire, a descendant of James Brown, son of Michael Braun. The "one thousand seven hundred and forty four" in the document refers to the year King GEORGE the Second granted Lord Earl Granville "One Eighth" of Carolina. (See Deed).

CHAPTER VII



The Will Of Michael Braun

By Edward Addison Brown

Mrs. William Henry Canup discovered the will of Braun among her husband's papers and very graciously gave the document to the Brown family 1963. Mrs. Canup did not recall any specific details as to her husband's acquisition of the copy of the will. She believed he had served as secretary of the Brown-Fisher Association for many years and may have acquired it among the secretary's papers as he was very interested in preserving Brown family memorabilia.

It is interesting to note that William Henry Canup was born 19 September 1872 in the vicinity of Dunn's Mountain, near Salisbury, N. C. Mr. Canup's mother, Julia Ann, was a daughter of David Brown. David Brown was one of Michael Braun's sons. Mr. Canup passed away in 1963.

The will of Michael Braun is recopied in the following paragraphs from the longhand and punctuated as closely as possible by typewriter with the original. It is presumed that Michael Braun appeared before the equivalent of a local scribe (scrivener) and dictated the document. The will contains a seal which was applied to the document, but was not legible. The will was laminated in a silk screen by Mr. A. M. Patterson, of the State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, in the same manner in which they preserve all historical documents. The following is the will as copied from the handwritten original:

Edward Brown is associated with his father, Dodd, in the refrigeration business. Edward is a 7th generation descendant of Michael Braun through his son, James.

In the name of God, Amen. I Michael Brown of Rowan County in the State of North Carolina do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following, to wit,

First. My will and desire is that all my just debts shall be paid out of my Estate as soon as may be after my decease.

Secondly. I leave to my beloved wife Eleanor Brown the Stone House, with the out houses and plantation and one third of the land where I now live, during her natural life; and the use for five years after my decease, of the bottom land which I cleared on the tract called by my son James Brown. I also give to my said wife the bed and furniture called my bed, and one bay mare, saddle and bridle to her own use and as her own property; and I lend unto my said wife the mulatto girl Betsey for ten years after my decease; at the expiration of which time the said girl Betsey is to be sold, and the money divided between my said wife and her heirs.

Thirdly. I give and bequeath unto my son James Brown the tract of land on which the Stone House stands where I now live, and another tract of thirty acres adjoining the same, to him and his heirs forever, subject to the life estate in part of the said land already given to my wife.

Fourthly. I give and bequeath unto my son David Brown one half of my tract of land called Dunn's place, whereon he now lives, to him and his heirs forever.

and also the sum of Five hundred silver dollars, to be paid out of my Estate and I hereby nominate and appoint my friend Montfort Stokes to be guardian of the said child which may be born to me hereafter, and to superintend the Education thereof, after my decease.

Eighthly. My will and desire is that all the rest and residue of my Estate both real and personal not hereby devised and given away shall be sold by my Executors after my death, and the money arising therefrom to be equally divided amongst all my children and my beloved wife Eleanor Brown and I have equal and like. And I hereby authorize my Executors to execute good and sufficient Deeds of conveyance for the property to be sold, and to vest the purchase thereof in a few lots of Estate in the same, hereby bequeathing to my said Executors the said residue of real Estate for the purposes expressed in this clause of my will.

Ninthly and lastly. I hereby nominate and appoint my sons Peter Brown, Moses Brown and James Brown, and Mr. Joseph Pearson to be Executors of this my last will and testament, here by revoking all and every other will by me heretofore made. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 12th day of October in the year of our Lord 1807.

I signed, sealed, published, Michael Brown
and acknowledged to be the last will and testament of Michael Brown in the presence of us who have severally attested the same as Subscribes.

Joseph Griffin
Wm. Stokes
Michael Brown
Wm. H. Balfour

"In the name of God, Amen. I Michael Brown of Rowan County in the State of North Carolina, do make and ordain this my last will and testament, in manner and form following, to wit,

First. My will and desire is that all my just debts shall be paid out of my estate as soon as may be after my decease."

"Secondly. I leave to my beloved wife Eleanor Brown the Stone House, with the out houses and plantation and one third of the land, where I now live during her natural life; and the use for five years after my decease, of the bottom land which I cleared on the tract willed to my son James Brown: I also give to my said wife the bed and furniture called my bed, and one bay mare, saddle and bridle to her own use and as her own property; and I lend unto my said wife the mulatto girl Betsey for ten years after my decease; at the expiration of which time the said girl: Betsey, is to be sold and the money divided among my lawful heirs."

"Thirdly. I give and bequeath unto my son David Brown the tract of land on which the Stone House stands where I now live, and another tract of thirty acres adjoining the same, to him and his heirs forever, subject to the life estate in part of the said land already given to my wife."

"Fourthly. I give and bequeath unto my son James Brown one half of my tract of land called Dunn's place, whereon he now lives, to him and his heirs forever."

"Fifthly. I give and bequeath unto my son Jeremiah Brown the house and lot of land in Salisbury where I formerly lived, after his paying to my beloved wife the sum of one hundred silver dollars, to her own use: — Then the said house and lot to be the property of the said Jeremiah Brown and his heirs forever."

"Sixthly. I give and bequeath unto my son Moses Brown the one other half of my tract of land called Dunn's place, whereon he now lives, to him and his heirs forever."

"Sixthly. I give and bequeath unto my wives two daughters Sally Reeves and Nancy Reeves in consideration of their dutiful conduct to me, my two lots and houses in Salisbury now occupied by Mrs. Balfour and John H. Pitchey, called Dayton's lots: to these said Sally Reeves and Nancy Reeves their heirs and assigns forever; to be held by them as tenants in common and not as joint tenants."

"Sevently. If my beloved wife Eleanor Brown shall be delivered of a lawful child to me, of which she may now be enseant,

he now lives, to him and his heirs forever.

Seventhly. I give and bequeath unto my son Jeremiah Brown the house and lot of land in Salisbury where I formerly lived, after his paying to my beloved wife the sum of one hundred silver dollars, to her own use: — Then the said house and lot to be the property of the said Jeremiah Brown and his heirs forever.

Eighthly. I give and bequeath unto my son Moses Brown the one other half of my tract of land called Dunn's place, whereon he now lives, to him and his heirs forever.

Ninthly. I give and bequeath unto my wives two daughters Sally Reeves and Nancy Reeves in consideration of their dutiful conduct to me, my two lots and houses in Salisbury now occupied by Mrs. Balfour and John H. Pitchey, called Dayton's lots: to these said Sally Reeves and Nancy Reeves their heirs and assigns forever; to be held by them as tenants in common and not as joint tenants.

Tenthly. If my beloved wife Eleanor Brown shall be delivered of a lawful child to me, of which she may now be enseant, she may now be delivered of a lawful child to me, of which she may now be enseant,

and testament, here by revoking all and every other will by me heretofore made. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 12th day of October in the year of our Lord 1807.

I signed, sealed, published, Michael Brown
and acknowledged to be the last will and testament of Michael Brown in the presence of us who have severally attested the same as Subscribes.

Joseph Griffin
Wm. Stokes
Michael Brown
Wm. H. Balfour

my will is and I give and bequeath unto the said child mulatto girl called Emily, child of Betsey; and also the sum of five hundred silver dollars, to be paid out of my estate and I hereby nominate and appoint my friend Montford Stokes to be guardian of the said child which may be born to me hereafter, and to superintend the education thereof, after my decease."

"Eighthly. My will and desire is that all the rest and residue of my estate both real and personal not heretofore devised and given away shall be sold by my executor after my death, and the money arising therefrom to be equally divided amongst all my children and my beloved wife Eleanor share and share equal and alike; — And I hereby authorize my executor to execute good and sufficient deeds of conveyance for the property so to be sold; and to vest the purchasers thereof in a fee simple estate in the same, hereby bequeathing to my said executor the said residuary real estate for the purposes expressed in this clause of my will."

"Ninthly and lastly. I hereby nominate and appoint my sons Peter Brown, Moses Brown and James Brown and W. Joseph Pearson to be executors of this my last will and testament, hereby revoking all and every other will be me heretofore made. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 12th day of October in the year of our Lord 1807."

Michael Braun.

"Signed, sealed, published and declared to be the last will and testament of Michael Braun in the presence of us who have severally attested the same as witnesses."

David Griffith,
M. Stokes.

Michael Brown's Will
John Gardiner.

Registered in Book D.
A. L. O.

Copied by A. L. O.
1807

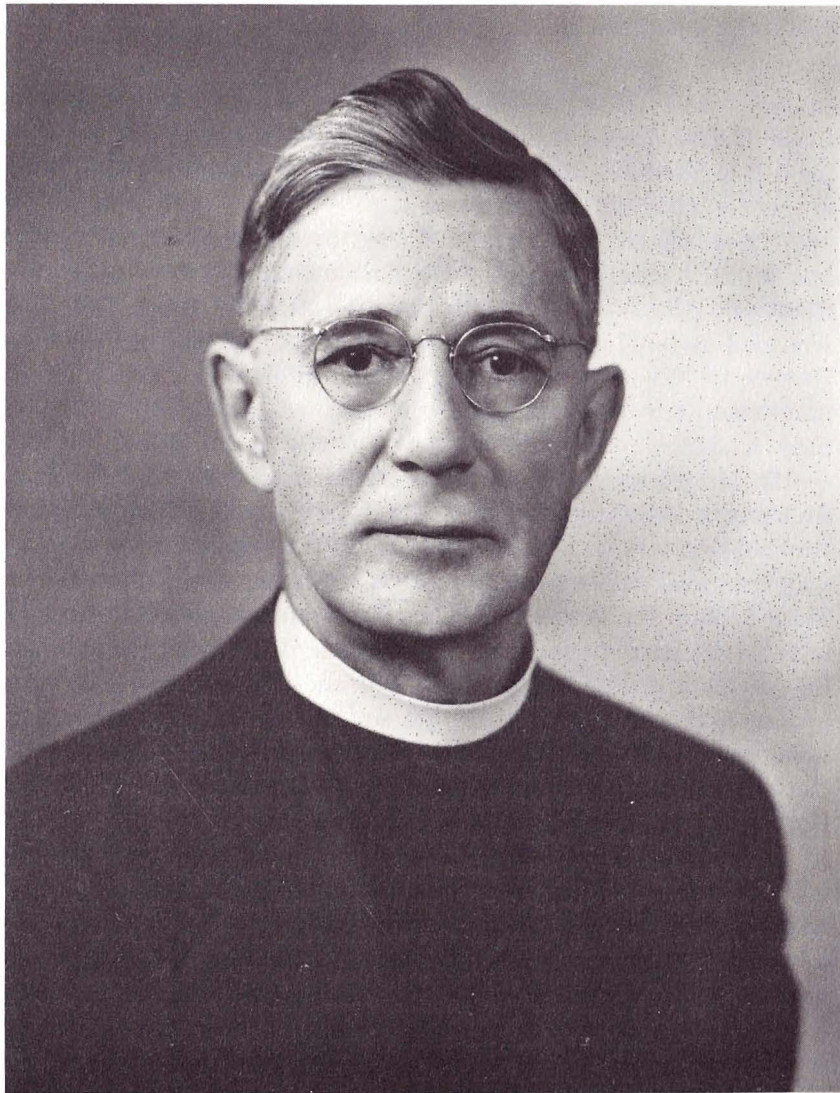
The writer visited the Rowan County Court House, Clerk of Court Office, found the will had been duly registered in Book D, by A.L.O., and also that the hand-written copy of the will in Book D was copied by A.L.O. 1807.

The initials A.L.O. were identified by Mr. James Brawley and Mr. W. D. Kizziah, as those of Adlai L. Osborne, Rowan County Clerk of Court, at the time that the Michael Braun will was recorded in 1807. Mr. Osborne was a 1768 graduate of Princeton University. His name appears as Clerk of Rowan County Court under the Royal Government. He held this post until 1809 and died in 1815.

Mr. Montford Stokes signed the will as a witness. Mr. Montford Stokes was born in Virginia in 1760. He was taken prisoner in the Revolutionary War, near Norfolk, in 1776. For a number of years he was Clerk of Rowan Superior Court and Clerk of the N. C. State Senate. He was elected a U. S. Senator in 1816, and served until 1823. He removed from Salisbury to Wilkesboro about 1812. He served as State Senator in 1829, and was elected N. C. Governor 1830 to 1832. In 1831 he was appointed Indian Agent in Arkansas. His friend, President Andrew Jackson, appointed him chairman of the Federal Indian Commission. He died in 1842, at Fort Bigson, Arkansas.

The name of David Griffith, whose name appeared as a witness to the will, could not be identified by local historians, Messrs. Kizziah and Brawley. The name of John Gardiner, whose name appeared on the will, under the title *Michael Brown's Will*, could not be identified by Messrs. Kizziah and Brawley.

There were very few variations, and no change in meaning, in the words used in the original hand written copy of Michael Braun's will and the content of the will which was included in "A History of the Michael Brown Family of Rowan County, N. C.," by the Rev. Richard L. Brown, copyrighted in 1921. The word enseant is thought to be the same as the French word enceinte, which means to be with child. It is significant that Michael Brown himself signed the will as Braun, although the Court House records and the introductory paragraph of the will use the name Brown.



DR. P. D. BROWN
1886-1952

The Reverend Pleasant Brown, D.D., great, great grandson of Michael Braun was instrumental in the growth of the Brown-Fisher Association and the preserving of the Old Stone House. He was influential in the religious life of his community and the nation. For a number of years, he served as pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church of Salisbury and as Secretary of the United Lutheran Church in America. He is the son of Nathan Brown, a 4th generation descendant of Michael Braun through his son, David.

CHAPTER VIII



Influence of the Browns on Rowan County's History

By James Shober Brawley

It was as if Michael Braun knew that his place in history would be secure when he took a chisel and put his name and date on a smooth stone above the door to his new stone house in 1766. By so doing he gave his home and his descendants that imperishable antiquity which has dominated Rowan County history for two hundred years. This stone house has not only become a legend and a landmark but a shrine as well. So well known is it that people all over the county consider it part of Rowan's history that will stand to remind the ever changing generations of the permanency of those who came here to make their homes, to live and die in the rolling hills of Piedmont North Carolina.

Michael Braun selected well a site for his stone house. He placed it near good water and along the "Great Road leading from Salisbury to the Pee Dee." And although it is situated on low ground it makes a perfect fort — hard to see, surrounded by thickets with walls strong enough to withstand any seize. Perhaps this home doubled as a fort during the troubles with Indians at the time the house was erected. Like the foundation of this home which penetrates fifteen feet into the earth so have Brown's progeny sunk their roots deep into the county's soil and here they have remained for nine generations.

Today there are one hundred Brown families living in Salisbury. In 1848 there were seventeen. In 1755 there was only a handful.¹

Historian James Brawley, author of a number of books and articles, is a staff writer for the Salisbury Evening Post.

This five-fold increase in population has been matched by an equal increase in the influence the family has had on the city's history during the past two hundred years. Members of this large family have contributed to the cultural, business and educational life of the town while others have quietly pursued avocations demanding but not rewarding either in affluence or fame. But this was natural with the German element from which they sprang.

Whereas the early English settlers founded mills, churches and helped establish ecclesiastical and political institutions their German neighbors, on the other hand, were mainly occupied with the aesthetic development of the county.

Germans creased the Kentucky Rifle after their arrival here, a gun completely different from anything found in the old world. They invented and manufactured the Conestogo Wagon; they composed music — the Moravian music was the best in colonial America — and they made their own musical instruments as in the case of the organ at Zion Lutheran Church. Gunsmiths like George and Henry Bruner, Benjamin Merrell and Jacob Eagner brought what became known as the Kentucky Rifle to a high perfection and it was this rifle that their Quaker neighbor Daniel Boone used in his westward trek.²

It has been said that one reason for the large German migration to America was the devastation caused by wars of Louis XIV when he laid waste the Palatinate region from which the Brown family fled. Yet once in this country members of the family while avoiding fights did not eschew their responsibility to their new homeland. For during the Revolution proof exists that several Browns entered the army and many more probably did so without extant records to substantiate their claims.

William Brown served in Capt. Houston's Company, Col. Francis Locke's Regiment³ and Benjamin Brown served in the years 1777, 1778 and 1779 for short terms in each year under Gen. Griffith Rutherford, Col. Locke's Regiment, Capt. Smith's Company.⁴ Jacob Brown was a private in Capt. Frederick Fisher's Company with Locke's regiment.⁵ Jacob Fisher swore before a pensions board in 1824 that Peter Brown enlisted in Capt. Lee's Company in the 10th Regiment for five years. This Peter Brown died in Washington in 1813 and left his widow Eliza Courtney in

such a position that she found it necessary to collect his Revolutionary pension.⁶ Michael Brown was listed in the records of 1780 as being in Capt. Faust's Company in the Salisbury District, but whether he actually saw service rather than serve as a tax collector is not known.⁷ One Michael Brown, however, probably fought in the Revolution, too, but on the British side. In 1782 a Michael Brown was cited to appear before the court and show cause why his estate should not be subject to confiscation under a late act of the assembly dealing with Tories. At any rate he appeared and showed that he had been heretofore discharged by order of the committee.⁸

Two Browns have left records of their service in the War of 1812. Judson (Jutson) and Peter Brown were in the 1st Regiment.⁹ Possibly Col. Jeremiah Brown was the proudest Brown of all when it came to military bearing. As colonel of the 64th Regiment, North Carolina Militia, he was a man of importance and standing though he never fought in any war. He served as the regiment's commanding officer from 1842 until 1850 which included the years of the Mexican War, but his regiment was not engaged. A nephew, Calvin S. Brown also attained to military honor when he served first as adjutant to Col. G. M. Weant's 3rd Regiment of Volunteers and then as its colonel and commanding officer.

Two dozen Browns fought for the Confederacy, but only a few will be mentioned here.¹⁰ Lt. Col. John F. Brown aided Col. George C. Gibbs in organizing the 42nd Regiment on the William Crawford farm just east of Salisbury. Williams Brown was a second lieutenant and Thomas J. Brown a full lieutenant in the regiment of 1100 men.¹¹ And while J. D. Brown did not enlist in the army he did serve as a member of the committee of managers for the Wayside Hospital that was a local haven for returning soldiers while Mrs. Cornelia L. Brown was vice president of the Soldier's Aid Society that gave succor and comfort to soldiers passing through this important rail center.¹²

Michael Brown the merchant although too old to enlist was an important figure in procuring salt for the Confederacy as well as the home front from the mines in Virginia.¹³ Pvt. P. A. Brown of Company K, 4th Regiment, the old Rowan Rifles, was wounded in May, 1864, and during that same month Pvt. Frank Brown, a

courier in the 5th Cavalry under Gen. James B. Gordon, captured a Yankee officer in the fighting around Richmond.¹⁴

Following the war the Rowan Rifles was reorganized in 1872 with veteran William Brown as its 1st lieutenant¹⁵ and John L. Brown was named a lieutenant in the newly organized Battery A of the light artillery in 1887. Militaristic characteristics were not part and parcel of these German Browns, nor of their neighbors. They were for the most part peace loving, friendly and helpful to one another.

As to their attitude to newcomers to this region in the 1760s the Rev. Arnold Roschen reported that upon reaching this area the "people from all parts of the country brought us abundant flour, geese, and other items so much so that there has been scarcely any necessity to spend one farthing for our housekeeping up to this time."

Into such a society of nationals came the Brown family in the middle of the eighteenth century. Among them were Michael, Jacob and Abraham, together with Frederick, James and William, presumably all kin.¹⁶ Michael was here by 1758 for in that year he was named to the petit jury for Rowan County and began buying up land. But it was not until 1763 that Michael along with Frederick Brown "natives of Germany" were naturalized.¹⁷

Unlike others of his countrymen Michael first resided in Salzburg, as the Germans called Salisbury. Here he erected a town house on a lot he acquired from John Dunn in 1770 comprising 90 feet along Corbin Street as Main was then called. From his combination home and shop he carried on his profession as a wheelwright.¹⁸ But as Braun already had his Stone House he sold this home to his son Peter in 1779. It is this deed that proves Michael was married to Rosanna, his second wife. On the deed she made her mark "F" indicating, according to Miss Mamie McCubbins, that her maiden name was Fisher and that she was the daughter of Capt. Frederick Fisher a close friend and neighbor of Michael Braun. Mrs. McCubbins infers that Michael's first wife Margareta died in 1771 and between this date and the execution of the above deed to Peter Brown in 1779 Michael married Rosanna.¹⁹

Other town property held by Braun included a lot in the East Square opposite the present railroad station where he operated a tanyard. Lots two and ten in the South Square he sold to Michael

Troy as trustee of Capt. Daniel Little. The connection between Little and Braun was quite close for in deed book eight, page five hundred and fifty Little reveals that his widow Mary and their seven children were poorly provided for but that he trusted the friendship and integrity of Michael Braun, planter, to contribute his service to their benefit.

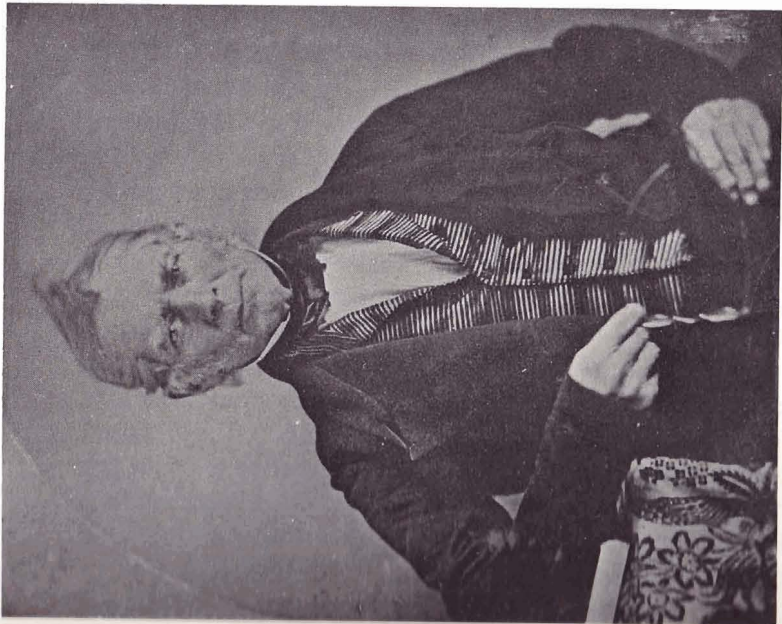
He was among the county's largest planters for he secured together with John Dunn, an important official of the county who helped lay out Salisbury, thousands of acres near present day Granite Quarry²¹ and had acquired by 1790 fifteen slaves which made him one of the largest slave holders in Rowan County.²²

In the deed books we find that farming was actually a sideline for he was a wheelwright by profession, one of the few in this section, and operated a profitable tanyard. His interests did not stop here for in 1794 he purchased from Benjamin Shoe of Shenandoah County, Virginia, all his "printing types, tools, and implements of a printing press." Then in cooperation with John Slump he operated the German-English Printing Company in Salisbury. Here were published many of the Festival Odes for the Moravians of Salem plus religious tracts of the famous Presbyterian minister Samuel E. McCorkle and undoubtedly other works by Lutheran and Reformed ministers.²³

Braun was a number of times a member of the Court of Common Pleas and Quarterly Sessions which made up the governing body of the county. He first served as a constable in 1764 and was a member of the justices of the court in 1777, 1785 and for the last time in 1794. He died in the year 1807, the same year his will is dated. Two years later in 1809 the court bound over his orphans Catherine, Jeremiah and Sophia to Jacob Ribelin.²⁴

Of his religious life little is known except that he was perhaps a member of the old Pine Meeting House. Proof of this is found in a deed executed by Michael Braun and Frederick Fisher in 1793 to the Pine Meeting House as trustees of the church now known as Union Lutheran Church.²⁵

Of Michael's seven sons Peter inherited his father's penchant for business. He married Susanna Bruner, the daughter of a wealthy planter, George Bruner, whose plantation on the Yadkin River near Trading Ford later became the residence of Dr. Albert



Thomas Lincoln Cowan
1780-1856

Thomas Brown and Elizabeth Cowan were contemporaries of Michael Braun. Elizabeth, daughter of Peter Brown, and granddaughter of Michael Braun, was 21 years old when Michael died. Cowan was among the wealthiest men in Salisbury, an elder in the Presbyterian Church and the builder of "Cowan's Brick Row." The Thomas Lincoln Cowan Bible is in the possession of Sally McAden Cothran of Charlotte, N. C., a granddaughter of Charlotte Cowan.



Elizabeth Brown Cowan
1786-1857

Powe.²⁶ After leaving the Stone House, Peter moved into town and in 1794 purchased lot one in the west square as being the most desirable lot in Salisbury. Here he opened a mercantile outlet which he operated with his brother Jeremiah until 1800 when they dissolved the partnership, Peter keeping the store and Jeremiah going elsewhere.²⁷ His career was interrupted briefly when he and Jutson Brown joined the 1st Rowan Regiment during the War of 1812, but his death in that year at the age of 56 cut short his career.²⁸

Among Peter and Susanna Brown's children were Elizabeth, George Washington and Michael Brown. Elizabeth married Thomas L. Cowan who was among the wealthiest men in Salisbury, an organizer and leading elder in the Presbyterian Church and the builder of "Cowan's Brick Row" a large store and home combination that stood on South Main Street until recently when it was razed. Part of it still serves as the foundation for the new Belk-Harry store.²⁹

George Washington and Michael Brown married sisters, the daughters of Alexander Long who lived in a house still standing just beyond Spencer at the mouth of Grants Creek. Long entertained George Washington here on the President's Southern journey undertaken in 1791. George W. Brown married Harriet Long at the home of Joseph Chambers in Farmington, Iredell County, in 1833.³⁰ There was always a close connection with the Chambers family, and this old home is still standing at the little community of Elmwood. Like his father, Peter, G. W. Brown operated a dry goods, hardware, grocery, saddle, shoe and hat store in Salisbury located on South Main Street opposite "Cowan's Brick Row."³¹ When he died from paralysis in 1857 the *Carolina Watchman* noted that he "leaves a family and friends to mourn his sudden departure and a whole community to feel the awe inspiring sense of death's terrible presence."³²

Michael Brown, the son of Peter and brother of G. W. Brown, was born in 1793 and became one of Salisbury's leading citizens and most respected member of the community. He received a thorough education enrolling in the first class of the Salisbury Academy in 1807 with the Rev. John Brown as principal. Members of his class were William E. Powe, James Torrence, John L. Beard, H. M. Stokes, Charles Fisher, William Steward, Sarah Alexander, Mary E. Trotter, Clementina M. Brown and Polly Castillo.

Here the students obtained a thorough knowledge of Greek and Latin with emphasis on English. For many years this academy was one of the leading schools of the state and one which Michael Brown later supported as treasurer of the Thespian Society, which put on plays for support of the school.³³

Michael joined his father in the mercantile business at the Brown store on the Square. The property passed to his brother, G. W. Brown; but Michael, the principal figure in the business, purchased it in 1822 from George.³⁴ In 1839 Michael purchased from Col. Thomas G. Polk one of the largest homes in Salisbury located on North Fulton Street. This home was the former boys school of the Salisbury Academy.³⁵ Here he lived with his first wife Isabella Maria Long, whom he married in 1817 when he was 23 years old and she only 15. From this union were born eleven children.³⁶ For their education he engaged the services of John Clark, a Dartmouth graduate to tutor them in his own home and offered Clark's services to his neighbor's children at \$15 a month.³⁷

Following the death of his first wife in 1850, he married Ann C. McConnaughey, widow of William Chambers, in 1852. After a honeymoon in Virginia they returned to the Brown mansion on Fulton Street; however, Ann Chambers Brown found the large home inconvenient and they moved to her former home built for her by William Chambers, her first husband. This venerable home was located on the corner of East Bank and South Main Streets and was known for many years as the Chambers-Brown Home or the Michael Brown Town House. It stood until about twenty years ago when it was removed from its original location on the corner to face East Bank Street to make room for a service station. It has since been razed. Apparently the couple was very happy and she made all manner of fun about Michael's long nose and was responsible for his nickname "Long Nose Brown."³⁸

Despite his forbidding proboscis Mike Brown became in time one of the leading spirits of Salisbury just before the Civil War. So much so that some years after his death an editorial in the *Charlotte Observer* in 1887 noted that "Mike Brown of Salisbury" was one of the three leading merchants in that city who "ruled the whole section of the country," and "what he did and what he said was Gospel."³⁹

Civic affairs occupied his spare time. In 1817 he helped organize the first fire department in the city, and with Charles Fisher and John Beard, Jr. founded the Rowan Agriculture Society in 1821. This was not the first such society in the state (Wilmington, 1811, Raleigh, 1818) but Rowan's was the first in the Piedmont.⁴⁰

In 1832 he promoted along with Judge James Martin, William H. Horah, Thomas L. Cowan and Maxwell Chambers the abortive Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railroad by becoming one of the commissioners for the sale of stock in the road in Rowan County.⁴¹

Brown entered the manufacturing field in 1839 when he became one of several businessmen in Salisbury who organized the county's first cotton mill. The Salisbury Manufacturing Company, as it was called, lasted for about a dozen years before going out of business. It was sold to Maxwell Chambers then to Davidson College and used as a school before the Confederate Government purchased the building and 15 acres upon which it was located for use as a prison.⁴²

Banking almost came naturally to this man of varied talents and interest. He entered the banking business in 1859 when he and B. R. Moore became commissioners of the Bank of Salisbury and issued stock from his counting room within his store on the square.⁴³ With his interests spread so thin and with age creeping upon him, Brown decided to give up his river plantation which he sold in 1859 so he could concentrate on his municipal activities.⁴⁴

Previous to this, however, Brown in 1848 brought his son Calvin Scott Brown into the business and after operating his store for 35 years he formed a co-partnership with his son doing business under the new firm name of Michael Brown and Son.⁴⁵ Shortly afterwards he and his son opened the only book store in Salisbury even though in the past this type of business always proved a failure. But the Browns proved otherwise and it became in time a very important part of their business.⁴⁶

Born a Lutheran, Mike Brown left the church of his ancestors when he married the daughter of Alexander Long, a leading elder of the First Presbyterian Church in Salisbury. He joined his first wife's church and became himself one of its elders. His interest in the church manifested itself in Sunday School work and he be-

came a member of the Rowan Bible Society in 1829 in the organization's seventh year in Rowan.⁴⁷

Through his interest in the church he helped to establish a Presbyterian academy for young ladies with his fellow churchmen Dr. Alexander Long and Thomas L. Cowan. These three men purchased from Rebecca M. Troy, half-sister of Maxwell Chambers, a lot behind the Presbyterian Church facing South Jackson Street for use as a site for a school. They called it the Salisbury Female Academy and employed E. Nye Hutchinson as its principal. For the support of this school Brown allowed his large home on South Fulton Street which he purchased from Col. Polk to be used as a theatre for production of plays put on by the Salisbury Thespian Society of which he served as treasurer. Money thus provided was used for the academy.

Later Brown in union with a number of other Presbyterians established a second Female Institution in 1850 in "a retired part of town" and procured the services of the Rev. Gilbert Morgan, a Presbyterian minister, as its principal. This school was located in the home built by John Fulton in 1822 and is still standing in the 100 block of South Fulton Street as the residence of Mrs. Sidney Blackmer.⁴⁹

With the arrival of the Civil War hard times came to Salisbury. Goods were, of course, scarce and Michael Brown managed to keep a good stock on hand through his connections in Virginia. As a matter of fact, he was the procurer of salt for Rowan County and was one of the few outlets in town that sold this valuable commodity, but he did it at the prevailing prices for that inflated time. He never was accused of being a speculator who profited from the misfortune of others.

However, a great want for the necessities of life provoked wives of Confederate soldiers to take matters into their own hands in March 1863. Some forty or fifty women armed with hatchets staged a food riot in Salisbury and entered the stores where they did considerable damage and stole supplies. One of the first establishments they entered was Michael Brown's store on the square where they demanded that he sell them flour at \$19.00 a barrel — somewhat below the inflated price. Michael refused them on the ground that each barrel cost him twice that much. Whereupon the hatchet women went to work on his storeroom. But

rather than see his supplies destroyed, Brown offered to give them ten barrels, an offer they accepted. It wasn't so much the attack and pilfering that offended Brown but the accusation that he was a speculator. The editor of the *Carolina Watchman* commented that the women were unfair to Brown whom the editor called one of the few honest merchants in the city.⁵⁰

Old Michael did not long survive the war and died in 1871. The obituary recording his death stated:

We are pained to record the death of Michael Brown one of the most respectable citizens of this town which occurred about six a.m. Monday. The high esteem in which he was held as a christian gentleman and as a business man of probity, integrity and fairness entitles him to more than the ordinary notice.

He was 77 and active to the last. Habitually polite and attentive he received the homage to which such a bearing entitles him. The stores and business houses of the town were closed during the funeral and the solemn obsequies were attended by a large and grave assembly.⁵¹

His son Calvin Scott Brown did not remain in the mercantile business with his father. He left the store in 1855 to open a livery stable on East Council Street which he expanded into a tri-weekly stage line operating from Salisbury to Morganton. The stage was headquartered at the Boyden House (now known as the Empire Hotel on South Main Street) and was stocked with "good teams and first class Concord coaches."⁵² He later acquired ownership of the hotel and in 1870 was the genial host to Gen. Robert E. Lee and his daughter who were traveling South for the general's health. While they breakfasted with Brown many of the town's citizens came in to pay respects to the great Southern leader and his charming daughter.⁵³

Calvin S. Brown married Ann Eliza McConnaughey on May 26, 1847, and two years later joined the local militia where he was soon promoted adjutant to Col. G. M. Weant of the Third Regiment of Volunteers.⁵⁴ Three years later he became the regiment's commander succeeding Weant as colonel.⁵⁵ It was only natural, then, that Calvin should enter politics after attaining the highest rank in the militia and accordingly he was swept into office from the North Ward on a dry ticket headed by Dolphin A. Davis in the election for the town board in 1855.⁵⁶

Edward W. Brown, brother of C. S. Brown and son of Michael

Brown the merchant, married Jane McConnaughey in 1850. From this union was born Arthur B. Brown. Edward Brown became mentally ill and when the authorities came with a vehicle to take him to the asylum, he jumped into a tree from the second story of his father's house on the corner of Bank and Main Streets, fell to the ground and was killed.⁵⁷

Harriott Isabella, a sister of Edward and C. S. Brown, married Dr. Hand James of Wilmington in 1847. Dr. James was a sporting gentleman who loved to hunt. When not in the fields, he practiced medicine here and operated a drug store with his brother-in-law Edward Brown in the building formerly occupied by J. H. Ennis. He served on the city council in 1850 with J. M. Brown and was the son of Hinton James the first student enrolled in the University of North Carolina. He is buried in the Old English Cemetery. After his death Harriott married a Lutheran minister by the name of Shearer. She and her second husband are buried in the Lutheran Cemetery on North Lee Street.⁵⁸

Another grandson of Michael Braun of the Old Stone House was Col. Jeremiah Brown (1808-1868), son of Jeremiah Brown who was a co-partner with Peter Brown in the store on the Square in 1800. Col. Brown was elected president as well as colonel of the 64th Regiment of the North Carolina Militia in 1842. This regiment comprised many counties in this section of the state and was besides a military organization a most powerful and influential political clique as well as a social fraternity.⁵⁹ While commanding the militia he was the chief functionary at all public events held in Salisbury and especially at the Fourth of July parades. Military musters were occasions very much attended by the people. They were dashing affairs and afforded entertainment for the locals.

One such muster day held in Salisbury on May 3, 1849, was described by the editor of the *Carolina Watchman*:

The military parade with Brown in command dashed upon the street in their gay and beautiful suits mounted on their noble charges and with the usual ease and grace marshaled the troops into line. The long line moved to the race field drawing after it a vast crowd of old and young to see the muster. After the drill the troops returned at three o'clock and after firing rounds were dismissed and an hour later the streets were quiet again.⁶⁰

This was one of Brown's last musters for he resigned his commission the following year and was succeeded by Lt. Col.

Goodman as colonel of the regiment.⁶¹ Even though he was commander of the regiment he took no part in the Mexican War which was fought in 1846 and 1847. Volunteer regiments were raised in the state for service in Mexico while the militia of which Brown was colonel remained on duty in the state. Upon leaving his military office he was elected to the town council in 1850 where he was made chairman of the finance committee. He served on the town board for several terms becoming mayor in 1853.⁶²

Col. Brown according to the 1850 census was a carpenter and was worth \$3,000 in real estate. Living with him at that time were Charles, W. T., Mary, Amanda Louise and Charles M. Brown.⁶³

He was according to Mamie McCubbins married three times. One of his wives was Margaret Fraley who died in 1832 in her 20th year, a beloved member of society. The editor of the *Carolina Watchman* lamented "seldom has it fallen to our lot to record the death of a more amiable person or one who was more generally beloved among a large circle of acquaintances."⁶⁴ His other wives were Elizabeth Lucas (1824-1846) and Charlotte Verble (1823-1891).⁶⁵ The Brown home was located on the corner of Lee and Innes Streets and was erected in 1808 by Jeremiah Brown, son of the Stone House builder.⁶⁶

Moses Brown, Sr. (1773-1841) the son of Michael Braun of the Stone House married Catherine Swink in 1797 and had nine children, seven sons and two daughters at the Brown home on Crane Creek between Salisbury and Granite Quarry which he erected in 1810.⁶⁷

Of his seven sons Moses Brown, Jr., born in 1800, sometimes referred to as Moses L. (Lawson) Brown, became the most influential member of this branch of the family. He first lived in a two-story house on Cemetery Street opposite the Lutheran Cemetery in Salisbury but later purchased land on Grants Creek where he erected a mansion house about three miles from Salisbury. There was also a carriage house among the many outbuildings where he kept his fine \$600.00 carriage. This home called "The Three Mile House" was termed by the editor of the *Carolina Watchman* "the most desirable place near here."⁶⁸

Before the Civil War Moses L. Brown was engaged in the tanning business and was a member of the town council.⁶⁹ He also operated a store on the corner of Lee and Council Streets which

he later sold to Martin Richwine.⁷⁰ In company with other members of the Lutheran Church Council in Salisbury he acquired in 1849 a site on North Main Street for a new church building.⁷¹ Moses L. Brown was at one time sheriff of the county and is buried in the Union Church Cemetery.

Moses L. Brown married Letitia Hartman, daughter of Jacob Hartman, on Aug. 3, 1826. From this union were born four daughters and one son. Letitia continued to live on the Old Mocksville Road property until her death in 1887. Her husband, Moses L. Brown, died in 1857 and the home he erected there burned during the Civil War. His wife planted a boxwood tree on the property which grew to immense proportions. It is now approximately 160 years old and is still in excellent condition. On the property, too, was an old well near the edge of the road which was used as a "watering place" between Salisbury and Mocksville. It was in use as late as 1900 but is now covered over.

Sarah Antoinette, daughter of Moses L. Brown, first married Addison N. Wiseman of Davidson County. They had two children William Lawson and Addison Moses before he was killed at Winchester on Sept. 19, 1864, after a distinguished career in the army. Mrs. Letitia Brown raised the grandchildren at the old home place before Sarah remarried R. J. Haltom.

Sarah's second husband operated a large still on the Brown property on the Mocksville Road, from which he hauled whisky as far away as Florida. In this business Haltom was assisted by his sons Robert Lee and John Richard. They lived in a house erected by Sarah's two sons, Addison Moses and William Lawson while in their teens, which still stands near the original home of Moses L. Brown.⁷

Farmers, businessmen, political leaders and soldiers would seem to be the avocations of the Brown family in antebellum Rowan and in the years immediately following. Yet this is not the full story. Many became prominent as doctors, ministers and professors as well as bankers and artisans. Biographies of these Browns must wait until the great Brown family genealogy is gathered. In the meantime, only those Browns whose names appear in old newspapers are recorded here and of those reviewed in this chapter there was none more prominent in the affairs of his community than Michael Brown the merchant. He stood in the ranks of such



Dan Nicholas
1905-1970

Dan Miller Nicholas is a great, great, great grandson of Michael Braun through Michael's son, Moses. Few Salisburians are more symbolic of Pioneer Braun's indomitable spirit. An editorial in the *Salisbury Evening Post* of January 19, 1970, states, "Dan Nicholas fashioned his own era in his native community which he loved. He was rightly admired for his ingenuous success and loved for his benefactions." Nicholas is the donor of "The Dan Nicholas Park." His wife, the former Murtis Lucille Maynard, is a faithful member of the Brown Historical Committee.

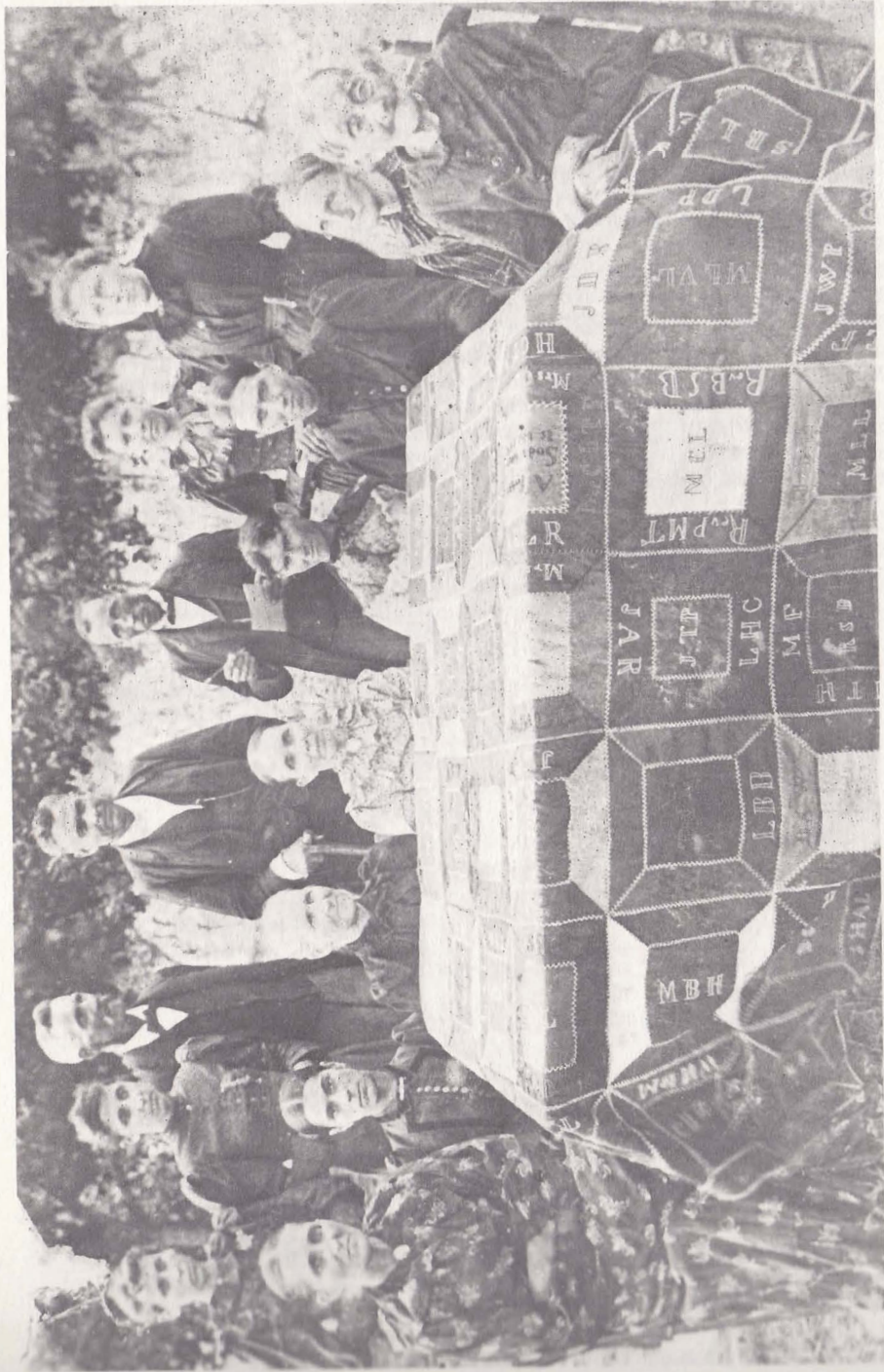
leaders in Rowan's history as Charles Fisher, Gov. John W. Ellis, Burton Craige, Thomas L. Cowan, Maxwell Chambers, William H. Horah and D. A. Davis. He was a recognized leader among his peers and used his wealth and talents wisely for a better Salisbury and Rowan County.

FOOTNOTES

1. *Carolina Watchman*, Salisbury, N. C., February 17, 1848. Hereinafter referred to as *Watchman*. The editor stated that there were 72 Browns living in Salisbury at this time.
2. Ramsey, Robert W., *Salisbury Post*, Salisbury, N. C., February 18, 1966. Dr. Ramsey of Hollins College in a speech to the Colonial Dames.
3. Burns, Annie Walker, *North Carolina Pension Abstracts of the Revolution, War of 1812 and Indian Wars*. Privately printed, Washington, D. C., Vol. VIII, p. 10. Hereinafter referred to as *Abstracts*. He also had a brother named Thomas who resided at least briefly in Rowan. Other brothers were named Alexander and Robert Brown. Their father was named William. Thomas was born in 1753 in Augusta County, Virginia, (Pension Claim # S-3059
4. *Abstracts*, Vol. XII, p. 10
5. Pension Claim # W-2062.
6. Mamie McCubbins Papers, Rowan Public Library, Salisbury, N. C. Hereinafter referred to as *McCubbins Papers*. These are a collection of excerpts from court records, newspaper, correspondence and miscellaneous items collected by Mrs. J. F. McCubbins of Salisbury; filed alphabetically by families.
7. *McCubbins Papers*
8. *Rowan County Minute Docket*, office of the Clerk of Court, now deposited in the State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, N. C., November 6, 1782. An abstract of these minutes from 1753 to 1795 found in the *McCubbins Papers*.
9. *Muster Rolls of War of 1812* — Detached from the Militia of North Carolina in 1812 and 1814. Printed in Raleigh, N. C., p. 120.
10. Rumble, Jethro, *A History of Rowan County, North Carolina, Containing Sketches of Prominent Families*. Salisbury, N. C.: J. J. Bruner, 1881. Appendix. Hereinafter called Rumble, *History*
11. *Watchman*, May 5, 1862.
12. *Watchman*, July 12, 1862.
13. *Watchman*, February 29, 1864.
14. *Watchman*, May 23, 1864.
15. Brawley, J. S., "Footnotes of History," *Salisbury Post*, December 1963.
16. *Minute Docket Book*, August 8, 1771. Michael Brown was named overseer of the road from Salisbury to the "Dutch Meeting House" and Jacob and Abram Brown were ordered to lay out a road from the "meeting house" to Edward Moore's store. Dr. Ramsey says four Jacob Browns arrived in Philadelphia between 1749 and 1753. He also says Michael Brown may have lived in New Castle, Del., in 1739. Ramsey, R. W., *Carolina Cradle* (Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 1964), p. 89.
17. *Minute Docket Book*, January 12, 1763.
18. *Rowan County Deed Books*, Register of Deeds Office, Rowan County Courthouse. Book 7, page 288. This deed referring to Brown as a "wheelwright" conveys one half of lot 3 in the South square from John Dunn to Brown for 10 pounds. Presumably, this lot is where Brown erected his town house. Attorney David A. Rendleman is convinced that Brown's home is still standing and is occupied today by the State Smoke Shop. A deed to Brown executed five years later also refers to Brown as a "wheelwright." Deed Book 24, page 665.
19. *Deed Book 9*, page 15. *McCubbins Papers*.
20. *Deed Book 9*, page 68.
21. *Deed Book 18*, page 625; *Book 11*, page 165; *Book 25*, page 703; *Book 12*, page 337; *Book 13*, page 403; *Book 10*, page 430. In these purchases Brown and John Dunn acquired 2,275 acres surrounding the Stone House and reaching East of Dunn's Mountain and North to Salisbury. Brown acquired the Stone House property in 1760.
22. United States Census, 1790, Walter Clark (ed.), *The State Records of North Carolina*, (Winston-Salem, Goldsboro, and Raleigh: State of North Carolina) 16 volumes. Vol. XXVI, page 1041.
23. *Deed Book 13*, page 937.
24. *Minute Docket Book*, Jan. 23, 1758; Jan. 12, 1764; Feb. 6, 1777; Feb. 12, 1785; May, 1794.
25. *Deed Book 19*, pages 744-745. This deed recorded in 1793 entered land "To Michael Brown and Frederick Fisher in Trust for the Dutch Pine Meeting House . . . containing 118 acres . . ." Earlier on May 7, 1778, Brown and Fisher entered 200 acres including the Pine Meeting House. *Land Entry Book #783*, Rowan County Register of Deeds Office.
26. Peter Brown Family Bible, Rowan Museum, Inc., Salisbury, N. C. The Bible notes kept by the family say that Brown married Susana Bruner on March 11, 1777. See also Richard L. Brown, *A History of the Michael Brown Family of Rowan County*, N. C., page 181; Rumble's *History of Rowan*, page 163.
27. *Book 16*, page 163; *Book 21*, page 352. *Book 10*, page 574. The first citation gives a history of the lot. *North Carolina Mercury and Salisbury Advertiser*, Salisbury, N. C., July 17, 1800.
28. *Muster Rolls*, p. 120
29. Peter Brown Bible.
30. *Yadkin and Catawba Journal*, Salisbury, N. C., July 1, 1833.
31. *Watchman*, Jan. 27, 1848.
32. *Watchman*, Dec. 22, 1857.
33. *Raleigh Minerva*, Raleigh, N. C., May 13, 1807.
34. *Deed Book 27*, page 22. This is the same lot Peter Brown obtained in 1797. *Book 16*, page 163.
35. *Deed Book 41*, page 121. When Brown purchased the house it included lots 53, 54, 61, and 62 that constituted the entire block surrounded by

- Fulton, Kerr, Ellis and Liberty Streets.
36. *McCubbins Papers*. Isabella Maria died May 2, 1850, at the age of 50. Michael's and Isabella's children were: Alexander Hamilton and Peter, both of whom died while very young; Susan Elizabeth; Laura who married Joseph Chambers; Edward, who married Jane McConnaughey; Calvin Scott who married Ann Elizabeth McConnaughey; Harriet Isabella who married Dr. Hand James; Leonidas; Virginia White who married William Peacock; Mary Louisa who married John H. Potts and Alexander Hamilton, the last born in 1843 and the second child with that name. *McCubbins Papers*.
 37. *Western Carolinian*, Salisbury, N. C., Feb. 11, 1842.
 38. *McCubbins Papers*.
 39. *The Charlotte Observer*, Charlotte, N. C., Feb. 27, 1887.
 40. Brawley, James S., *The Rowan Story*, (Salisbury, N. C.: The Rowan Printing Co., 1953), page 310. Hereinafter referred to as Brawley, *Rowan Story*. Gehrke, W. H., MSS. Masters Thesis, (Chapel Hill: UNC Press), pp 72-74. *Western Carolinian*, July 17, 1821.
 41. *Western Carolinian*, July 30, 1832.
 42. *Western Carolinian*, Jan. 15, 1841; *Deed Book* 38, pages 206-207, dated 1839. Sold by Trustees of Davidson College to the Confederate States Government in 1861, *Deed Book* 42, page 354.
 43. *Watchman*, March 15, 1859.
 44. *Watchman*, May 17, 1859.
 45. *Watchman*, Feb. 1, 1848.
 46. *Watchman*, Oct. 19, 1848.
 47. *Western Carolinian*, Aug. 11, 1829.
 48. *Deed Book* 35, pages 68-69.
 49. *Deed Book* 39, p. 459.
 50. *Watchman*, March 23, 1863.
 51. *Watchman*, June 9, 1871.
 52. *Watchman*, May 10, 1855; *Salisbury City Minute Book*, Jan. 1865.
 53. *Watchman*, April 1, 1870.
 54. *Watchman*, Sept. 6, 1849.
 55. *Watchman*, June 10, 1852.
 56. *Watchman*, Feb. 1, 1855; *City Minutes*, Feb. 1, 1855.
 57. *McCubbins Papers*.
 58. *Watchman*, April 3, 1850; Jan. 31, 1850; June 1, 1848.
 59. *Western Carolinian*, May 20, 1842.
 60. *Watchman*, May 3, 1849.
 61. *Watchman*, April 25, 1850.
 62. *City Minutes*, Oct. 20, 1853; *Watchman*, Jan. 31, 1850.
 63. Census of 1850 found in *McCubbins Papers*.
 64. *Western Carolinian*, April 8, 1832.
 65. Wilson, Anna Morrison; *Genealogy* MSS. privately printed. p. 92.
 66. *Salisbury Post*, Dec. , 1925.
 67. *McCubbins Papers*. Children listed by Mrs. McCubbins were Michael S., David, Moses, Jr., Peter, Sophia, Mumford, Sarah, Alfred and Henry W. Brown. Notes copied from the Brown graveyard at Crane Creek list the following: Catherine Brown (1778-1850); Michael S. Brown (1797-1849); Susanna Brown, wife of Michael S. (1802-1845); David

- Brown, son of Moses (1799-1814); Mumford, another son, (1807-1819). According to Moses Brown's family Bible Mrs. McCubbins lists Alfred Brown as marrying Margaret Bost in 1840 and were the parents of John Henry Clay, George Washington, Alfred Monroe, Moses Luther and Rufus A. Brown.
68. *Watchman*, Aug. 27, 1867.
 69. *Watchman*, Feb. 6, 1851.
 70. *Watchman*, Oct. 24, 1868.
 71. *McCubbins Papers*.
 72. Wiseman, Sylvia, *Notes*. A collection of notes taken by Sylvia Wiseman, a descendant of Moses L. Brown, from family Bibles, letters, etc. and the *McCubbins Papers*. She lists the children as Laura Catherine who married Thomas W. Haynes; Rebecca C. who married Martin Richwine; Lawson who married Molly Pinkston; Julia A. who married Thomas Pinckney Johnston and Sarah Antoinette who married Addison N. Wiseman.
 73. Wiseman, Sylvia, *Notes*.



1893 QUILTING PARTY

FRONT ROW: Mrs. Nathan Brown, Mrs. David Brown, Mrs. Calvin Lingle, Mrs. Richard L. Brown, Mrs. Carson Lingle, Mrs. Luther Lysterly, Mrs. Levina Lingle, Mrs. Solomon Brown. BACK ROW: Pearl Lingle, Mrs. Lewis Brown, Nathan Brown, Rev. Richard L. Brown, Calvin Lingle, Sallie Lingle, Lillie Lingle.

CHAPTER IX



Legends And Stories Of The Brown Family

By Betty Anne Ragland Stanback

Rowan County children of generations past, growing up in quieter times, were raised on the historical legends of this area: Stories of Daniel Boone and his cave, of the young Andrew Jackson practicing law in Salisbury, of the mysterious schoolmaster who may have been Napoleon's marshal — and, most memorably, the stories that clustered 'round Michael Braun's Old Stone House.

During my own childhood, the old house was in a state of advanced decay, victim of vandals, curiosity-seekers, and casual picnickers whose ravages grew worse with each passing year. The house had been unoccupied since about 1904, and the last children to have grown up within its walls had scattered and moved away.

Hundreds of Rowan children, as I, could say that Michael Braun had been their "great-great-great-great grandfather" — give or take a few "greats." They were taken often to the old house during childhood summers to have it exhibited, as it were, as our heritage — and the heritage of our country. We would drive out the Albemarle highway from Salisbury in the uncertain transportation of that era, turning off near Granite Quarry and arriving finally at the house . . . an old gray ghost of a house with staring, vacant windows, its hard native stone softened by the great cedars that shadowed it . . . a house that was built to last a thousand

Mrs. William Charles Stanback, a member of the faculty at Catawba College, is a 7th generation descendant of Michael Braun through his son, John. She is the daughter of Mrs. M. J. Ragland.

years, wedded to the rolling red clay hills of southeast Rowan County. And there over the door we would be shown the inscription carved in stone that proclaimed in effect that Michael Braun, like the patriarchs of Biblical times, had taken this land for his own, for his children and his children's children. On these summer visits to the house we children were always shown the big holes near the top of the house and told that to them the Brauns would repair to ward off Indian attacks. Tradition has it that he and his family lived in a little log cabin on the premises until the big house was completed.

Validity may be claimed for many legends that were told us. According to Rev. Richard L. Brown's 1921 history, the main part of the English army passed the old house on February 2, 1781, en route to the Trading Ford crossing of the Yadkin River. They were headed for Alamance battlefield and subsequently to Yorktown. Brown tells that an American officer on a reconnoitering expedition was spotted by Cornwallis' troops near the house, that he escaped by riding full speed into the house, out through the back door, and into the thickets of the nearby creek bottom 150 yards away. The Ruple history of Rowan verifies a similar story.

There is also a story of the British and American soldier engaged in hand-to-hand combat at the front door of the house — and the resultant deep gash in the walnut facing of the door. It is said that the old facing was subsequently boxed over by Thomas Brown — but that the gash may still be seen behind the boxing.

It is also told that the house was used as a British prison during the Revolution, that an American prisoner plunged for freedom by leaping through the window. The British guard is said to have struck out with his saber, missing the soldier but inflicting a great gash in the window facing. It would seem, however, that if the stone house had ever been used as a British prison, mention of the fact would have been made in the Brawley and Ruple histories.

A further legend of the Revolutionary War period would tend to belie the prison story: it is stated that Tories pilfered in the area during the war, actually plundering the houses of money and provisions. Mrs. Braun, upon seeing raiders approach, would habitually round up all monies, place them under a half bushel — and sit on it until the unwelcome visitors had departed. (If the home were in use as a residence during the war it seems doubtful that it

would also have been used by the British as a prison.)

Nor does history make mention of a battle in the area — but legend has it that one-half miles northwest of the house there is a great depression where dead soldiers were thrown following a Revolutionary War battle; the ground is said to have sunk as if to prevent plowing in the area.

Rev. Richard L. Brown's history makes mention of secret compartments under the floors of the house, where valuables, meat, and flour were stored. Later, "when the house was left to the mercy of the elements," it could be seen that the ground was full of pits and passages which obviously had been built for this purpose. Brown goes on to say, however, that the opening into the passages from above remained a secret. The secret passage legend has been a persistent one in the lore of the house. I recall from childhood that the aforementioned Colonial soldier was said to have escaped through an underground tunnel leading to the creek bottom.

In these early days of our country, belief in witchcraft was prevalent, according to the Richard Brown history. Perfectly rational people believed firmly in ghosts, witches, and other supernatural manifestations. And it is quite natural that some of these back-country Tar Heels, living in comparative isolation in a land abounding with wild animals, would be sensitive to the fearsome, both natural and supernatural. Certainly the family legends from this period seem to bear out these fears of the supernatural . . . stories of strange lights and streaks of fire seen in the swamps surrounding the stone house . . . legends of the "Place of Two Rocks" (up the road toward Granite Quarry) which was noted for apparitions. Four distinct and separate stories persist in family lore pertaining to this place, the first two tame and harmless, the third grisly in the extreme, and the fourth, an actual experience of old Solomon Brown, (1811-1863) who is buried, along with four of his children, in the restored family cemetery across the road from the Old Stone House.

The first tells only of mysterious lights appearing in the road and dancing up and down, the second of a large black dog that appeared periodically to disturb passersby . . . but the third was one that harked back somewhat to the ancient folklore of Europe: a man without a head would appear from behind the rocks,

unhitch the horses, go to a place where a Tory had been killed and buried during the Revolution — and disappear from sight.

Less specific but equally eerie was the experience of Rev. Richard Brown's father who was riding by the Place of the Two Rocks one dark night and heard a noise like a horse loose in the bushes. His dog ran to him in terror, crouching under the horse which refused to move. There was a distinct implication of evil spirits abroad in the place.

The "two rocks" have since been broken up and hauled away, but for many, many years — and possibly still — part of one of them remained in front of the McCombs store in Granite Quarry.

Wild animals in the area, especially the wolves, figure prominently in the family lore. The wolf, quite literally, was the enemy, and stories of wolves abound in the recollections of people still living who can remember visits to the Stone House and conversations with kinfolk who lived there.

Miss Beulah Lyerly of Granite Quarry, longtime secretary of the family association, recounts three separate wolf stories — all of which illuminate the life and times in the Old Stone House. It was a hard life in many ways, and the times by our standards were primitive.

The first, in the words of Miss Beulah, is as follows:

"In the fall or winter the Stone House family would kill a beef. Since there was no refrigeration except the spring house, they shared it with neighbors. One fall Nathan Brown went to help with the butchering. The steer was a big one, and night was upon them before Nathan got his quarter of beef on his horse and started for home. He took the foot path instead of going around the road, and as he entered the woods the eyes of wolves began to appear. As he neared the foot bridge the wolves were so thick around the horse's feet that he refused to cross the bridge. Nathan had no choice but to toss the beef to the wolves — and to return home empty handed."

Miss Beulah recalls being told another story when the wolf enemy was less fortunate. "The hog pens," she tells us, "stood near the old barn that burned in 1897 or '98. In one pen was a sow and her 10 little pigs. One night the family was awakened with such squealing and howling that they all rushed out to find the cause. A wolf had made his way to the top of the pen, pulled

the rails aside and fallen in. The Braun family found the wolf in one corner with his face in the wall; in the opposite corner were the squealing piglets, with the mother hog going from one to another trying to quiet them and striking out at the wolf at the same time with all her might. This particular wolf died within the hour from bites and loss of blood."

Julie Ann Brown Canup, who was born and raised in the Old Stone House, told Miss Beulah yet another story of the Braun's running feud with wolves:

"The wolves were a great nuisance," she said, "especially in the fall around hog killing time. As soon as darkness fell they crept nearer and nearer to the place where fresh meat was stored, and, unless someone stood constant watch, would tug and pull at the meat and carry it away. The Braun boys, wearied of the all-night vigils, set traps for the wolves. They fashioned a fish hook device several feet long of iron or strong wood, baited it, fastened it to a rope and tied the rope to a limb of a cedar tree. The wolf, jumping for the bait, would get the hook in his throat, his feet several inches off the ground. There he would swing back and forth, howling. At times several dead wolves would be swinging from the tree — but the meat would be safe!"

Mrs. Canup also told a ghost story that illustrated the difficulty of rural life in those far-off days. "One Saturday night a family was visiting at the Old Stone House. Their son took sick, and with no doctor available the boy died. Monday, the mother asked that he be buried in Christiana Church cemetery, and the funeral was set for Tuesday morning. Two neighbors began digging the grave, but were stopped by a thunderstorm. Back at the Stone House, Nathan Brown and his brother, Richard, were sitting up with the body, as was the custom. Upon being replaced at midnight, they returned home, traveling the path that went by the church. The storm over, a full moon was shining. But as they came around the corner of the church, they saw something white appear above the half-dug grave, followed by a low moaning sound. The young men stopped in their tracks. The same thing happened again and again. The men broke out in a cold sweat. Their first impulse was to run — but they decided to find out what it was. Slowly, they slipped nearer the open grave.

And there they found their "ghost." Solomon Brown's sheep

pasture was located near the church. During the afternoon storm, the rail fence was blown down, and a little white lamb had wandered away and had fallen into the unfinished grave . . . jumping up and down in an effort to get out.

The foregoing are stories that evoke the long ago and far away, but Miss Cora Lyerly of Granite Quarry tells one that sounds as timely as today — almost — and somehow brings the Stone House family into the ken of everyday life: the time she baby-sat in the Old Stone House. She recalled that after Thomas Brown died, his wife Charlotte and their four children, John, Adolphus, Lewis and Mary, carried on as best they could.

One day Charlotte was called to the bedside of her sick brother, and Miss Cora was asked to baby-sit with the four Brown children. When the evening's work was done and supper over, they decided to pop popcorn. Out came the big Dutch oven. It was placed on the hearth in front of the open fireplace in the kitchen. The corn popping operation went on until all the firewood was burned; because of the darkness of the night they decided to wait for morning to bring in more. But by morning there was a foot or more of snow on the ground — and the boys were forced to tear rails from a nearby fence to serve as firewood!

The last family wedding in the Old Stone House occurred sometime later when Charlotte's daughter Mary was married to John Lyerly. Mrs. Cora Brown Fisher (Mrs. Luther V. Fisher) said she still carried a vivid memory of the wedding. Mrs. Fisher said she recalled helping hitch "Old Red Dole" to the buggy and driving her father, the Rev. Richard L. Brown, the minister for the occasion, to the Old Stone House. Cora Brown — as she was then — served as one of the bridesmaids. Her brother, Mack Brown, and John C. Holshouser were ushers (then called "waiters"). Mrs. Fisher recalled there was a festive wedding dinner served in the old kitchen after the ceremony. She remembered how her father, Reverend Brown, sat in a large chair at the head of the table, before an open fire in the huge kitchen fireplace.

Following the wedding dinner the family retired to the living room where the Rev. Mr. Brown baptized the two Davis children, Walter and Winnie. Charlotte Brown had married a James Davis, following the death of her husband, Thomas L. Brown. Mrs. Fisher recalls she was approximately 12 years of age when this wedding

and baptism took place. This would establish the time of the wedding as about 1894, since Cora Brown Fisher was born in 1882. Rev. Brown in his history states that "Mary Brown, daughter of Thomas and Charlotte Brown, married John Lyerly on February 22." Brown did not list the year.

This same Charlotte Brown is the subject of one of the strangest and saddest of the tales in the Brown annals. As mentioned earlier, sometime after the death of her husband, Thomas L. Brown, Charlotte was married a second time to Jim Davis, an itinerant. Davis, so family stories report, was a sadistic sort of fellow, especially where children were concerned. Tales of his abuse of Charlotte's youngest son, Lewis, have been handed down through the family — how Davis often locked Lewis in a corncrib and fed him bread and water through its cracks . . . and how Davis securely fastened a cow bell around his neck . . . and how Davis chained Lewis to a bed. Mrs. Cora Brown Fisher remembered her Uncle Rufus (called "Ruff"), telling of removing the cowbell from around the poor child's neck . . . and how he sawed the lock apart which fastened Lewis to the bed. The story is told that Adolphus, older brother to Lewis, finally ran the Davis man off, chasing him around the depot in Salisbury until he jumped on a train . . . and was never seen again, according to Mrs. Fisher. Adolphus, who died in 1956, last of the Browns to have lived in the Stone House, was one of the four Browns (along with Mr. Dodd Brown of Salisbury and the late Aaron and Robert Brown) who purchased the old homeplace from the Brown-Fisher Association for \$10,000 in the late 40's to save it from vandals and eventually restored it, according to the best of their knowledge and information.

This same Charlotte Brown Davis was the last of the clan to die in the old house — on a January night in 1904. It is said that the night she lay a corpse the old grandfather clock that stood in the house tolled . . . and tolled . . . and tolled . . . until some one present stopped its chimes. Thus, there followed, several days later, the last family buried from the Old Stone House.

It is also told that after any death in the Brown family a shape would arise out of the mists in the bottom lands surrounding the homestead — a dark shape if the deceased had been a bad Brown, a white shape if a good Brown had gone to his reward.

Thus far we have been concerned with legends clustering

around the old house and the rural-dwelling Browns who remained in and near it.

Some of old Michael's many descendants, of course, moved to the city — to Salisbury and far beyond. His sons Peter and Moses, for example, came to Salisbury and set up shop as merchants. Until the time of the Civil War they, and later Peter's descendants, were proprietors of the town's most thriving store, located on the southwest corner of the square. From this urban branch of the clan we get a story of unusual interest — an anecdote that forms a fascinating footnote to the mainstream of history.

By now it is the middle of the 19th century. Salisbury is a thriving village, as North Carolina villages went, and old Michael's grandson and namesake was carrying on the family traditions of thrift and prudence as owner of the store. In his employ was a young man named Hinton Rowan Helper, later to become notorious as the author of the inflammatory book *The Impending Crisis* (a book, historians concede, that helped bring on the Civil War). At this time, however, Helper (or Helfer) was a meek and mild appearing lad, recently come from Mocksville to clerk in the Michael Brown establishment.

An article in the February 7, 1860 Carolina Watchman tells the story in detail from the vantage point of some 10 years. Mr. Brown had been very pleased with his young clerk, who seemed to him a young man of good character, regular in his attendance at Sunday School and church. Mr. Brown, a man of piety and an elder in the Presbyterian Church, subsequently approved Helper's application for membership in the church and recommended him as a suitable person, "his outward conduct being such as to warrant approval." Often Brown visited his counting room and found Helper reading his Bible and other good books. But, continues the story in the Watchman, Mr. Brown was grossly deceived as to his character: "His fair exterior was an artful cheat . . . covering a cunning thief:" In three years he stole \$300 (a substantial sum indeed in those times). Said the Watchman, "He had been praying and stealing almost daily for three years."

The newspaper account goes on to relate that even after the theft was accidentally discovered and Helper departed for New York, Mr. Brown, Christian gentleman that he was, still had confidence in the boy, telling no one but his son, Col. C. S.

Brown, of the theft. It was not until after the publication of the notorious *Impending Crisis* that the story of Helper's deed was made known.

Much of the life of old Michael Braun has been historically documented and is in the nature of fact rather than legend — his emigration from the Palatinate, most probably as an indentured servant . . . his landing in Philadelphia in 1737 . . . his signing of the oath in the port of Philadelphia swearing allegiance to England's King George . . . his arrival sometime prior to 1758 in Rowan County . . . his naturalization in Rowan in 1763 . . . the construction of the Stone House in 1766 . . . and his will which was probated in 1807 when he was 86 years old and expecting a child by Eleanor Reeves Brown. (The child, Clementine, was born November 11, 1807, several weeks before his death, November 25, of that year.)

We note interestingly enough, though it is not generally realized, that Michael was an octogenarian when his youngest child was born.

But concerning his marriages the record has been less definite. It has generally been believed that there were two: the first to Margareda during the Philadelphia years and the second to Mrs. Eleanor Reeves, who survived him and was the mother of the aforementioned Clementine.

However, certain evidence in the McCubbins genealogical papers at the Rowan Public Library would indicate that there was a *third* wife, Rosanna, who succeeded Margareda and preceded Eleanor. Margareda died in 1771; Michael married Eleanor March 22, 1804; the child Clementine was not born until 1807.

But there is a record of a Moses Brown born to Michael in 1773, two years after Margareda's death. No deed or record of Michael's marriage to Rosanna has been found, but her name appears on a deed in 1779 when she and Michael sold a tract of land to Peter Brown in the "south square of Salisbury." The deed is signed with her mark, "F", which led to the speculation in the McCubbins papers that she was possibly a Fisher, of Frederick Fisher's family.

(The lineage of this Moses Brown, who was born in 1773, was traced by Mrs. Martin Cannon for DAR purposes. It was established that he was married to Catherine Swink, and his descen-

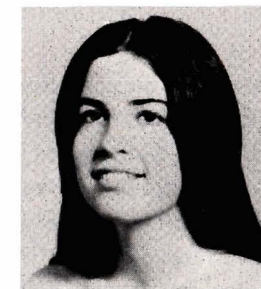
dants were traced. Moses, of course, is known to be a trustee of Michael's will.)

The drawing of a Brown family tree, also found among the papers and not necessarily accurate, listed at least one other son born to Michael after 1771: Michael, Jr., born 1779.

If the information contained in these McCubbins papers is accurate, it gives rise to other mysteries: What became of Rosanna? Why no specific record of the marriage? Why no gravestone? Were there other children?

With Margareda dead in 1771, it is certainly logical that Michael would have married again. He, after all, was a squire, a slaveholder, an important man of affairs who would certainly need a wife. The Jethro Ruple history of Rowan leaves the door open to such a speculation with the statement that Braun was married "several times."

But until further documentation is forthcoming, this must remain in the realm of speculation . . . another story in the fascinating record of Brown family legends. Michael Braun, in truth, was a man who begat not only children and a heritage but also a wealth of legend and folklore that will endure so long as his Stone House shall stand in the green and pleasant land of Piedmont Carolina.



CHAPTER X

The Influence Of Michael Braun on His Posterity

By Kaye Sandra Brown

This chapter presents a valuable summary of much that is currently known of the life and times of Michael Braun. Originally prepared as a research project for English at East Rowan High School, Miss Brown has up-dated her story for this work.—EDITOR

During the 1700's, industrial, religious, and political conditions caused many Europeans to come to America. Great numbers of people came from many parts of Germany. Michael Braun, in his early teens, tore himself forever from much he knew and cherished, and left his homeland to come to America. In *A History of the Michael Brown Family*, the Reverend Richard L. Brown wrote of Michael:

He was among those courageous hearts whose conscientious convictions of duty led them to venture upon the dangerous and tedious voyage across the Atlantic and to endure the perils and hardships of an inhospitable wilderness in the Western World.

The Thirty Years' War in Germany brought about great desolation. Many sections took two hundred years to recover. Ruin set in. Robbers came through the lands stealing and murdering. One province that suffered severely was the Palatinate, a fertile part of Germany through which flowed the beautiful and majestic Rhine River. The people of the Rhineland went through starvation, disease, and torture. They soon recovered, however. Many of the

Miss Brown, a graduate of Lenoir-Rhyne College and currently attending UNC-Greensboro, is working towards a Master of Fine Arts degree. She is a 7th generation descendant of Michael Braun, through his son, David. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin H. Brown. She is the granddaughter of Reverend Maxwell Brown.

Rhinelanders included industrious farmers and artisans. From 1688-1689, Central Europe faced a bitterly cold winter, and the cities of Mannheim, Worms, and Speyer were burned.

The fertile Rhineland was often invaded. Its history is one of wars and treaties, ruled by many different powers. At one time, invaders came into the beautiful Rhineland and drove 500,000 Palatines from their lands and homes into the snow. Some were killed, but many fled to Holland. The seaports of the Netherlands and England were the gateways to America and the Colony in Pennsylvania.

In 1707, the War of Spanish Succession brought additional destruction to the left bank of the Rhine. Many inhabitants were left homeless. Some escaped to London by way of Holland. Several years after the war, many Palatines went down the Rhine on rafts and small boats to Rotterdam. On one occasion no less than 14,000 took ships to London and Rotterdam. Many withstood the hardships, while others decided to leave. In 1709, a company of six hundred Palatines and Swiss left for Carolina. In April of 1710, three thousand Rhinelanders sailed on ten ships to the New York Colony in America. Several hundred died on the way. The new life in upper New York State was not easy; hence, many soon moved on to Pennsylvania. German immigration to America was slow, but it soon increased. Between the years of 1727 and 1775, the influx became larger. In 1775, 110,000 Germans were living in Pennsylvania. Many Rhinelanders became a part of the mighty wave of German migration. The principle religions of the Pennsylvania Germans were Lutheran, German Reformed, and United Brethren, or Moravian.

Michael Braun Arrives in America

On September 26, 1737, John Stedman, master of the ship St. Andrew Gallery, docked at the port of Philadelphia with 450 people on board. German immigrants, number 140, hoped to find a peaceful place to live. After disembarking, they were marched to the Court House where they were required to take an oath of allegiance to King George II of England:

We subscribers, natives, and late inhabitants of the Palatinate upon the Rhine and places adjacent have transported ourselves and families into the Province of Pennsylvania, a colony subject to the Crown of

Great Britain in hopes and expectation of finding a retreat and peaceable settlement therein, do solemnly promise and engage that we will be faithful and bear true allegiance to his present Majesty King George II and his successors and will be faithful to the proprietors of the province and that we will demean ourselves peaceable to all his said Majesty's subjects and strictly observe and confirm to the laws of England and this Province to the utmost of our powers and the best of our understanding. (*Brown history* — Page 13, see following.)

In July of 1920, Rev. Richard L. Brown communicated with the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, located at Philadelphia, and learned that Michael Braun (Braun) was listed as a passenger on the ship St. Andrew Galley, John Stedman, Master. At the time Michael Braun was a lad of sixteen years of age. Later research has revealed that Braun was from Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany. (*McCubbins Papers, Rowan Public Library.*) Most of the Germans who came over were bonded, which meant they were to work two or three years in Pennsylvania to pay for their passage to America. It is thought that Michael Braun was a bonded servant. Brown family records indicate that Michael spent about twenty years in Pennsylvania before coming to North Carolina. His chief occupation was a wheelwright, which he learned during the first years spent in Pennsylvania.

Enroute to Rowan

Michael Braun came to Rowan with a group of pioneers, who made their way slowly through the Cumberland and Shenandoah Valleys. Their destination was Rowan and adjoining counties.

It is said that Jacob and Abraham Braun, probably brothers of Michael, were among the group. It is also reported in Richard L. Brown's history that there was another brother by the name of Christopher who stopped off in Virginia. There is evidence that Michael Braun lived in Salisbury about four years before he moved to Granite Ridge, which is now called Granite Quarry. Here he built his home. He and his neighbor, John Dunn — from whom he bought the land — were some of the first settlers in the section. The exact time Braun reached Rowan is not known, but it is presumed to be around 1756.

The first time Michael Braun's name appears in official records of Rowan was when he served as a juror in the Rowan County Court of Pleas and Quarter Session in April, 1758. Thus began the fifty years of public service he gave to the people of Rowan.

The section of the county where Braun settled was in a very primitive state, inhabited by many wild and dangerous animals. Game was plentiful. Many Indian trails led through the countryside.

Purchases Land for Home

The land which Braun bought from Dunn was 274 acres on the south side of the middle fork of Crane Creek. It was also on both sides of Bigg Creek, next to the land of Thomas Evans. The records of the Rowan County Courthouse show that on January 2, 1762, "Mary Dunn came into court and acknowledged a deed of sale from John Dunn to Michael Braun for TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-FOUR ACRES, July 17-18, 1760, her 'Right of Dower.'" It was on this land that Braun built his spacious house in 1766. During his lifetime Michael Braun was the owner of many tracts of land, at one time totalling approximately 3,000 acres. His property began near the city of Salisbury limits on the south side of town and stretched four miles beyond the present Old Stone House location. He also owned much property in Salisbury. One of the early purchases involved securing land for his church, the Dutch Pine Meeting House.

Braun and Dunn, great friends and neighbors, were some of the earliest pioneers of Rowan County. These two men cleared the land, built homes for themselves in the wilderness and farmed. The land was fertile and space was plentiful. Dunn's home to the north of Braun's land was built of wood; hence, has long since disappeared.

Building Old Stone House

Braun chose to build his home on the crest of a hill, surrounded by cedar and locust trees. The "austere" two and one half story house has a gable roof and end chimneys. This pre-Revolutionary landmark of Rowan is the "only stone house of typical German architecture left standing in North Carolina, and is one of the oldest in the South," very rich in tradition and folklore. The house

is considered to be one of North Carolina's architectural gems. It is "pure in style and a fine example of the construction methods used in better pre-Revolutionary homes erected by Germans," says historian James Brawley. Braun built his home in a Germanic and Pennsylvanian tradition — with stone. The stone was native Rowan granite, one of the hardest granites of the world. Germans were known to build skillfully, thoroughly, and solidly. Michael Braun — wed to the tradition that man should build for the ages — made the walls of his house from two to three feet thick. It is said there was a log cabin on the property, one half mile east of Granite Quarry and three miles south of Salisbury, which may have served as the temporary residence of the Brauns while the Stone House was being built.

It is reported the house served as a fort during the French and Indian Wars. Portholes at either ends of the house, were used to ward off Indian attacks. It is interesting to note that Michael Braun used the arch in his building. It can be found over the windows, doors, and fireplaces. The foundation of the house is from twelve to fifteen feet deep in the ground. Thus, excellent cellar space was provided. There were various departments under the floor where food and valuables were stored. The chimneys are built into the walls. One is double, having a corner fireplace in each of two adjoining rooms.

There are from eight to nine rooms in the house, five on the lower floor. Most of the floor boards were a foot wide. The house has hand-carved wainscoting and molding. The walls are plastered. Some of the rooms of the Stone House were done in beautiful mahogany paneling. The timbers used for the rafters are of an "awesome" size, says Raynor in *Sketches Of Old Rowan*.

A smooth stone, set in between two windows on the upper front of the house, has the following inscription:

MICHAEL·BRAUN·MRICHREDA·BRAU

IO·PE·ME·BE·MI·CH·DA·^MJ766

The explanation of the second line is not yet clear.

The kitchen is built around a huge chimney, which faces outward, and is eight feet wide and four feet deep. All cooking was done here with cast iron utensils.

A fire box, or stove, which was fed through an opening in back of the kitchen chimney can be seen in the east room. The plates are still there. Ruple says in his *History of Rowan County*, "They are massive and highly ornamented with curious figures, circular, oval, and diamond shaped, with flower vases filled with lilies and lanceolate leaves." On one of the plates, the following inscription is found:

Com - ban - ni
1766

On another is : George Ross Ann (and) Mary Ann Furnace

In the upstairs is the weaving room. It is believed that weary travelers once slept on pallets on the floor of this room. The original loom is still there. Attached to the loom is a piece of weaving, perhaps "a woolen material intended for a woman's dress." Mrs. Margot Hamlin has spent many hours weaving on the loom. The weaving then was done in wools and linens. There was no cotton. The spinning wheels were for flax and wool.

Of Considerable Wealth

The house and its dimensions show that the Braun family was by no means poor. What is known of him indicates he was a man of considerable wealth as well as position. He was a mature man of about thirty-five when he brought his wife and several children from Pennsylvania. It is not known whether he was wealthy when he came here or if he came into his possessions and money after settling in Rowan.

Michael Braun lived in his home for approximately forty years. His first wife Margareta lived there only five years. She died in 1771. Braun is cited as having been a successful farmer, a millwright, and also a printer. Braun is thought to have established the first printing press in this part of North Carolina.

Braun's Marriages

No marriage records of Michael Braun have been found in Pennsylvania or North Carolina, but it is known that he was married three times. His first wife was Margareta, who bore him six sons and three daughters (as indicated on Margareta's tombstone.) She died on July 20, 1771, and was buried in the family

cemetery near the Old Stone House. His second wife was Rosanna. Some believe her to have been the daughter of Frederick Fisher of Salisbury because the letter "F" appears on a deed to which she attached her name. She bore one son, Moses, on February 24, 1773. Braun's last wife was Mrs. Eleanor Wakefield of Maryland. By marriage to Braun she had one child, a girl, Susan Clementine, born a few days before her father's death, November 25, 1807. "These fertile unions were the foundation of what is now the largest clan in Rowan County," says Raynor.

Braun's oldest son was John, called "Continental John" because of services rendered during the Revolutionary War. Braun's other children were Peter, Michael, Jr., David, James, Jeremiah and Moses. At this writing, it is still uncertain about the names of the three daughters by his first wife, Margareta.

Braun was a man of morals and also a churchman. He took part in the work of the church and readily offered his services. Braun gave much money and land to the Lutheran Church on the Bringle Ferry Road (now named Union), at that time, the Dutch Pine Meeting House.

His Posterity

The majority of Braun's posterity are staunch Christians, most of whom are of the Lutheran faith. Many of Michael Braun's descendants have become ministers, some of whom are named in Richard L. Brown's history of 1921. Richard's brother, Maxwell Henry Brown, was also a faithful pastor and author. A number of Rev. Richard Brown's grandsons became ministers. Notably is that five of the seven sons of Mr. and Mrs. Luther V. Fisher of Salisbury became clergymen: Herman and Ray (twins), Roscoe, Carl and Earle. The other sons were Junius and Marcus.

By reading Michael Braun's will of 1807, it is observed that Braun had reached a position of wealth and prominence in Rowan. He had fifteen slaves, many lots in Salisbury, plus his almost three thousand acres of land in Eastern Rowan. Braun also had many business holdings in Salisbury and possibly helped publish the first newspaper in the Piedmont. Unlike many of the other early Germans, Braun played a big role in the public life of the area.

The Family Cemetery

In a little graveyard, walled in with stones, a few hundred yards from the Old Stone House, lie the remains of Michael Braun's first wife, Margareta Braun, and most likely the remains of Michael Braun and those of his other two wives — Rosanna and Eleanor. The absence of appropriate burial stones for a pioneer and man of means as Michael Braun continue to puzzle historians. However, there is the possibility that many of the original headstones were carried away by vandals. A number of his other descendants are buried there, including Soloman Braun, grandson of Michael. Braun's slaves are said to be buried just outside the wall.

The following is the inscription of a plain old-fashioned headstone, dedicated to the memory of the wife and mother of nine of his children:

1771

“Gestorban Julius 20,
Heir lieght der leib
Marcareda Brown des
Ml. Braun's ehe weibe
Hat 9 kinder, 6 Sons
3 d.-alt. 37 Jahr 2 mo.”

The inscription is in a dialect known in North Carolina as Pennsylvania Dutch. The translation of the epitaph is as follows:

1771

“Here lies the body of Margareta Brown, the wife of Michael Brown. Died July 20, 1771, Age 37 years and two months. She had nine children, six sons and three daughters.”

The Browns, as one writer says, are a “law-abiding people; honesty is their standpoint; uprightness is one of their indelible marks; virtue their ensign; goodness their associate; and a good moral principle the sign to their success.” The original name Braun (German) means tanned or sunburnt complexion. From the Brown family comes ministers, teachers, professors, lawyers, doctors, and various other professions. They are very patriotic, loyal and true to their native country, ready and willing to defend it. The Browns

have shown their bravery in all the wars by defending their country.

In 1914 members of the Brown family formed the Michael Brown Family Association. Committees were appointed to look after the family cemetery. The Browns began to show their interest in their ancestors and to recall their history. Michael Braun's will was found about this time.

Braun had willed his homestead and adjoining acres to his son David. It remained in the hands of descendants for about one hundred years. It was then sold to B. E. Sumner for \$660. In 1927, trustees of the Brown-Fisher Reunion Association bought it and two acres of land for \$1000. It was torn apart by scavengers and relic hunters. Windows were broken and articles belonging in the house were stolen and carried off. One report has it that road builders wanted to demolish the house and crush the rock for use as material in roadbeds.

Browns Initiate Restoration

In 1941, through the interest of Mrs. Charles A. Cannon, Jr., of Concord, the North Carolina Antiquity Society secured Architect Thomas L. Waterman of Port Royal, Virginia, to draw blue prints of the entire inside of the house and all its woodwork. The Brown-Fisher Association continued in their struggle to preserve the Old Stone House. By 1948 members of the Brown clan R. M. Brown, Dodd Brown, Aaron Brown and Dolph Brown bought the house and spent \$10,300 preserving the shrine. Four years were spent repairing the grounds and restoring the house. When the repairs were completed the Old Stone House was reopened for the first time for the Granite Quarry Festival of April 14, 1952. In 1959, through the efforts of Ernest L. Hardin and friends, the Rowan Museum, Inc., bought the house. The Cannon drawings were donated to the Rowan Museum by the Brown Family Association.

The 1966 Restoration

The project of authentic restoration, led by Ernest Hardin, President of Rowan Museum, Inc., took seven years. Frank Horton of Old Salem, Inc., gave much advice and counsel during the reconstruction. Horton's knowledge of the history of the period when the house was built helped greatly.

The work on restoration of the Old Stone House began on November 25, 1959. Much of the flooring and many windows were replaced. Plaster was made of animal hair for the walls, as was the original plaster.

The restoration project completed, the Old Stone House was ready on the two hundredth anniversary of its building. Ernest Hardin received the Cannon Cup for his "untiring efforts in the restoration of the Old Stone House." The house "proved its imperishable antiquity by defying time and neglect" as it was unveiled to the public on October 30, 1966. Around five hundred people attended the services. It was rededicated by E. L. Hardin and the trustees of Rowan Museum, Inc. The family cemetery was also restored.

The purchase of the original tract of land from the Brown relatives was \$10,000. The lands surrounding the cemetery were bought for \$8,750. Reconstruction cost was \$27,000. According to Francis M. Luther, trustee and treasurer of the Rowan Museum, Inc., "Additional purchases of land, furnishings and improvements, amounted to approximately \$70,000." Luther also reported, "Since the original purchase of the two acres of land along with the Old Stone House, the Museum has extended its land holdings to approximately 30 acres surrounding the Old Stone House properties."

Needless to say, the host of Brown relatives and their many friends are indeed grateful for the efforts of Ernest L. Hardin and the Rowan Museum, Inc., in raising funds through antique shows and other means to supplement the cost of restoration and improvements of the Old Stone House properties.

Histories of Michael Braun

There was no collection of history on Michael Braun until 1921, when the first book was written by Rev. Richard L. Brown, entitled, *History Of the Michael Brown Family*. Rev. Brown was the first president of the Brown Family Clan. With the publication of *Michael Braun of the Old Stone House, His Influence and Descendants* by Roscoe Brown Fisher of Statesville, a new chapter is being written into the posterity of our forefather — Michael Braun.

Truly, Michael Braun was a great patriarch. His posterity forms the largest, and perhaps, one of the most highly sound and honest clans in Rowan County. He left the Browns a great inheritance of which his descendants are very proud. The example of loyalty, bravery, and unending service of the Brown family will remain a living standard for the people of Rowan County as well as others who are interested in the role pioneers have played in our great country.

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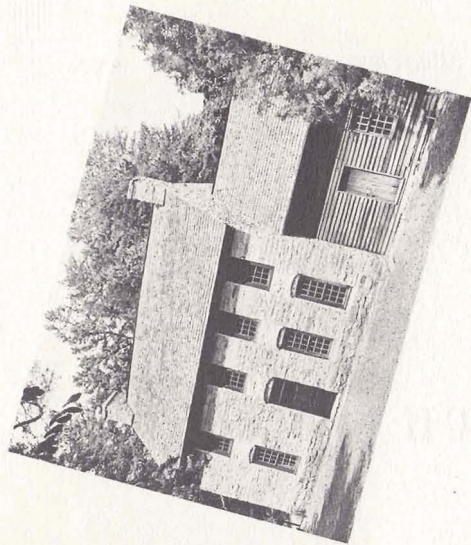
PART II

A PICTURE COLLECTION

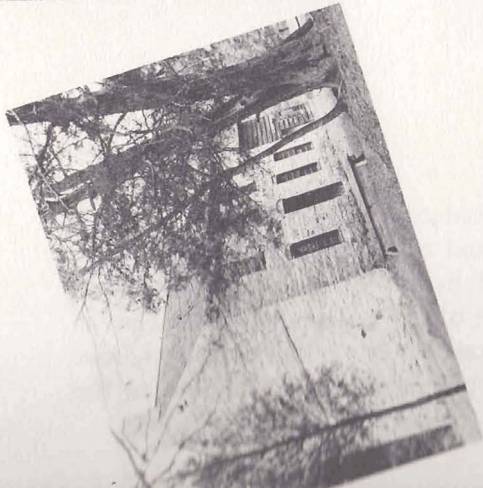
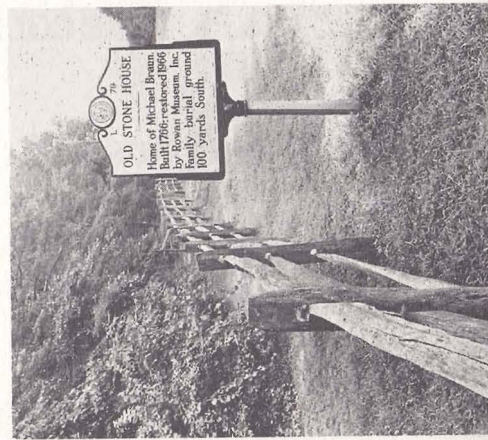
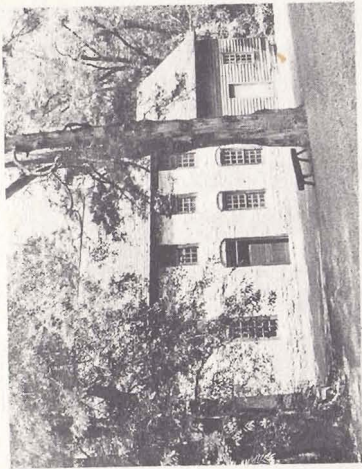
RECORDS AND LETTERS

GENEALOGICAL CHARTS

This pictorial study is dedicated to all contributors who furnished pictures, family records and other materials. The pictures were for the most part unsolicited; however, an effort was made to secure photographs representative of the descendants of the seven sons and four daughters of Michael Braun. Likewise, throughout the entire book we have related personalities and families to the son or daughter of Michael Braun from whom they descended.



Photos
By
James Barringer



A Picture Study
of the
Old Stone House — 1966

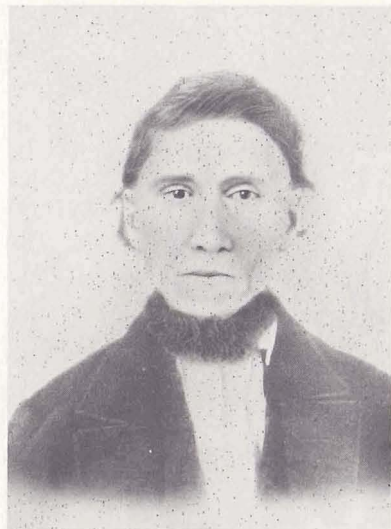


Brown octogenarians visit OLD STONE HOUSE — 1966
LEFT TO RIGHT: Mrs. Amy Fry, Mrs. W. H. Canup, Mrs. Mack Brown, Dr. John R. Brown, Mrs. L. V. Fisher, Mrs. L. D. Black, Miss Cora Lyerly. One of the above is living at the time (1975) of this publication: Mrs. L. D. Black, age 92.

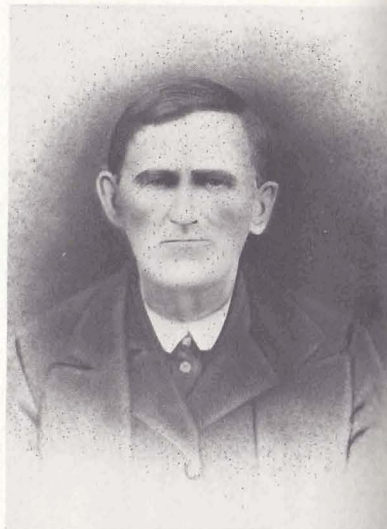


Larger group of Brown relatives visit home — 1966
Many of the sons and daughters of Michael Braun are represented in this group of Brown descendants.

(Photos by Suther Studios, Salisbury)



Solomon Brown
1811 - 1863
Grandson of Michael Braun

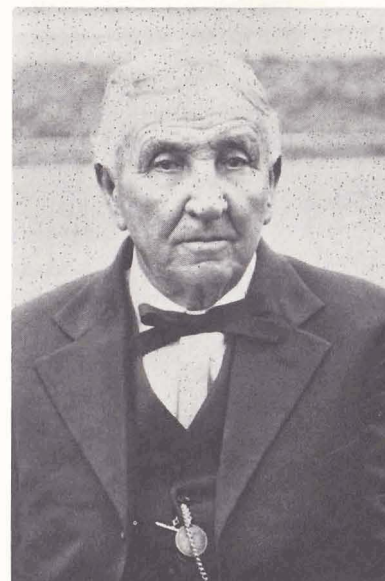


Henry Brown
1814 - 1887
Grandson of Michael Braun

Brothers, Solomon and Henry, are sons of David Brown, the son of Michael. Solomon is buried in the family cemetery at the Old Stone House. Henry is buried at Christiana Lutheran Church.



Calvin L. Brown
1841 - 1914
Son of Solomon Brown and great
grandson of Michael, Calvin is bur-
ied at Organ Lutheran Church.



Alfred Monroe Brown
1847 - 1930

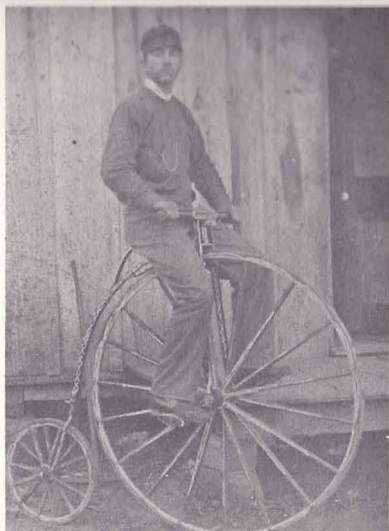


George Washington Brown
1845 - 1923



Moses Luther Brown
1849 - 1918

These three brothers are sons of Alfred Brown (1813 - 1854). His father is Moses Brown (1773 - 1841), son of the pioneer, Michael Braun (1721 - 1807).



Charlie Locke Sloop
1866 - 1939



Margaret Louisa Brown Sloop
1863 - 1952

“Continental” John Brown descendants. They are the parents of Mrs. Elma Sloop Beaver. The homemade bicycle was made by Charlie and Phillip Sloop.



Sarah Anne Brown
May 10, 1816 - ?
Sister of Robert Ross Brown



The Omer Brown Family of Hopkinsville, Kentucky — 1899
Mrs. Jane Brown Wright (Front center)
All are descendants of Michael Braun through his son, John



Agnes Josephine Kirk
1874-1967

Miss Josephine is the daughter of Henry Clay Kirk (1848-1932) and Alice Elizabeth Brown Kirk (1845-1934), great granddaughter of Michael Braun, through his son, James. Miss Kirk is the Aunt of Dr. Frank W. Kirk of Salisbury.



Rebecca C. Brown
1834-1924



Laura M. Brown
1837-1916

Rebecca Chambers Brown, granddaughter of Moses Brown, son of Michael Braun, married Martin Richwine. She is the daughter of Moses L. Brown and grandmother of Dan Nicholas.

Laura Mariah Brown, granddaughter of James Brown, son of Michael Braun, married Miles M. Bailey. She is the daughter of James Brown, Jr., and grandmother of Mrs. Margaret Peacock Berkshire.



Jeremiah Moses Brown
1850-1926



Catherine Krider Brown
1862-1935

Jeremiah Moses Brown is a great grandson of Michael Braun and the grandson of Jeremiah Brown, believed by many to be the youngest son of Michael Braun by his first wife, Margareta. Jeremiah and Catherine Brown (above) are the parents of Mrs. Stahle Linn of Salisbury and Mrs. Emerv Denny of Raleigh.



Organ Church, organized in 1745 as Zion Church, is one of the oldest Lutheran Churches in North Carolina. The above rock ediface was begun in 1792 and completed in 1795, according to Jacob L. Morgan in the *History of the Lutheran Church in North Carolina*. Many Michael Braun descendants are buried here. Inset: Rev. Chrisenberry Brown. (Photo from Miss Beulah Lyerly Collection).



Rev. and Mrs. Chrisenberry Brown and children, Lala Cladora and Edna Propst Brown. Pastor Brown was born 1859 and died 1932. He is a descendant of Michael Braun through his son, David.



Rural Life in North Carolina — 1890

Walter William Brown, 1857-1924, married Laura Georgia Phillips, 1861-1930. He is a son of Robert Ross Brown, grandson of Michael Braun through Michael's son, "Continental" John. The children are: Lillie, Tellie, Lula, Charlie and Annie. Photo furnished by Mrs. James Monroe (Louisa), daughter of Tellie.



The J. Wesley Wood Family of Bagdad, Kentucky — 1905

J. Wesley Wood (1846-1895) is a great, great grandson of Michael Braun through Michael's daughter, Margaret. His wife, Mrs. Sarah (Scobee) Wood (1845-1909), elderly lady in front is the great grandmother of Julian K. Wood, furnishing photo.



Rowan Academy Photo — 1895

Little girl in long white dress is Mrs. Harvey Fesperman (nee Mary Peeler). Back of her, held by her Grandfather Peeler, is her sister Mrs. Bertie Miller McClamrock (nee Bertie Peeler). Their father, Alec Peeler, is in straw hat, third from left, back row. The Rev. Richard L. Brown, who taught at the Academy is on crutches.



The Hiram Jones Family of Eggleston, Va. — 1890

Mrs. Christina Echols Jones, shown with her husband, Hiram, in center, is a great granddaughter of Michael Braun through Michael's daughter, Christina. Photo furnished by Miss Lucy Lee Lancaster whose mother is in the picture.



NATHAN BROWN FAMILY - 1896

FRONT ROW: Andrew Jackson Brown, Rev. P. D. Brown, Mrs. Fannie Brown Thomas. **SECOND ROW:** Mrs. Solomon Brown, Nathan Brown, Mrs. Nathan Brown, Mrs. John Agner. **BACK ROW:** Luther Brown, Mrs. Thomas Lyerly, George Brown, Mrs. Amy Brown Fry.



Mr. and Mrs. George L. Brown
55th Wedding Anniversary - 1949
George Brown is a 5th generation descendant of Michael Braun.



THE AARON BROWN FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. James Aaron Brown and four daughters, Catharine Mariah, Alma Marie, Agnes Gertrude and Mary Elizabeth Brown. Aaron, a great grandson of Michael Braun, is one of the four Brown relatives who bought the Old Stone House in 1948 and restored it in time for the "Granite Quarry Festival" of 1952. He is a 4th generation descendant of Michael Braun through Michael's son, James.



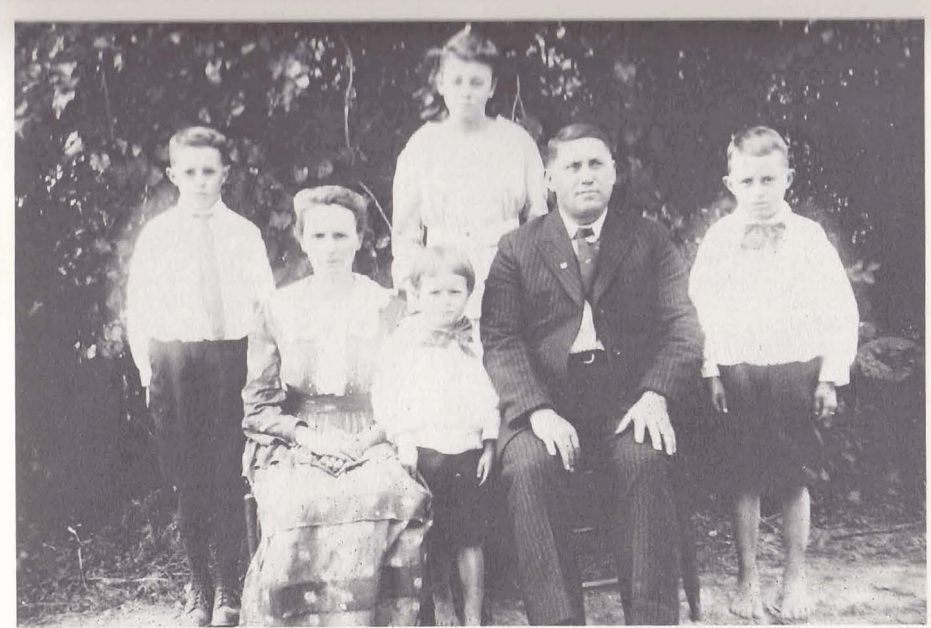
THE S. R. FRY FAMILY

Sebastian Rowe Fry and wife, Amy Boucritis Brown Fry. Children, L to R, Glen Ansel, Rose Elizabeth, Paul Brown. Mrs. Fry is a 5th generation descendant of Michael Braun through Michael's son, David.



THE ALEC PEELER FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. P. Alexander Peeler with four of their five children. *Back Row:* Mary, Mamie, Bertie, and Pearle, between parents. Oldest child, Jennie, not present. Mrs. Peeler is the oldest child of Rev. Richard L. Brown, and the great, great, granddaughter of Michael Braun.



THE MAXWELL BROWN FAMILY

LEFT TO RIGHT: Ray, Mrs. Brown (nee Annie Lentz), 1875-1969, John, Lillie (back), Maxwell Melanchthon Brown, 1879-1951, and Kyle. Mack, as Mr. Brown was called, is a 5th generation descendant of Michael Braun.



THE DAVID BROWN FAMILY

LEFT TO RIGHT: Front — Marcus, Mrs. David Brown, 1872-1958, (nee Emma Fisher), David Solomon Brown, 1869-1918, Eleanor. *Back* — Wilford, Myrtle, Junius, May, Luther. The father, David Solomon Brown, is a 5th generation descendant of Michael Braun through Michael's son, David.



THE LEWIS BROWN FAMILY

Front: Mr. and Mrs. Lewis D. Henry Brown and son, Cecil. *Back:* Clyde Roscoe, James R., Pearl Aletic, Cora Ruth, Essie Nancy C., Beulah Virginia, Lena G. P., and Ralph E. Father, Lewis Brown, is a 5th generation descendant of Michael Braun.

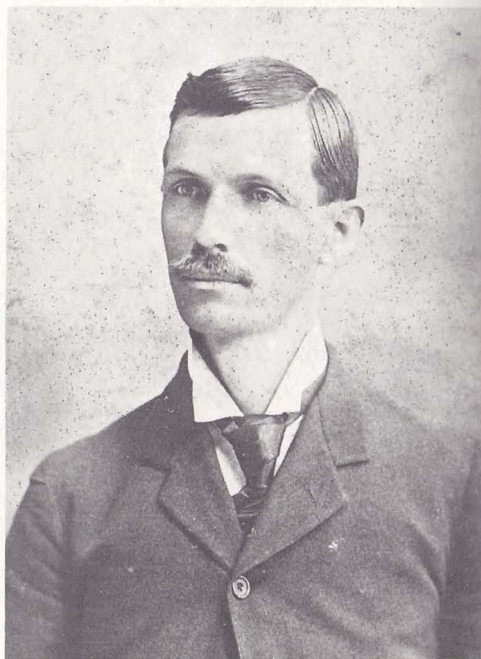


THOMAS MORRIS EFIRD
1926-

THOMAS MORRIS EFIRD
Thomas Efird is a grandson of the Reverend Henry Maxwell Brown, whose coat, tie and cane make an appropriate attire for the "1957 Centennial" of Albemarle, N. C. Efird's father was William Titus Efird; his mother, Lillie Endora Brown, a 5th generation descendant of Michael Braun through Michael's son, David. Thomas M. Efird married Faith Joy Wilson, February 7, 1948. They have two children, Maris Ann and Tom Clinton.

WILLIAM HALL WRIGHT
1865-1948

William Hall Wright is the son of Jane Sophia Brown (granddaughter of "Continental" John Brown) and William Alexander Wright of Iredell County. For more than 50 years he practiced law in West Blocton, Alabama. He was attorney for four railroads: Southern, Louisville and Nashville, Mobile and Ohio, and Alabama Great Southern. He married Laura Elizabeth Ginn of Eden, Alabama, February 23, 1888. After the death of his first wife he married Laura Fraley Wright of Rowan County, N. C. He is the father of Mrs. Bessie Wright Ragland of Salisbury.

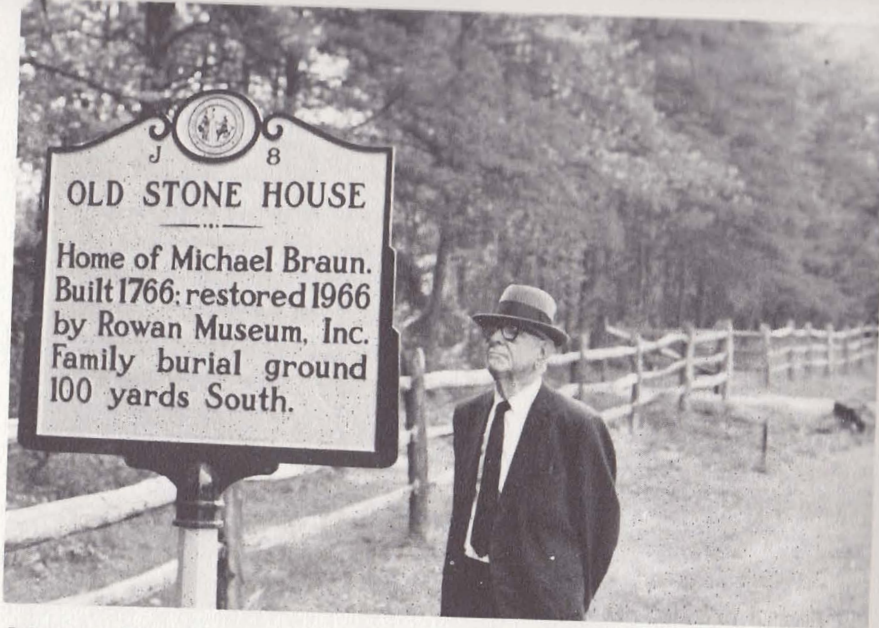


WILLIAM HALL WRIGHT
1865-1948

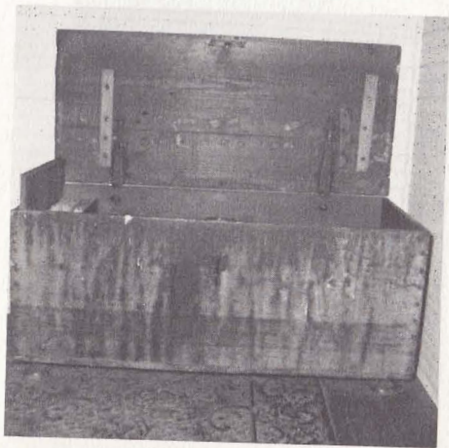


WEDDING PHOTO OF 1905
Bertie Peterson Black
1883-
Luther David Black
1879-1940

Mrs. Black, a descendant of the Peter Brown family and now age 92, is living at the time of this publication.



John Franklin Brown of Muskogee, Oklahoma, observing Old Stone House marker. He is the father of Mrs. Hollis K. Leathers, who furnished photo. Brown, born May 3, 1883, is a 6th generation descendant of Michael Braun through Michael's son, "Continental" John.



Michael Braun's Chest — brought over from Germany with him in 1737. This chest is in the possession of Mrs. Jack Peeler who lives with V. L. Hopkins of Faith.



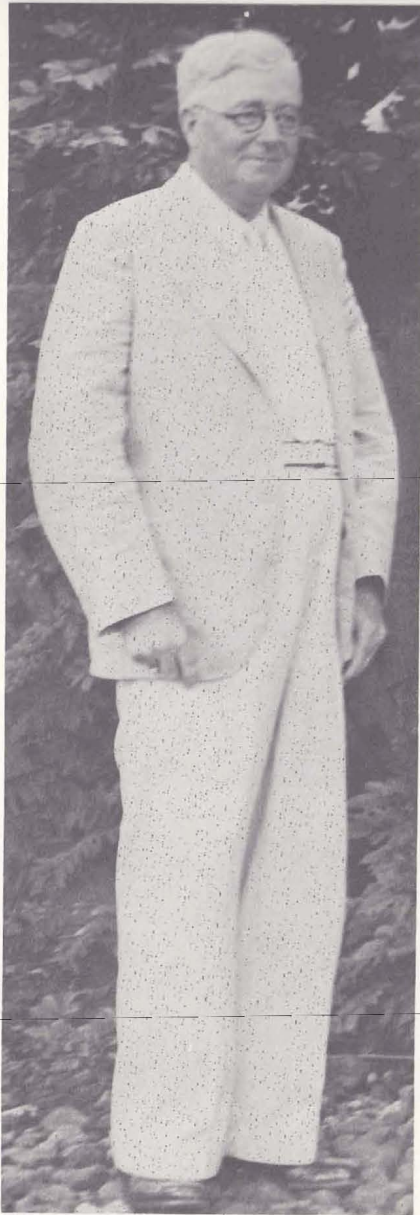
Spring near Old Stone House. In earlier days a springhouse covered this abundant flow of clear water.

(Photos from Mrs. Elma Beaver collection)



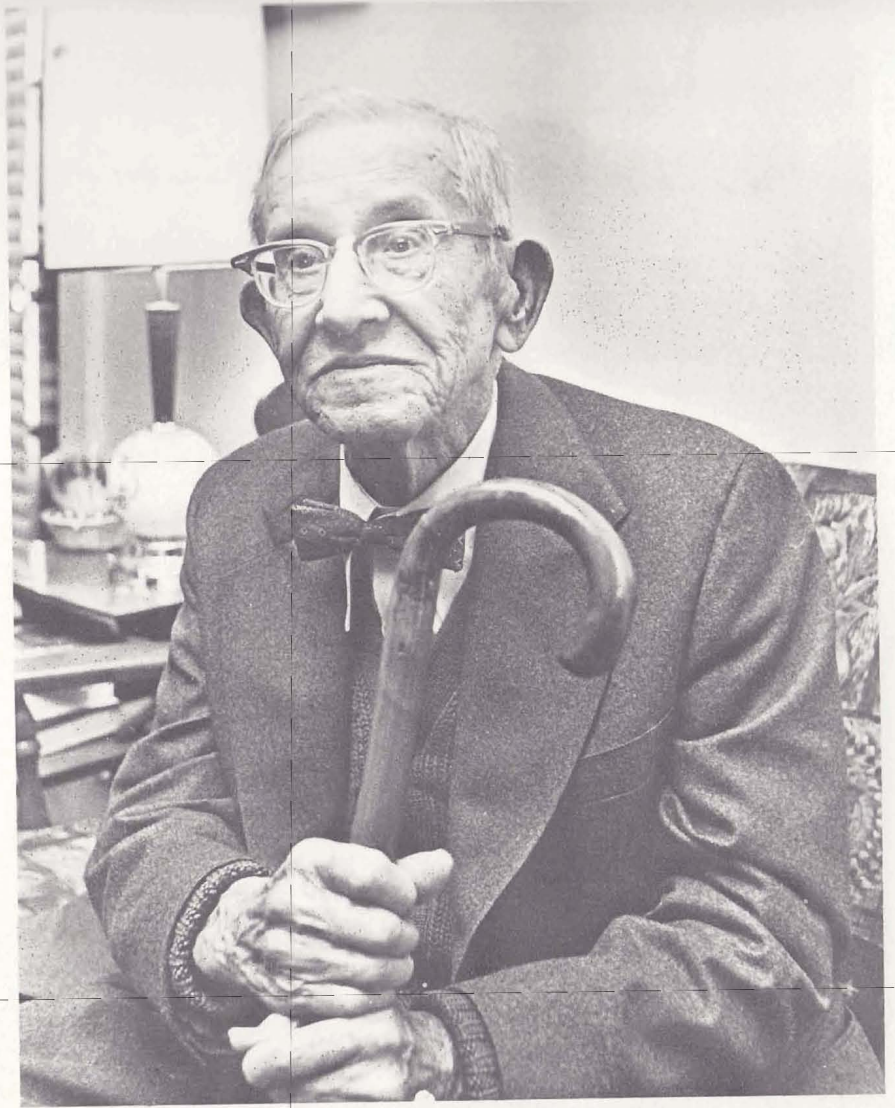
LEROY ALEXANDER SMITH

Leroy Alexander Smith, 1877-1955, a 6th generation descendant of Michael Braun, is the father of Miss Grace Smith of Salisbury. He married Valda Malone, 1898-1960. An outstanding citizen and known for public endeavors, he is remembered for winning a reward offered by J. F. Hurley, Sr., of the *Salisbury Evening Post* on the subject: "What I would do if I could do just one thing to make Salisbury a better town." He is of the "Continental" John Brown family.



W. A. Brown
1881 - 1945

William Addison Brown, one of the original eight trustees, never tired of lending assistance in the work of the Brown-Fisher Association and in preserving the Old Stone House. His son, Dodd Addison Brown, is the only surviving Brown at this writing of the four Browns, who saved the historic shrine from annihilation. W. A. Brown is a 5th generation descendant of Michael Braun through his son, James.



Dr. John R. Brown
1875-1975

Uncle John Brown, as he was affectionately known, lacked six days reaching his 100th birthday. He married Lottie Grace Bostian in 1905. An optometrist by profession, he walked two miles every day until a short time before he passed away, April 6, 1975. A great, great grandson of Michael Braun, he never missed a Brown-Fisher reunion, and for many years won the distinction of being the oldest person present.



James Luther Fisher
1873 - 1951



Hilbert A. Fisher, LL.D.
1892 -



Arthur W. Fisher, D.C.S.
1890 - 1967

Authors of *The Jacob Fisher Family*. James L. Fisher and Hilbert A. Fisher are descendants of Michael Braun. All are past-presidents of the Brown-Fisher Association.



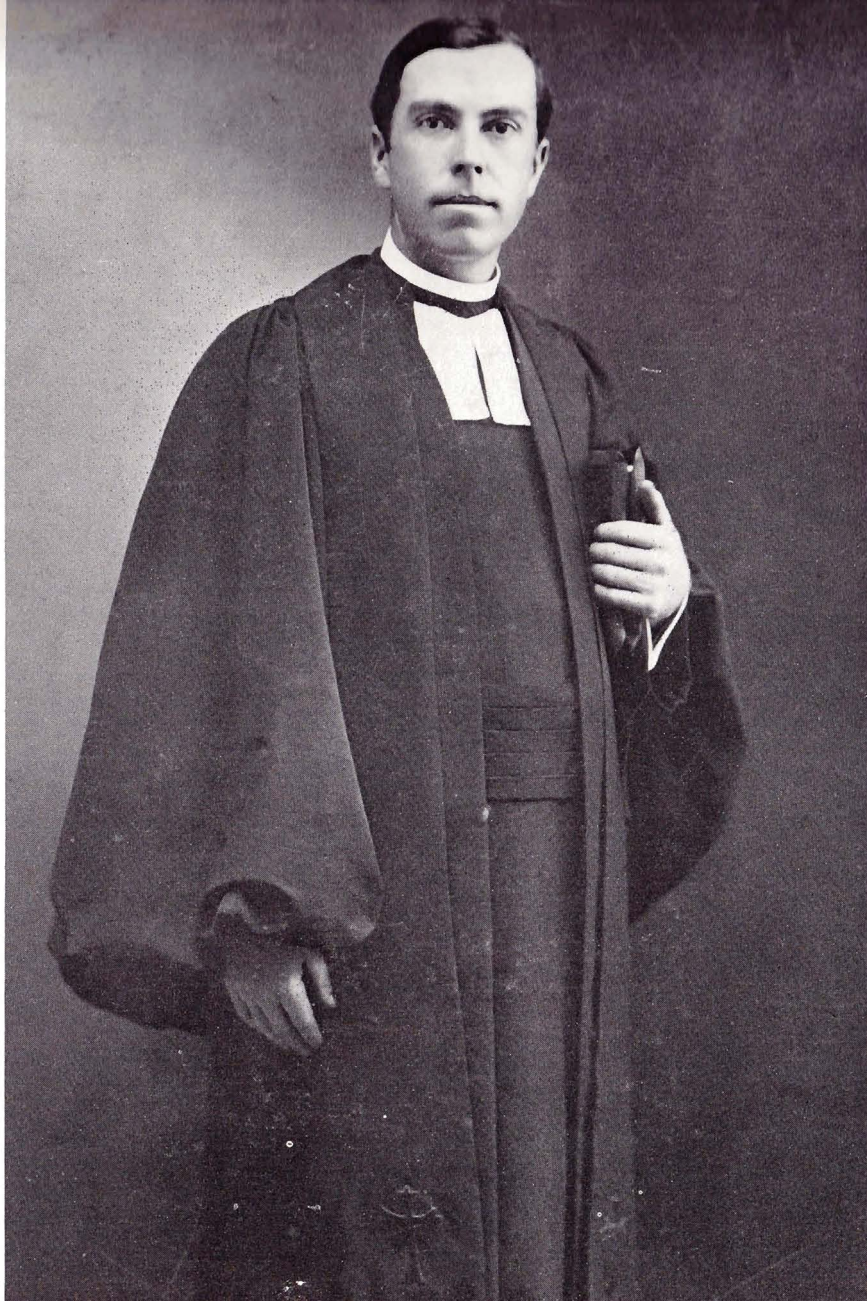
Mother and Sons Enjoy Chicken Dinner — 1968

Mrs. Luther V. Fisher (nee Cora Ann Brown) and her seven sons, five of whom are ministers. Left to right: Marcus H. Fisher, Rev. Herman G. Fisher, Rev. Earle H. Fisher, Rev. Carl H. Fisher, Rev. Ray R. Fisher, D.D. (twin to Herman), Rev. Roscoe B. Fisher and Junius V. Fisher. The father (deceased), Luther V. Fisher (1883-1964), is a 6th generation descendant of Michael Braun. Mrs. Fisher (1882-1969) is a 5th generation descendant. Both are through Michael's son, David.



KIZZIAH and STEVENSON

William D. Kizziah, U. S. Marshal and historian during visit of Adlai Stevenson, Governor of Illinois. Kizziah assisted, for many years, in gathering historical information about Michael Braun and his relatives. The occasion of Stevenson's visit was his interest in his ancestors who came from "Old Rowan."



Martin Luther Canup
1879-1956

The Rev. Martin Luther Canup, D.D., is a great grandson of Michael Braun. He assisted the Rev. Richard L. Brown in the preparation of the first Brown family history of 1921. A graduate of Roanoke College and the Philadelphia Lutheran Seminary, he served the First Lutheran Church of Greensboro and Emmanuel of High Point before accepting work in New York City, where he spent most of his ministry. Dr. Canup is a brother of William Henry Canup, whose widow donated the Will of Michael Braun to the Brown Family Association. Martin Luther and William Henry are sons of Caleb Canup, who married, Nov. 26, 1868, Julia Ann Brown, who was born in the Old Stone House in 1842.

RECORDS AND LETTERS

(Taken from Program of the BROWN-FISHER ANNUAL REUNION held at Christiana Lutheran Church, Sunday, October 13, 1974)

Past Presidents of the Brown Family Association

(Organized 1914)

Rev. R. L. Brown	1914 - 1915
Rev. C. A. Brown	1915 - 1919
Rev. P. D. Brown	1919 - 1921

Past Presidents of the Brown - Fisher Association

(Organized 1925)

Rev. C. A. Brown	1921 - 1926
John D. A. Fisher	1926 - 1927
M. G. M. Fisher	1927 - 1928
Rev. L. A. Thomas	1928 - 1929
J. L. Fisher	1929 - 1930
G. Ray Brown	1930 - 1934
Rev. Chas. Fisher	1934 - 1940
Mrs. Daisy Fisher Patterson	1940 - 1941
Dr. P. D. Brown	1941 - 1949
Myron Fisher	1949 - 1950
G. Ray Brown	1950 - 1954
John H. Fisher	1954 - 1955
Dodd Brown	1955 - 1956
John B. Fisher	1956 - 1957
W. O. Brown	1957 - 1958
Henry Lee Fisher	1958 - 1959
Dr. James M. Fry	1959 - 1960
Dr. Hilbert A. Fisher	1960 - 1961
Mrs. Guy M. Beaver	1961 - 1962
Dr. A. W. Fisher	1962 - 1963
Edward A. Brown	1963 - 1964
Paul E. Fisher	1964 - 1967
Dr. Harry E. Isenhour	1967 - 1968
Dr. Hilbert A. Fisher	1968 - 1969
Rev. Roscoe Brown Fisher	1969 - 1970
Mrs. Everette Deal	1970 - 1972
Rev. Herman G. Fisher	1972 - 1973
Kyle M. Brown	1973 - 1974
Hilbert Cobb Fisher	1974 - 1975

Bits Of Life



A Long Time Ago

By ROSCOE BROWN FISHER

Many years have slipped by since Michael Braun unloaded from his steady wagon the first rugged rocks for the "Old Stone House."

It is a long way back to 1766: The 13 original states were still independent colonies of England, getting their charters from the King.

It was one year before Daniel Boone's exploration westward; nine years before Paul Revere's ride; ten years before the Declaration of Independence. . . and the American Revolution.

Fort Dobbs built in 1755 was only 11 years old. The Indians still held most of Appalachia and offered a barrier to the west.

The State of Vermont had not yet been formed from New York, nor Tennessee from North Carolina, nor West Virginia from Virginia.

It was 84 years before the formation of the State of California, and 123 years before the State of Washington joined the Union.

In fact, all the territory west of the Mississippi was under the Spanish Flag when Michael Braun unloaded from his wagon that first load of stone for the rock house he had visions of building on Granite Ridge.

Many legends and some true stories have come us us out of the dim, vague past of Michael Braun's days. There is the one of how his sons would kill a beef and hang a quarter to a limb of a tree at night to attract the wolves that roamed the rolling hills. The meat was hung out of reach so that the jumping wolves would attract the Braun boys. They would shoot the hungry wolves through the steady windows of the house.

The descendants of Michael Braun and their friends have a treat in store this Sunday afternoon at Christiana Lutheran Church, at 3 p.m. when the Brown-Fisher Clans meet.

Letter of Solomon Brown written 1858 to his son, Nathan, while at North Carolina College, Mt. Pleasant, N. C. His sister, Loisa, spoken of in letter, died at the age of 19 the day of her wedding after suffering an attack of stomach colic while pressing her wedding dress. She is buried in the Old Stone House cemetery. Below: Cowan's Pneumonia Cure, also found among Solomon Brown's records.

Rowan County
North Carolina

Mr. Nathan Brown I take my seat in order to write a few lines to you to let you know we are all well at the present time I would like for you to come home on the last Saturday in this month your sister Loisa expects to be married on ~~the~~ the first Tuesday in next month I don't expect you will get back to Mount Pleasant that week you can give Mrs. Leaty or Mr. Lanier your reasons why you will not be back that week please come up the big road on Saturday morning I expect to meet you some where on the road we had very pretty weather the first of last week but we have a very rough snow on the ground at the present time nothing more at present

February 16th 1858

Solomon Brown

Cowan's Pneumonia Cure

2 Table spoons full of Turpentine
1/2 oz Gum camphor
1 Table spoon of Carbolic Acid
3 Table spoons of Quinine
1 Tea spoon of Sandnum
1 Table spoon Therosene oil
2/4 lb of Lard

Brown.—Mr. Nathan Brown, of Granite Quarry, N. C., one of the oldest citizens of Rowan county passed away at the home of his daughter in Blacksburg, S. C., on December 7, Mr. Brown was born November 6, 1837, making his age more than 88 years. He received his education in the schools of the county and at the then North Carolina College, which institution he left to serve his country's call in the war between the States. After serving through the whole period of the war he returned to his home and entered wholeheartedly in the rebuilding of the community. For a number of years in the public schools.

Mr. Brown was a direct descendant of that old group known as the "Stone House Brown," spelling their name "Braun." For eighty-three years he lived in the same community, seventy of which were under the same roof. He was baptized and confirmed in old Organ church. Later a movement culminated in the organization of Christiana church, of which he was one of the seven charter members and the last to pass away. His services were continually demanded as church councilman, superintendent of the Sunday school and a teacher in the Sunday school.

Mr. Brown had two brothers in the ministry, Rev. H. M. Brown and Rev. R. L. Brown, both of whom preceded him to the eternal life. He has one son in the ministry, Rev. P. D. Brown, of Columbia, S. C.

The funeral services were conducted in Christiana church in Rowan county by his pastor, Rev. H. A. Trexler, assisted by Rev. J. L. Morgan, D. D., president of the United

Lutheran Church of North Carolina; Rev. C. A. Brown and Rev. G. H. Cox, D. D. Mr. Brown is survived by his widow, Mr. L. H. Brown, of Washington, D. C.; Mrs. T. J. Lyerly and Mr. G. F. Brown, of Granite Quarry, N. C.; Mrs. S. R. Fry, of Blacksburg, S. C.; Rev. P. D. Brown, of Columbia, S. C.; Dr. A. J. Brown, of Seattle, Washington, and Mrs. L. A. Thomas, of Concord, N. C. Mr. Brown gave his long life in the activities of the church and for the upbuilding of his community. A useful and influential life, full of fruitful and helpful service.

Left: Obituary of Nathan Brown, December 7, 1925.



Nathan Brown
1837-1925

Nathan Brown as he is remembered by older folk of our day. Friends sometimes referred to his resemblance of General Robert E. Lee, under whose command he served in the Civil War. Nathan is a great, grandson of Michael Braun, through his son, David.

Photo and foregoing information furnished by Professor Paul B. Fry of Albemarle, Nathan's grandson.

Notes on Esq. Michael Brown of Rowan County, N.C., made by Mrs. Mamie G. McCubbins, who got up the following papers.

ESQ. MICHAEL BROWN or BRAUN.

This affluent and highly respected citizen of early Rowan County, is said to have been born in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, by some of his descendants in Rowan County, and to have crossed the Atlantic Ocean when but a lad. Whether or not this is true, I cannot state for lack of reference books on the colonial immigrants, but certain it is that his name was among the Germans who were naturalized in Rowan County on Sept. 22 1763. The list included many with whom he was closely associated in later years, such as: Frederick Fisher, Henry Furror, Lawrence Lingle, Henry Gardner, Jacob Fullenwider, Conrad Bullen, Barnet & Conrad Michel, Leonard Miller & others. Jacob Brown was on the list naturalized on March 23 1763 with George & Henry Bruner. It seems that these had been living in the county for many years prior to the dates upon which they received titles for their lands, however, so assume that the quit-rent system was mostly used.

In July 1759 some Rowan County Officers were qualified: John Dunn as Major, Jonathan Hunt as Lieut. Col., John Long as Adj. --- Willis as Capt., Conrad Mickell as Capt., George Bruner as Lieut., Daniel Little as Ensign. Perhaps of these, Esq. John Dunn, (who served so prominently in the making of Rowan County,) was his closest associate. From him & wife Mary, he got land on July 17 1760, through a lease & release for 50 pounds. This land was on the middle fork of Crane Creek which lies between Salisbury and the rich hill, called Dunn's Mountain, being 274 acres. From him he got one half of lot #3 in the south square of Salisbury, (by which deed I prove Esq. Michael Brown's wife to have been named Rosanna in Feb. 1779, when he sold it to Peter Brown.) And from his son, John Dunn (whose wife was Elizabeth,) he got 612 acres on Crane Creek in Jan. 1786. Perhaps this is the Esq. John Dunn of Revolutionary notoriety, if so, his wife Mary had passed away, and the wife was named Fanny in 1777--of this Esq. John Dunn (who sold part of this same tract of land originally 662 acres granted by Earl Granville in 1752) our Esq. Michael Brown

Whether or not the ties between Esq. John Dunn & Esq. Michael Brown were closer than friendship I do not know, but their lands were so close that their heirs sent a petition to the Court in 1810 to have them divided, (this was later rescinded).

Another close friend of Esq. Michael Brown, was Captain Daniel Little, Esq., buried almost in the heart of Salisbury, whose tombstone bears the following: "HERE LIES THE BODY OF CAPT DAN^L: Little LATE OF SALISBURY WHO DIED DECEMBER THE 10th 1775 AGED 44 YEARS". In 1770, an act was passed in New Bern for the governing of Salisbury, and according to this act, Daniel Little qualified among other Commissioners in Aug. 1771. In Nov. 1772, Esq. Daniel Little produced his commission as Sheriff of the county but didn't propose the right security, however 1773 found him holding the office. His will made on Dec. 9 1775, appointed his friend, Michael Brown as co-executor with the widow, Mary. There being no court minutes from Feb. 1776 to Feb. 1777 when "American Independence" was noted, I assume that the confusion was too great write them, however Feb. term of 1777 issued administrations and executors and this is probably when Esq. Michael Brown fell into the vacancy left by Capt. Daniel Little's death. He qualified on Feb. 6 1777 and was faithful throughout the Revolution. After the war, he continues to appear as Esquire of Justice although he does not qualify yearly, so I assume that his office was so well-filled that he and it were identical. Proofs of this being so numerous, another line of work may be mentioned. The wealthiest citizens kept blacksmith-shops and taverns or "Ordinaries"--I do not recall that Esq. Michael Brown had a public black-smith shop, but he did have an ordinary. His main occupation was probably the same as that of Capt. Daniel Little--tanning leather.

In the second edition of Rev'd. Jethro Rumple's History of Rowan County--this edition being in larger print than the first edition--on pages 221 to 228, may be found a sketch of the country home of Esq. Michael Brown & his family burial plot wherein some of the family rest. Unfortunately his tombstone has disappeared, if ever erected here. His other wives may also be interred in the enclosure but no markers stand to their memory. The place passed into the hands of his son David & his

Deed of February 16, 1779 signed by Michael Brown and his second wife, Rosanna F. Brown.

This Indenture Made the Sixteenth Day of February in the Year of our Lord One thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Nine Between Michael Brown Esquire of Rowan County in the State of North Carolina and Rosanna his wife of the one part and Peter Brown of the County of Rowan aforesaid and State of North Carolina aforesaid of the other Part, Witnesseth that for and in Consideration of the Sum of One Hundred Pounds, Proumationlly Money to the Said Michael Brown and Rosanna his wife in hand paid by the Said Peter Brown at or before the Sealing and Delivery of these presents the Receipt whereof these he both hereby acknowledge and thereof Both Release acquit and Discharge the of Peter Brown and his Heirs Executors, and Administrators by these Presents They the of Michael Brown and Rosanna his wife have granted bargained Sold aliened, and Confirmed and by these Presents they do grant bargain Sell alien and Confirm unto the of Peter Brown and his Heirs Executors and assigns forever One Certain Piece or parcel of Ground in the Borough and Town of Salisbury in Rowan County aforesaid and in the State of North Carolina aforesaid Beginning at the North East of a Certain Lot known and Distinguished in the plan or Map of the Said Town by the mark and name of Lot No 3 in the South Square of the Plan of the Said Town Running from the of Corner of West along Corbin Street Ninety feet in Front Street thence with a Direct line East 45 Degrees South Twelve poles or 192 feet to Neaks Street thence N 45 Degrees East along Neaks Street Ninety feet to the Corner where Dunn's Street crosses Neaks Street thence along Dunn's Street N 45 Degrees East across one Half of the Said Lot Number Three heretofore conveyed by John Dunn attorney at Law to Michael Brown aforesaid, and all houses buildings Orchards ways, ditches water Courses profits Commodities Hereditaments and appurtenances whatsoever To the Said Premises hereby granted or any part thereof belonging, or in any wise appertaining: And the Reversion and Reversions Remainder and Remainers Rents Issues and profits thereof; and also all the Estate Right Title Interest use Trust Property Claim and Demand whatsoever of them the said Michael Brown and Rosanna his wife of in and to the said Premises And all Deeds Evidences and writings Touching or in any wise Concerning the Same To Have and to Hold the Land's hereby conveyed and all and Singular other the Premises hereby Bargained and Sold and Every Part and Parcel thereof with their and Every of their appurtenances unto the of Peter Brown and to him and his Heirs and assigns forever To the only proper use and behoof of him the of Peter Brown and of his Heirs and assigns forever, and the said

Michael Brown and Rosanna his wife for them and their Heirs, Executors and Admrs Death Covenant Promise and Grant to and with the said Peter Brown and his Heirs and assigns by these Presents That: the Said Michael Brown and Absolute Right to grant and Convey the aforesaid Lot of Ground in manner and form aforesaid: and that the of Premises now are and so forever after Shall Remain and be Free and Clear of and from all former and other Gifts Grants Bargains Sales Donations whatsoever Made Done committed or Suffered by the Said Michael Brown and Rosanna his wife or any other Person or Persons whatsoever (the Quitrents hereafter to grow due and payable for and in Respect of the Premises only Excepted and Excepted) and that the Said Michael Brown and Rosanna his wife and Heirs all and Singular, the Premises hereby bargained and Sold with the appurtenances unto the of Peter Brown and his Heirs and assigns they the of Michael Brown and Rosanna his wife and forever Defend by these Presents And Lastly Shall warrant and forever Defend by these Presents That: the Said Michael Brown and Rosanna his wife and their Heirs and all and every other Person or Persons and his and their Heirs any Thing having or Claiming in the Premises heretofore mentioned or intended to be hereby bargained and Sold Shall and will from time to time and at all Times hereafter at the Request or his Heirs or assigns make Do and Execute or cause to be made Done and Executed all and every such further and other lawful and Reasonable and just Things and Things Conveyances and assurances for the further better and more perfect conveying and assuring the Premises aforesaid with their and every of their appurtenances unto the of Peter Brown and his Heirs and assigns as by the Said Peter Brown or by his Heirs or assigns or their Council Learned in the Law Shall be Reasonably advised advised or Required In Witness Whereof the of Michael Brown and Rosanna Brown his wife have hereunto Set their -- and Seals the Day and Year first above Written-----

Michael Brown (Seal)
Rosanna F. Brown (Seal)
John Dunn
Sealed and Delivered
In the Presence of
About Term 1779-----

State of North Carolina
Rowan County
38, It is hereby Certified that the within Deed was
proved in open Court by The, Oath of John Dunn
Said the probate recorded in the Clerk's office
according to Law and ordered to be Registered----

This document and others
furnished by:
J. A. ROUSE
1100 BRANTLEY ROAD
KANNAPOLIS, N.C.
ADM. GORMAN C.C.

'Old Stone House' Play Seen By Overflow Crowd

A man may be without honor in his own country.

Not so a woman — if last night's reception of the Blue Masque production of "The Old Stone House" by Mrs. Ruth Hubbard Young at Catawba College is any indication.

The "stage documentary" played to an overflowing house, programs ran out while spectators were still arriving, and the applause was long and sustained.

Obviously, the viewers enjoyed what they saw.

The show, written for presentation during Culture Week activities in Raleigh, was first presented there through the joint auspices of the Blue Masque and the Rowan Museum last Thursday night. Last night's performance

drew regular Blue Masque patrons and Museum members, people from all over the country, and numerous children.

B. M. Hobgood, head of the drama department at Catawba who staged the production, explained to the audience that stage documentaries had a brief place in the sun about 30 years ago. They have been little used since that time.

The form, however, was ideally suited to the subject of last night's show. "The Old Stone House" traced the life of Michael Braun, who built the house during the years immediately preceding 1766 in Eastern Rowan County, from his early days in Germany until his death in this country early in the 19th century. Through his life and that of his family, Mrs. Young illustrated the settlement of this country, the customs of the people,

delightful bit about old-time belief in witchcraft.

Mrs. Young is to be commended not only for her free-flowing narrative, but also for the long documents made palatable, the humor which she interjected, and the human quality of her historic characters. The depth of her research was evident.

The Blue Masque did a fine job with what she gave them. Miss Katharine French was in charge of costumes. Hoyt M. McCachren did the sets and lighting, and Dr. John Young, William Kizziah, James Brawley, Mrs. Gettys Guille, and E. L. Hardin served as advisors to the director. A large group of Blue Masquers took part in the presentation.

—Rose Post

Rowan Historical Drama To Be Seen In Raleigh

A cast of more than 30 students at Catawba College will load up a small mountain of properties, scenery and costumes for a trip to Raleigh on Thursday. There, at 8 p.m., they will present Mrs. Ruth Hubbard Young's "Old Stone House" before the North Carolina Society for the

Preservation of Antiquities' annual convention in the Sir Walter Hotel.

The presentation, termed a "stage documentary" is being produced by the Rowan Museum Inc., in collaboration with the Blue Masque at Catawba.

Featured players in the cast are Virginia Reed and David McCorkle, who narrate the story of Michael Braun and the historic stone house he built near Granite Quarry around 1766.

Others enacting important roles include: Mary Ann Braun as Elizabeth Braun, Braun's second wife; James Smeltzer as Governor Dobbs, pre-Revolutionary governor of North Carolina; Sal Farinella, as King Louis XIV of France; Robert Hill as James Logan, Esquire, Philadelphia court clerk; Foster Owen as W. Joseph

Pearson, prominent Salisbury lawyer in the early 19th Century.

The play is written as a series of short scenes based on authentic records, including a German immigrants' church scene and a Christmas carolling scene. These are linked by explanatory narration which is to be illustrated by slides and projections of documents and pictures from the archives of North Carolina and American history.

"The Old Stone House" is scheduled for a second performance on Dec. 6 at the Catawba College auditorium.

The presentation is being staged by Professor B. M. Hobgood, assisted by Dr. John Young, with costumes by Professor Katherine French and scenery by Professor Hoyt M. McCachren.

E. L. HARDIN & COMPANY

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MUNICIPAL - CORPORATE
STOCKS & BONDS

SALISBURY, N. C.

June 23, 1959

Mrs. Guy Beaver
622 North Union Street
Concord, N. C.

Dear Mrs. Beaver:

I want to acknowledge with much appreciation on behalf of the Rowan Museum, your wonderful donation of \$25.00 given towards the purchase of the Old Stone House.

Our Bill has been passed in Raleigh and we are hoping to have the proceeds sometime in October. In the meantime, I have personally given my check for \$10,215.00 payable to the Museum, in order that we could exercise our option of purchase before the expiration date of June 15th.

I have received the deed to the property and am having it abstracted now and I have called on the Museum to give me their check in the same amount, made payable to the Brown heirs. This completes the transaction, and I am now notifying any of those who feel inclined, to make a contribution to apply on the balance due of \$2,715.00, so I will now deposit your check in the Museum account.

I am looking forward with pleasure in sharing this experience with you and all the other members who are having a real part in the accomplishment.

Thank you again for the splendid support which made this all possible, and with every good wish, I am

Cordially yours,

E. L. Hardin
Ernest L. Hardin, President
ROWAN MUSEUM, INCORPORATED

ELH:ms

D. A. RENDLEMAN
Attorney-At-Law
211 Wallace Building
Salisbury, N. C.

9-27-66

Rev. Roscoe Brown Fisher,
Box 685, Badin, N. C.

Dear Roscoe:

I herewith return map of the Brown lands, with dates inserted, and am glad that it will be of use to you.

I regret that I know nothing of the relationship of Michael, Jacob and Abraham Brown, other than they arrived in Rowan at or about the same time and the co-incident that Jacob happened to settle next to Michael, as shown on the enclosed map. His two tracts contained 871 acres, in addition to 75 acres purchased from Michael and 100 acres of the Chas Dunn tract shown on the map.

Abraham was probably younger than Michael or Jacob as he did not marry until 1769, when on January 27th he married Mary Hardman, a daughter of Joseph Hardman. On the other hand, he died in 1798 and was survived by Michael for about ten years.

There is a short article on Abraham in the original Brown History. His will, recorded in Book F at page 14, shows that he was survived by a daughter, Elizabeth, and four sons, Daniel, Jacob, Henry and Abraham. On May 7, 1802, Jacob married Katy Roseman, daughter of George and Elizabeth Roseman and their daughter, Elizabeth, became the first wife of John L. Rendleman. They were the parents of my grandfather, Jacob A. Rendleman, late of Salisbury.

Perhaps Bachman S. Brown, Attorney in Kannapolis, can give you more definite information relating to Abraham Brown and his descendants.

With so many descendants of Michael, Jacob and Abraham it will be most difficult to sift out their relationships.

Good Luck!

Dave

1307 Central Drive
Kannapolis, N. C. 28021
September 24, 1974

The Rev. Roscoe B. Frisher
Statesville, N. C.

Dear Roscoe:

Bachman and I received your cards last week and he has asked me to furnish you such information as we have. Unfortunately, it is very limited.

I have examined my father's notes on our family history and also Chapter IX of "The History of the Michael Brown Family." In both, the assumption is that Michael Braun and Abraham Braun were related. The late James L. Fisher of Salisbury, whose mother was a granddaughter of Jacob Brown, Sr., and therefore a first cousin of my father, had hoped to do further research on the subject, but did not live to carry out his intention. I, too, would like to have done something along this line, but never found time to do so.

The supposed connection between the Virginia and North Carolina Browns also seems to be based on tradition. As you know my mother a native of Wythe County, Virginia, was also a Brown before her marriage. Her grandfather, Christopher Braun, moved from Pennsylvania to Wythe County about 1780. His father, John Michael Braun, arrived in America from Germany in September of 1737 on the Ship St. Andrew and settled in Lancaster County, Pa. He married Anna Karger January 26, 1746. This couple had ten children three of whom were sons: Michael, Christopher and Andrew. His Will, dated April 7, 1785, suggests Christopher had already married and had moved to Virginia while the other two sons were still living in Lancaster County.

The names and dates which I have given above would indicate that it might be necessary to go back to Germany prior to 1737 to find a common ancestor for Michael of the Stone House and Christopher of Virginia. Michael and Abraham, both of whom came to Rowan County near the same time, might well have been closely related, but I have no proof.

I am glad to know that you have almost completed work on the new book about Michael Braun and am looking forward to seeing it.

With kindest regards and good wishes,

B. S. Brown

B. S. Brown

Bagdad, Ky. 40003
Nov. 23, 1969

Dear Mrs. Ragland,

I appreciated your letter along with the Michael Brown information. I hope that Mr. Fisher soon recovers and is able to get his book published. Be sure and keep my name on the order list for a copy as soon as it is published.

As for information regarding the Brown and Miller families. I'm sure you have much more than I have. However, I have done considerable research and will gladly share anything I have. According to data I have three of Michael Brown's children married children of Wendell Miller. They are -
John Brown married Catherine Miller
David Brown married Sarah Miller
Margaret Brown married Frederick Miller

My line is from Margaret and Frederick. They were married May 10, 1779. They came to Jefferson County, Ky. (near Louisville, Ky.) about 1806. I have the Rev. War record of Frederick Miller. It contains a statement which states that he brought smallpox into the family during the war. His infant son, John, and Frederick's mother both died with the smallpox and were buried in the same grave. Frederick died there Feb. 1840 and Margaret died there April 6, 1815. Frederick served in the Rev. War as a Private under his father's, Wendell Miller, command. Wendell was a Lt. and later a Capt. No doubt he raised the company in which he and Frederick served.

The children of Frederick and Margaret were:

1. John born 1780 - died as infant
2. Margaret b. 1781 - m. George Stucky
3. Michael b. 1783 - He was a minister and married 3 times -
 1. Susanna Pickets - Mar. 8, 1804
 2. Elizabeth Stucky - June 27, 1812
 3. Cynthia Kelly - June 5, 1826
4. Ann born 1784 - m. - - - Bowman
5. Wendell b. 1785 - m. Nancy Stucky

You will notice that three of these children married Stucky children. They were all children of Martin Stucky of Jefferson Co., Ky.

My line of descent from Michael Braun and Wendell Miller is as follows:

Michael Braun (1721-1807) m. Margareta - - -
Frederick Miller (1756-1840) m. Margaret Brown
Wendell Miller (1730-1804) m. Nancy Stucky
Sarah Ann Miller (1810-1851) m. William Wood
Wesley Wood (1846-1875) m. Sarah E. Scobee
Otis T. Wood (1880-1913) m. Flora Dumavant
Helburn H. Wood (1897-1947) m. Ethel Allison
Julian K. Wood (1922-) m. Dorothy Barnes

I appreciate very much your interest.

Sincerely yours,

Julian K. Wood

May 2, 1970

Dear Mrs. Ragland:

Thank you for your kind and very prompt reply to my request for information about the forth-coming Brown book. You and all the many Brown descendants who have been working to preserve this house and prepare this new book deserve the thanks and praise of many, many people. Much more of this sort of thing should be done around our country.

Thank you for telephoning Mr. D. A. Rendleman. He does not know it, but I am already very grateful to him for the work he has done, as I have copies of his maps and photo-copies of several pages from his book.

I own a copy of the D. A. R. reprint of Rumples History of Rowan County, and a copy of Carolina Cradle by Ramsey. I have access to excellent libraries, and have done considerable background reading to acquaint myself with the history and people of this area of N. C. Genealogy has been my hobby for many years, time and energy permitting.

In as much as you seem to be a descendant of Michael Braun thru his son John I am wondering if you do not have knowledge concerning Michael before arrival in Rowan County? Some proof of existence between the time he arrived in this country and the time he appeared near Salisbury? Something to which I can tie my Jacob?

For the past year Mrs. Phillip Pascock of Salisbury has been doing research for me in the Rowan Co. Public Library and in court records. I do not have everything, but I do have the great-grandfather of Jacob Brown whose land lay next to that of Michael Braun. Jacob had his first land from Earl Overville in 1760. He was spoken of as "planter" and as "wagonmaker." His children began leaving Rowan Co. before he died. His son George from whom I descend served in the Rev. War from Rowan County, and then appears in Washington and Greene Counties Tennessee about 1781.

My mother's Browns moved to Jonesboro, Illinois, about 1813. The tradition was that they had come from Rowan County, N. C. What the tradition omitted were the extremely important facts that the family came to Illinois from Muhlenberg Co., Ky., and that they had previously lived near Jonesboro, Tennessee, after leaving N. C. My mother who would be ninety years old this year had a first cousin Bess Brown Fisher of Cairo, Illinois. Her husband John C. Fisher owned the Cairo Evening Citizen. Evidently the Brown-Fisher relationship of Rowan County had its counterpart in Illinois.

Because Jacob and Michael lived next door to each other, and were artisans of the same trade at this early period in the history of the county it does seem as if they must have been related. I keep hoping to find some other interested person who will collaborate with me in efforts to prove this part of the family.

Again I thank you for your letter and the enclosures.

Mrs. R. L. Beardlee,
One Atherton Island,
Stockton, California, 95204.

*Sincerely,
Margaret M. Beardlee*

G. Ulrich Grossmann
355 Marburg/Lahn
Huteweg 8
October 24, 1974

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I was recently asked by the local authority of the city of Marburg, to answer your letter of October 8, 1974. From your letter I gather that you desire information and a photograph of a coat of arms which you described in detail. This pertains to the coat of arms of Count Konrad of Thuringia, who joined the Teutonic Order (in Marburg) in 1233 and who died as head of this order in 1240. Therefore, besides the Thuringian lion (which today is the coat of arms of Hessian), the coat of arms of the German Order is also shown. The shield dates back to 1230-40, and is perhaps the oldest shield of Marburg. It is said that Count Konrad himself used this shield in battle.

I am sorry to say that for use as a reprint in your planned book, special permission is required, which involves some expense. As a rule, in such a case the Picture Archives of Marburg charges DM 25 (\$10 dollars) and combines with payment printing permission. In addition, a free copy of your book is requested. Since you may take care of these formalities directly (by bank draft), I am providing you with the address: Foto Marburg, 355 Marburg/Lahn, Wolfstrasse.

If it would not be too much trouble, I, too, would be grateful to you for a copy of your book.

With kind regards,

G. Ulrich Grossmann
Marburg, University Museum
Hessen, Germany

(Translated by Hans Hyman)

The Municipal Council of the City of Darmstadt

Main Office
Telephone 13-319
Our Reference 100 Br/7n
November 5, 1974

Dear Mr. Fisher,

As requested, we are sending you a picture of the coat of arms of the city of Darmstadt. Regarding the history and color composite, we can make mention of the following:

"The upper half of the coat of arms (a red lion rampant in gold) is symbolic of the former land area above Darmstadt of the Count von Katzenelnbogen, which was granted its civic rights in 1330. That Darmstadt has a fleur-de-lis goes back to the fact that the present city church was a 'Marienkirche' prior to the Reformation and the fleur-de-lis was the symbolic representation of the purity.

The coat of arms of Darmstadt in its first forms, goes back to the first third of the 17th century. The form of the coat of arms of Darmstadt underwent numerous changes during the following decades. Due to this on March 10, 1917, the then Grand Duke of Hesse had a letter prepared, in which the coat of arms was to be presented. On March 13, 1917, for the occasion of his twenty-five year reign, the Grand Duke granted the city of Darmstadt the right to picture the crown (covered in red) of the grand-duchy, over the city's coat of arms. This coat of arms with the crown is still today the binding coat of arms for Darmstadt."

We would be delighted to receive a copy of your historical book. We wish you much success in your endeavors.

With kind regards,
(Brandt)
Chief Town Councillor
Darmstadt, Germany

(Translated by Carl Hammer)

October 8, 1974

The Honorable Mayor of Darmstadt
Darmstadt/Hessen
Germany

Dear Sir:

Greetings from America! As Historian for our Brown Historical Association, I have been asked to write you. We will be happy indeed if you will supply us with a copy, or drawing, of the coat of arms of the city of Darmstadt, indicating the colors.

We have learned that our forefather Michael Braun came from "the Palatinate upon the Rhine;" namely, Darmstadt, and landed in America at Philadelphia in 1737. He was among 110 German immigrant passengers on board the ship St. Andrew Gally, John Steadman, Master."

Enclosed is a check for \$10.00 in expression of our gratitude for this help and information. Our Michael Braun Association will be pleased to award you additionally, or anyone who you can get to do this for us, at whatever financial remuneration you suggest. We will be delighted to send you, or the city, a gratis copy of this new historical book.

Our chief concern at present is that we are going to press in several weeks with a new book on "Michael Braun of the Old Stone House" and we need this information as soon as possible.

We have asked Mrs. Gisela Dunn, a friend from Hesse, Germany, to translate this letter from English to German.

Enclosed is our Association Program carrying "The Old Stone House," now standing and restored. It is so much like the many I saw when visiting Germany as a Charlain for 10 Eagle Scouts several years ago.

Most sincerely yours,

Roscoe Brown Fisher, Historian
Brown Family Clan

RBF:plf
encl.

Dear Brown Family Historian:

Here is a short sketch of the little I know of the daughters of Michael Braun. If it makes your deadline, and you decide to include it in the family history it might serve as an aid to others who are starting on a similar search.

I am sorry I could not attend the Brown-Fisher reunion in June.

It came on the same day as commencement at V.P.F. and I had guests.

On what date this fall will the 200th celebration at the old Stone House be held? I'd like to come to it if possible. I may be out of the country in October.

Best wishes, from
Lucy Lee Lancaster

29 July 1966

The chapter, "The Daughters of Michael Braun," included in this work, is by Miss Lancaster. ED:

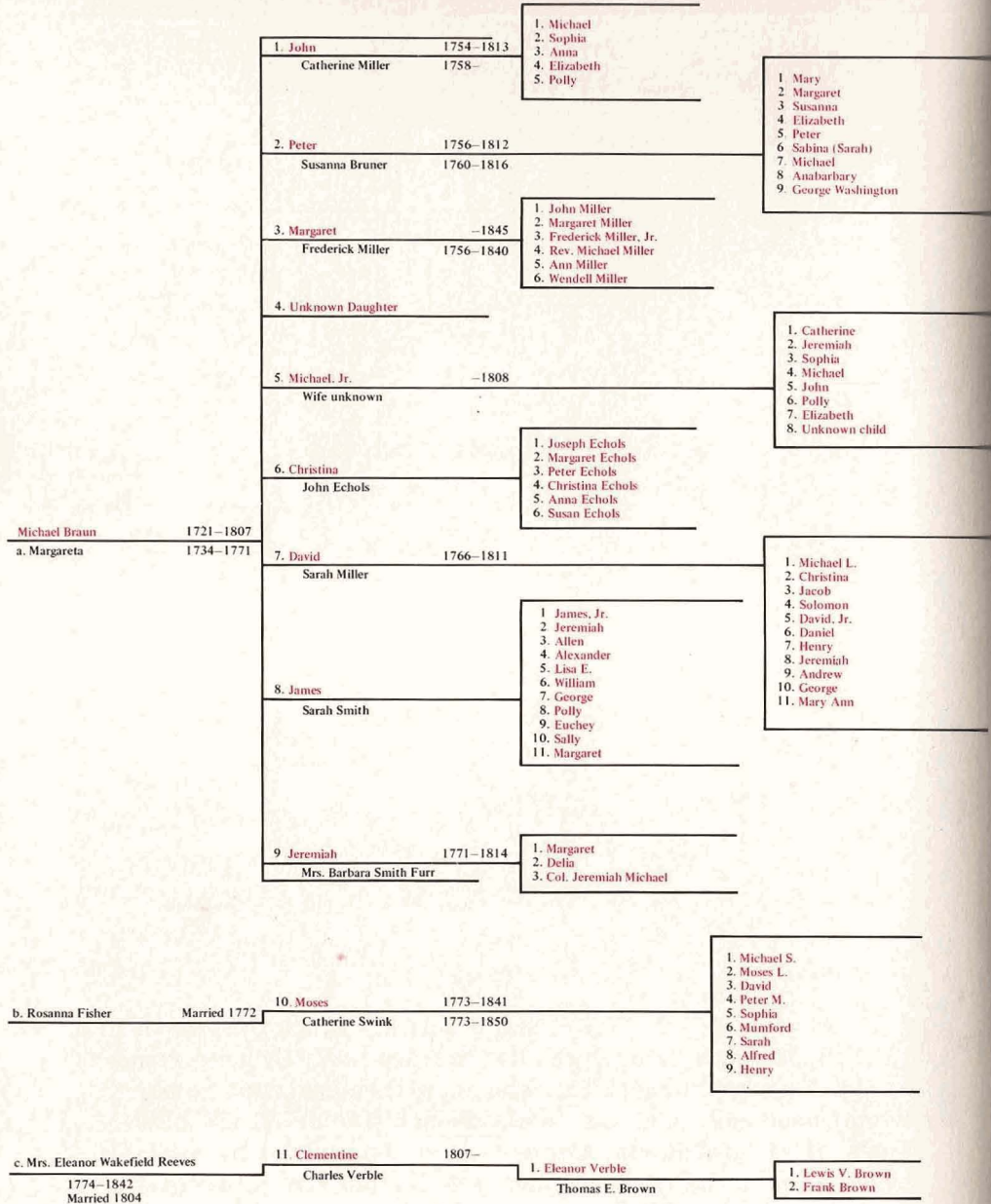
GENEALOGICAL CHARTS

The descendants of Michael and Margareta Braun are shown in RED in all charts. Braun's children are listed only by given names, except for married daughters, who are in their husbands' names. It is understandable that the charts do not include all the descendants of Michael Braun. Contents were determined by available information in hand. Space and time limited the genealogies to five generations. — Editor

MICHAEL BRAUN

His Wives, Children and Grandchildren

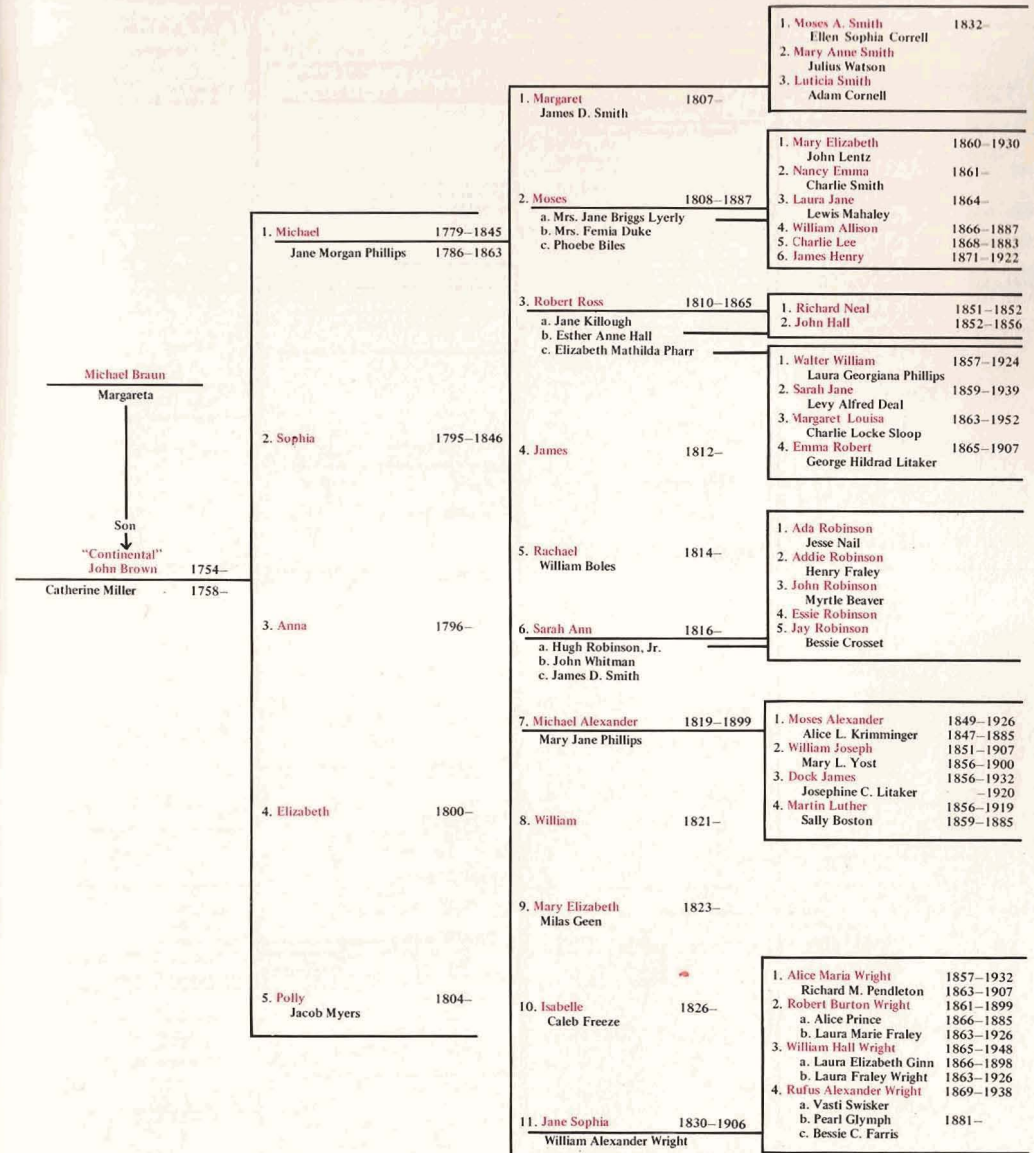
CHART I



JOHN BROWN

His Children, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren

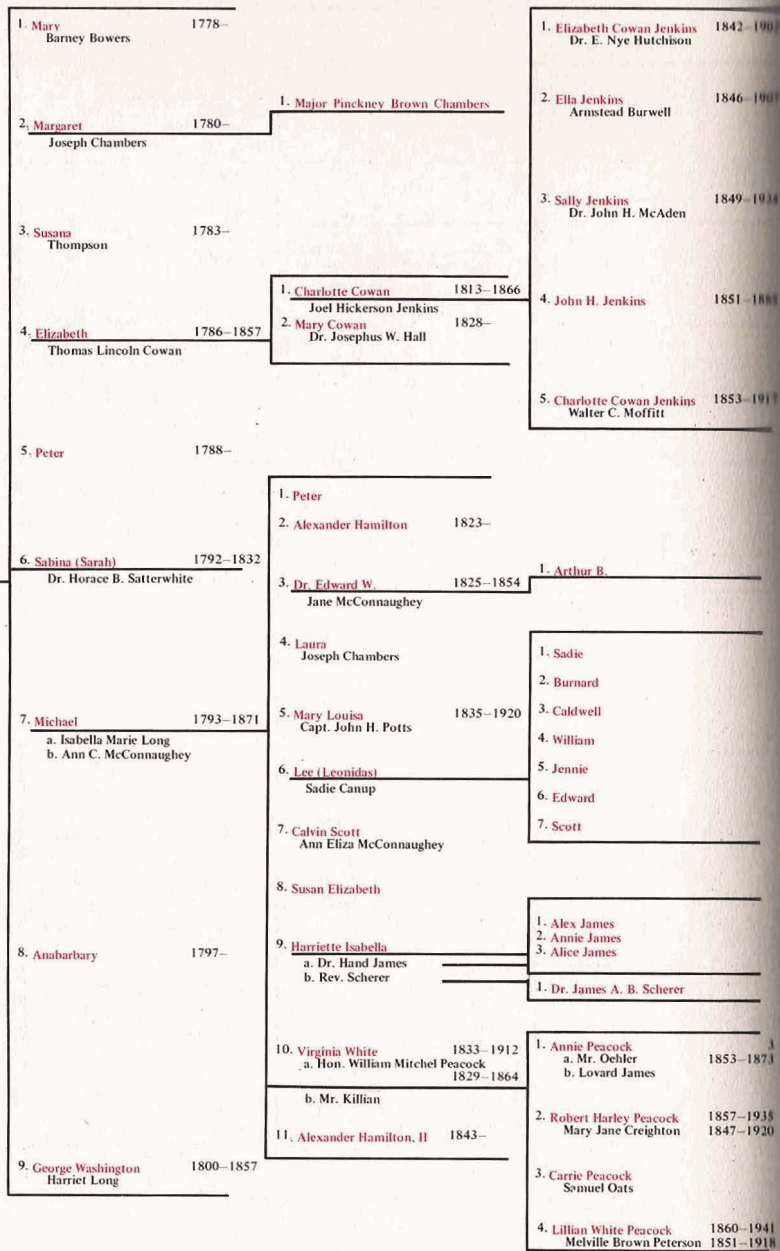
CHART II



PETER BROWN

His Children, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren

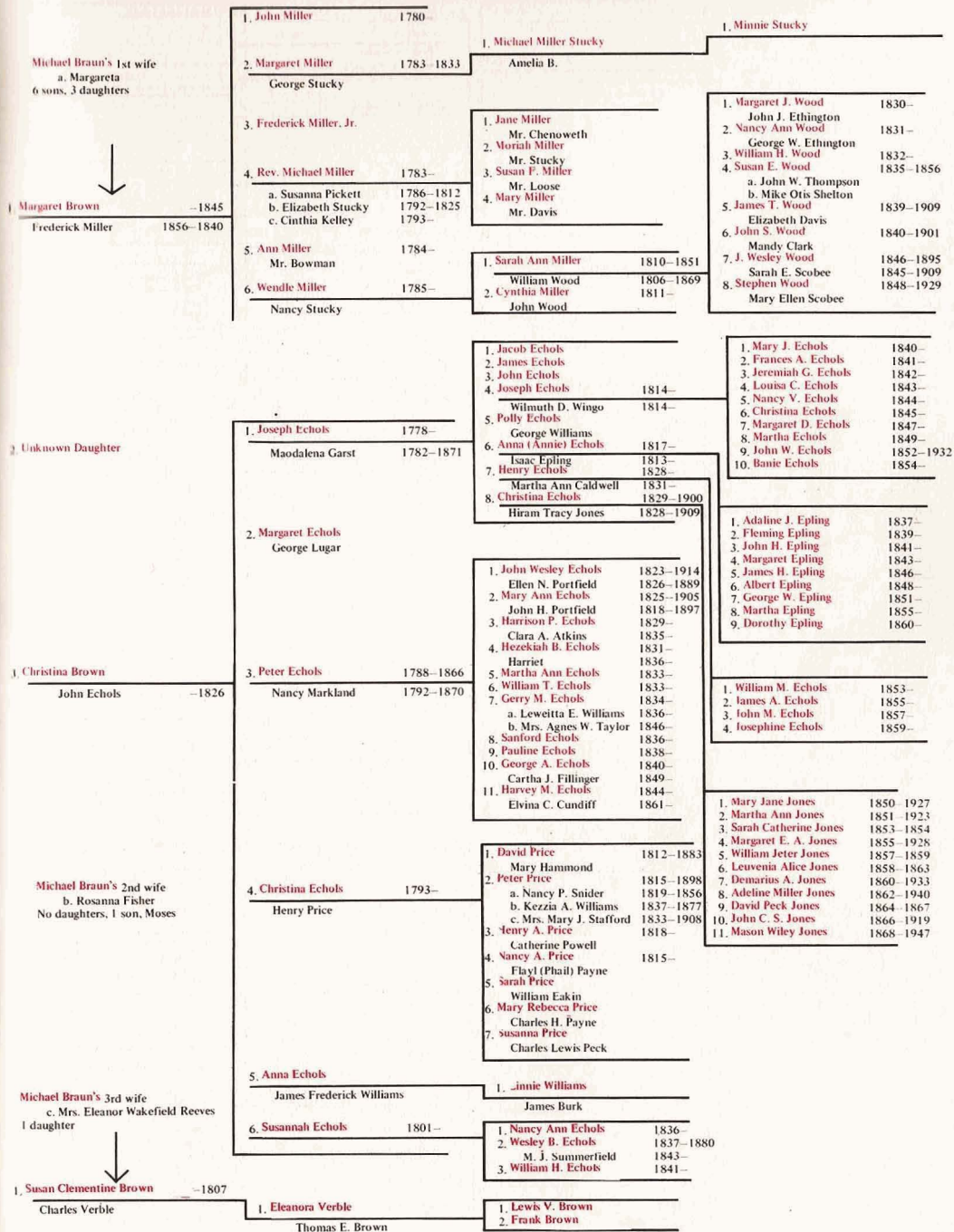
CHART III



THE DAUGHTERS OF MICHAEL BRAUN

Their Children, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren

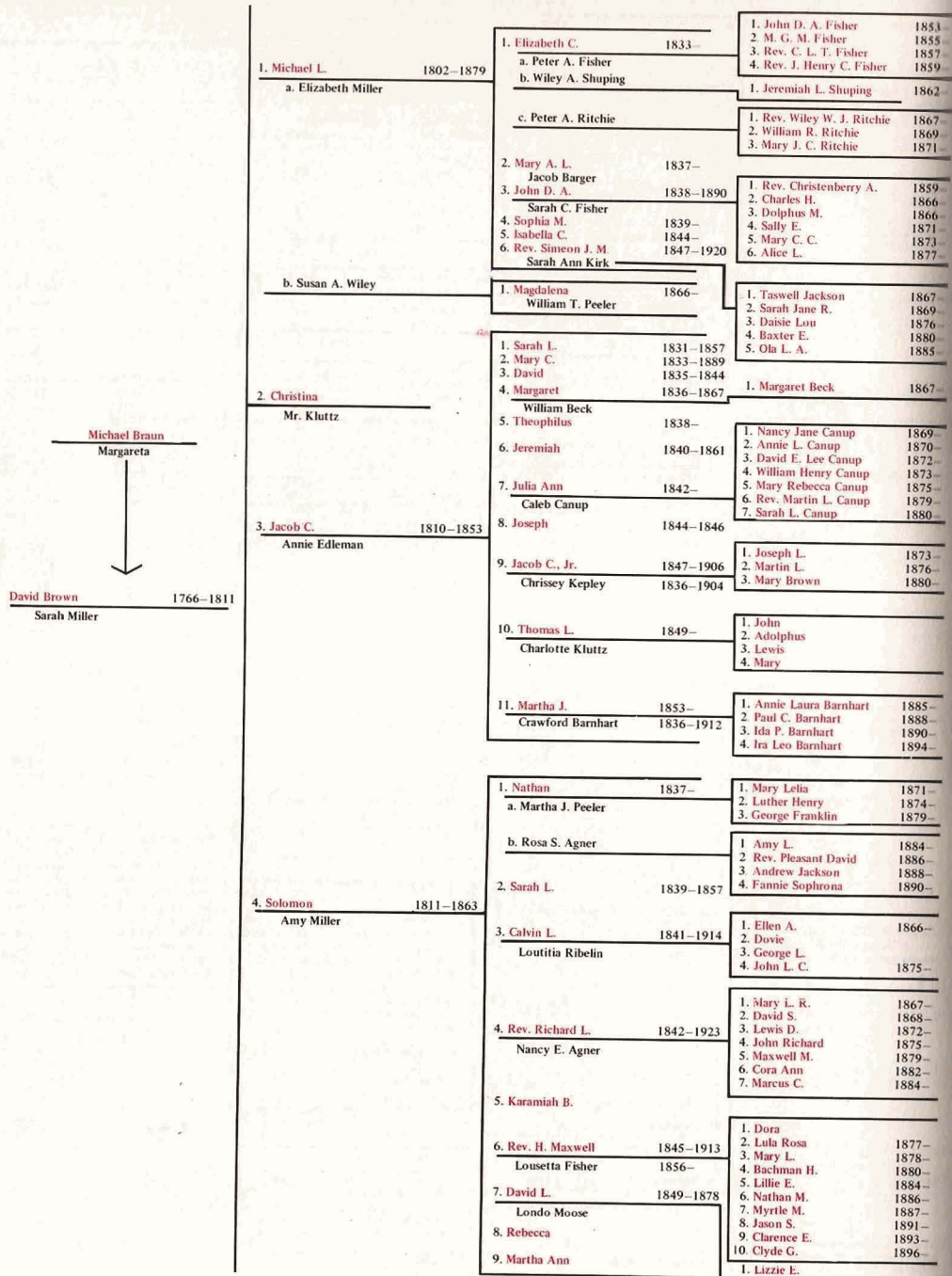
CHART IV



DAVID BROWN

CHART V

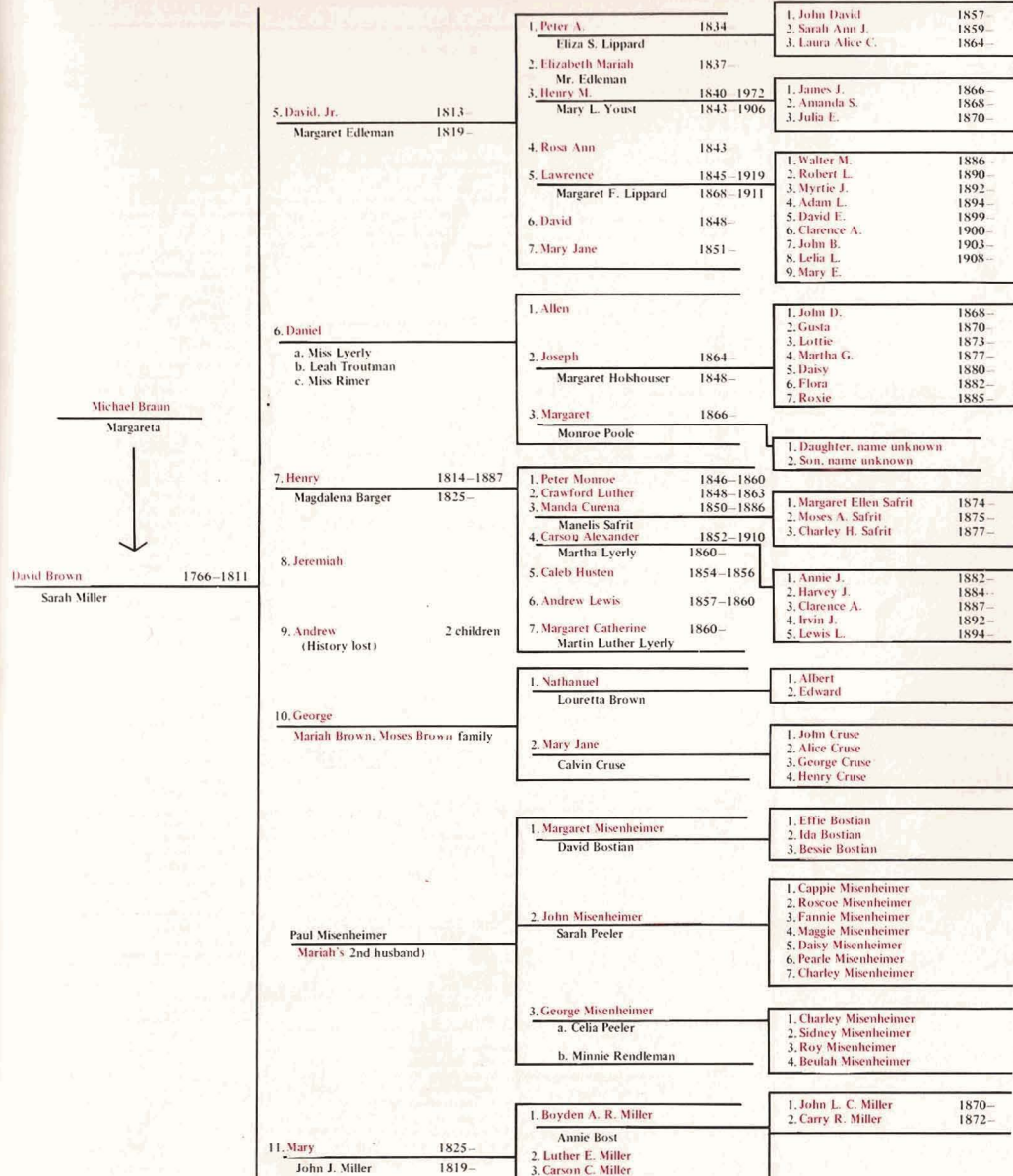
His Children, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren



DAVID BROWN, (Continued)

CHART V (Continued)

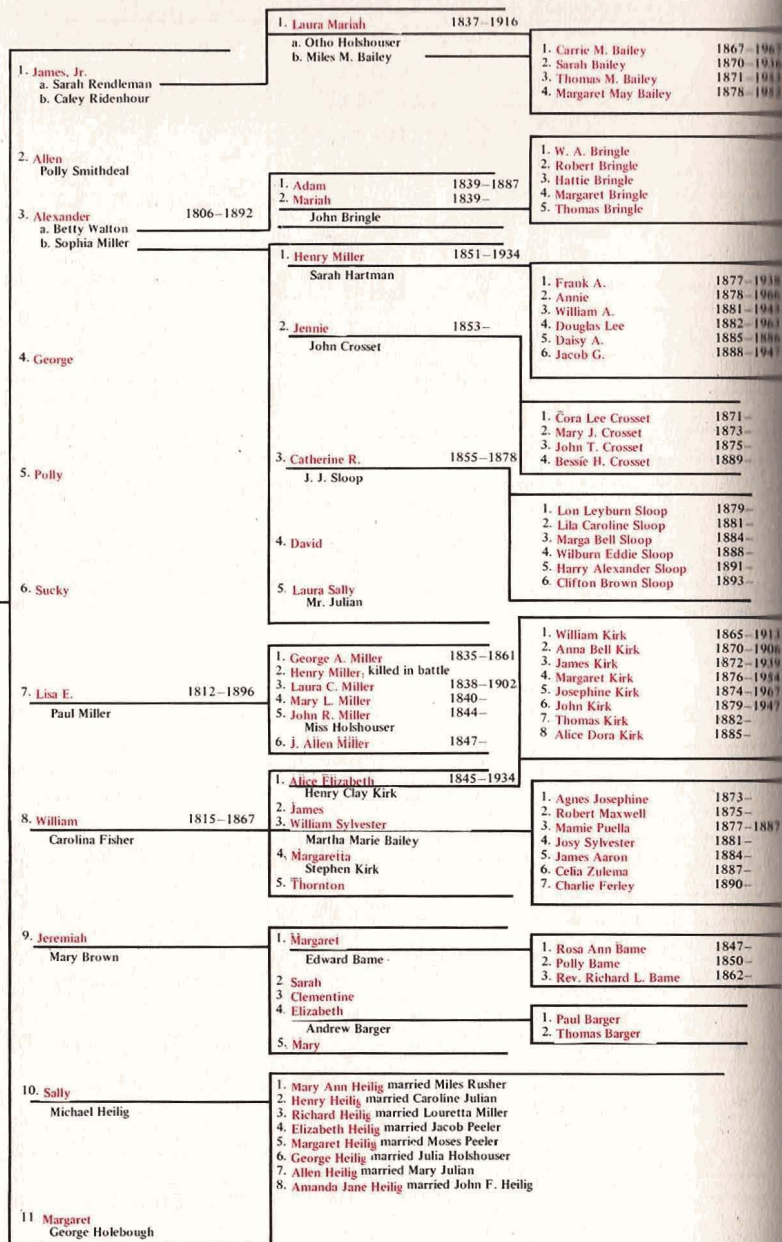
His Children, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren



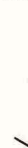
JAMES BROWN

CHART VI

His Children, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren



Michael Braun
Margareta

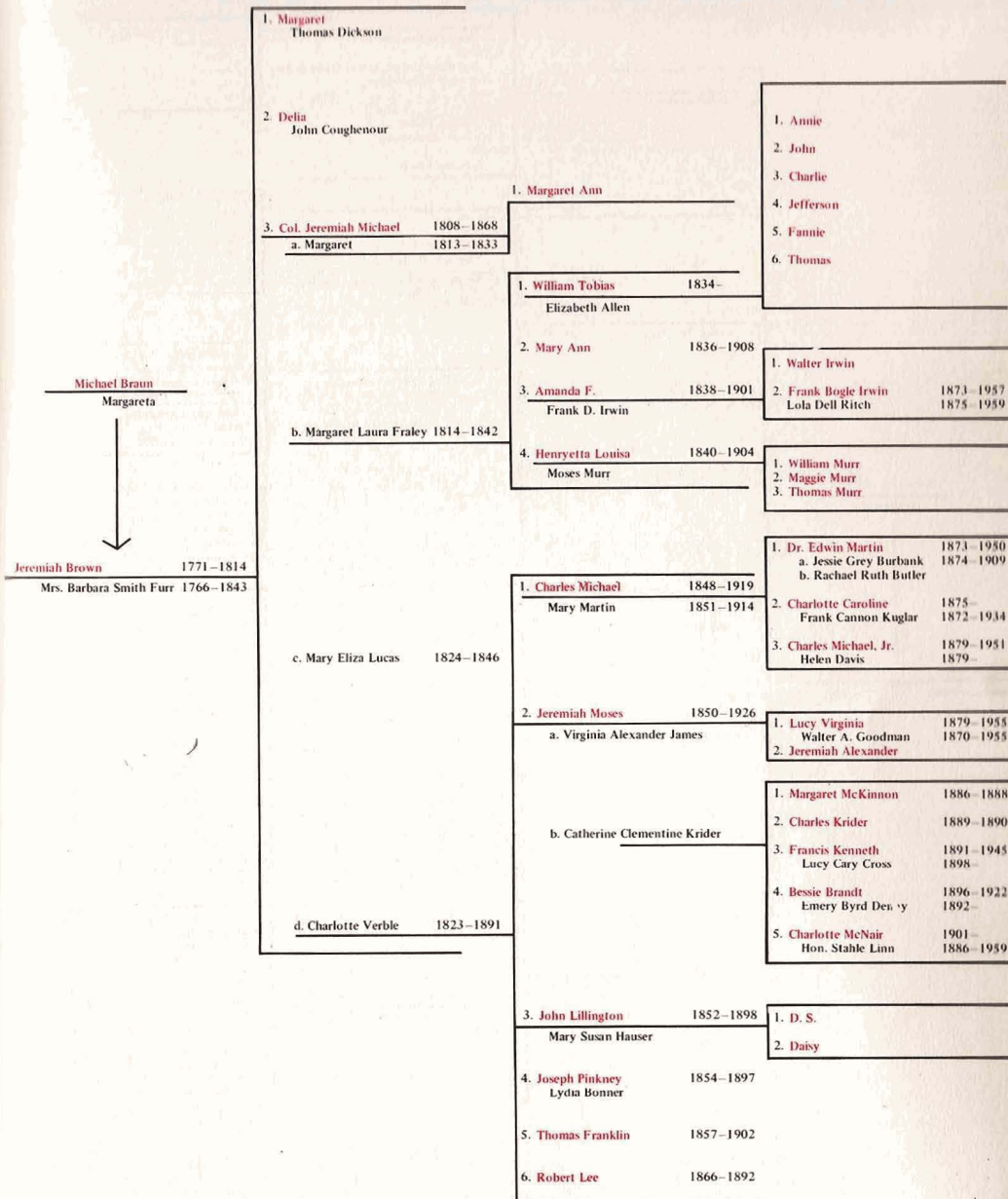


James Brown
Sarah Smith

JEREMIAH BROWN

CHART VII

His Children, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren



MOSES BROWN

His Children, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren

1. Michael S. 1797-1849 Lizzie Rusher	1. Richard C. 1830 Mary Cladora Miller	1. John A. M. 1857- 2. Martha Jane 1859- 3. Alfred W. 1861- 4. George V. 1863- 5. Lillie J. C. 1866- 6. George E. 1869-
	2. Mariah a. George Brown, son of David Brown b. Paul Misenheimer	
2. David 1799-1814	3. Isabella 1843- 4. Sarah William Fisher	1. Margaret L. Richwine 1856-1897 2. Moses L. B. Richwine 1859-1861 3. Eva Melene Richwine 1865-1953 4. Hannah Brown Richwine 1868-1880 5. Lillie M. Richwine 1874-1874 6. Daisy R. Richwine 1874-1874 7. Carrie H. Richwine 1876-1940
	5. Maxwell , died young 6. Jane Lawson Fisher	
3. Moses L. 1800-1857 Letitia Hartman 1808-1887	1. Maria 2. Harriet 3. Laura Catherine 1832- Thomas Whitfield Haynes 4. Rebecca C. 1834-1924 Martin Richwine	
	5. Henrietta	
4. Peter a. Elizabeth b. Martha Gay c. Name unknown	6. Sarah A. 1840-1898 a. Addison Newton Wiseman b. Reuben Jasper Haltom	1. Addison Moses Wiseman 1864-1938 2. Minnie A. Wiseman 1864-1864 3. William Lawson Wiseman 1862-1942 1. John Richard Haltom 1874- 2. Robert Lee Haltom 1878-1939 3. Four other children
	7. Lawson W. Mollie Pinkston	1. Anna Marie Johnson 1867-1957 2. Thomas Edgar Johnson 3. Samuel Reeves Johnson 4. William Johnson
5. Sophia John Bost	8. Julia A. 1842- Thomas Pinckney Johnson 1846-	
6. Mumford	1. John Lewis Nannie Jane Kerr 2. Margaret C. Dr. Billiard 3. Mary , died young	1. Son , died in infancy 2. Peter Marshall 1859-
7. Sarah Mr. Armfield	1. Lou Armfield 2. Henry Armfield 3. Madison Armfield 4. Name unknown	1. Alfred Warren 1872-1872 2. Margaret C. Dayton 1873-1952 3. John Willie Odell 1875-1876 4. George Franklin 1877-1917 5. Nannie Caroline 1880-1884 6. James Frederick 1883-1884 7. Mollie Schaeffer 1884-1961 8. Laura Elizabeth 1886-1886 9. Alive Catherine 1886-1887
8. Alfred 1813-1854 Margaret Bost 1814-1886	1. Infant Son 2. John Henry Clay 1843-1865 3. George Washington 1845-1923 a. Elizabeth Frances Clark b. Mrs. Nancy Smith Bencini	1. Eva May 1889-1915
	4. Alfred Monroe 1847-1930 Elizabeth Eugenia McEachern	1. Alfred Luther 1876-1955 2. Margaret Pearle 1878-1962 3. Chassie Rae 1880-1929 4. James Leon 1882-1952 5. William Archey 1884-1960 6. Clyde Campbell 1886-1886 7. Eugene Fisher 1889- 8. Myrtle Blanche 1892-1965
9. Henry W. 1814-1852 Wife's name unknown	1. John Lewis Nannie Jane Kerr 2. Margaret C. Dr. Billiard 3. Mary , died young	
	5. Moses Luther 1849-1918 Frances Alice Smith	1. Earl Henderson 1879-1951 2. Richard Alfred 1881-1882 3. Vardry Fletcher 1882-1925 4. Margaret Mosezella 1884-1885 5. Frances Annie 1885-1964 6. Obba Harris 1887-1966 7. Marguerite Leona 1890-1969 8. Lucy Young 1892-1946 9. Alice Marshall 1894- 10. Sterling Luther 1896-1969
6. Rufus Alexander 1852-1907 Missouri Fisher	1. Cliffie 1873-1873 2. Myrtle C. 1875-1892 3. Margaret Maude 1877-1949 4. Louis Alexander 1879-1934 5. John Leonard 1881-1939 6. Grace Missouri 1884-1937 7. Rupley A. 1886-1888 8. Nellie C. 1890-1890 9. Samuel 1890-1892	

Michael Braun
Margareta

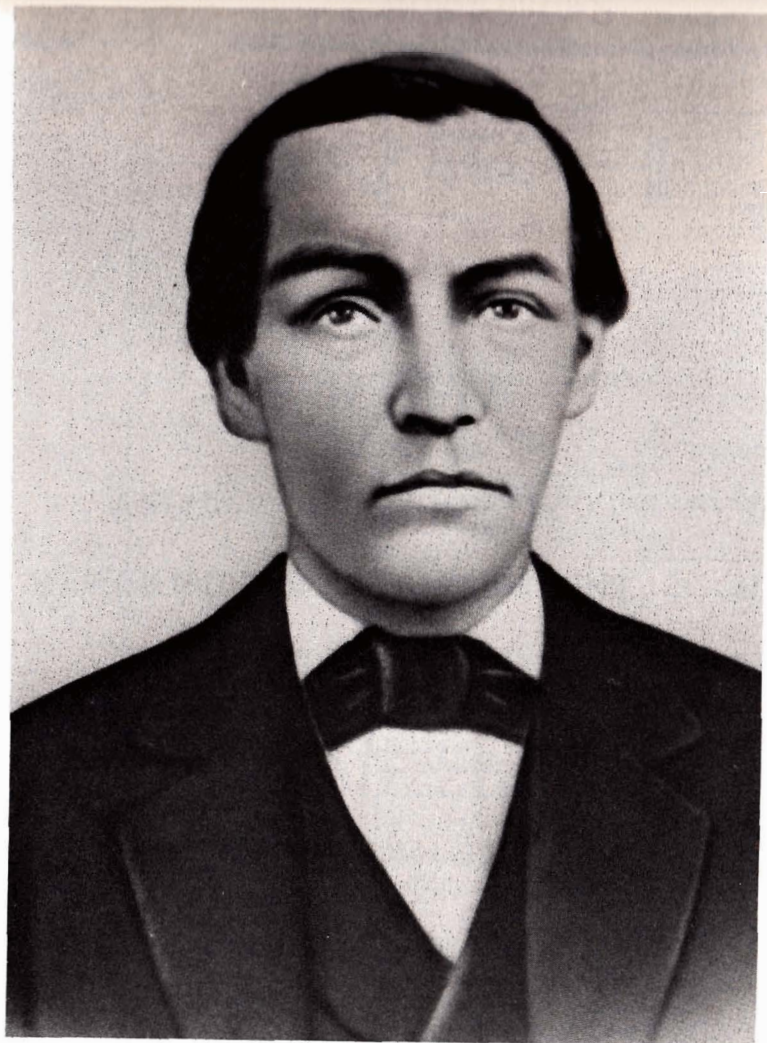
Moses Brown 1773-1841
Catherine Swink 1773-

PART III

CHAPTER

- XI "CONTINENTAL" JOHN BROWN
- XII THE TEXAS BROWNS FROM ROWAN
- XIII THE FAMILY OF PETER BROWN
- XIV THE DAUGHTERS OF MICHAEL BRAUN

The above four chapters are included in this work since these families representing four of Michael's children, John, Peter, Margaret, and Christina, were not in the original Michael Braun book of 1921, *A History of the Michael Brown Family* by Rev. Richard L. Brown.



ROBERT ROSS BROWN
1810-1865

Robert Ross Brown, a grandson of "Continental" John Brown, was born into an illustrious old Rowan County family on May 5, 1810. His parents were Michael Brown and Jane Morgan Phillips; hence, Robert Ross was a great grandson of Michael, the pioneer. At an early age Robert Brown studied for the Presbyterian ministry, but due to a speech impediment, decided to devote his life to the teaching profession, which he began in 1828. There followed many years of public service to Cabarrus County as a teacher and philosopher. Tragedy came early to him when he lost his first two wives (Jane Ann Kellough and Ester Ann Hall) and two of his 2nd wife's children by death. His third wife was Elizabeth Mathilda Pharr, grandmother of Mrs. Guy Beaver.

As a pioneer in education, religious leader and philosopher, Robert Brown kept a diary for 22 years of his impressions of life, education, music and religion. He was born in the Old Stone House.

CHAPTER XI



"Continental" John Brown

By Bessie Wright Ragland

When Michael and Margareta Braun arrived in Rowan County, North Carolina, probably in early 1758, from their home in Pennsylvania, their oldest son, John, was a young boy possibly not yet in his teens. The father, Michael Braun, had landed in Philadelphia some twenty years earlier, September 26, 1737, arriving on the ship St. Andrews Galley from his home in Germany. His name appears on the original ship list of passengers in the records of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, in the State Library, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

While living in Pennsylvania Michael Braun had possibly accumulated considerable wealth, married and had several children. Records in the Rowan County Court House in Salisbury, N. C., show that Michael Braun purchased land in 1760, which was several years after his arrival in Salisbury. The family soon moved from their home in Salisbury four miles east to Granite Quarry while their permanent home, the "Old Stone House," near by, was under construction. The house was completed in 1766.

It was in this home, the "Old Stone House," that John Brown grew to young manhood in a new country with Indians and wild animals to furnish excitement.

Five years later John's mother, Margareta, died. A tomb in the Brown family burying ground near-by says in translation:

"Here lies the body of Margareta Brown, the wife of Michael Brown. Died July 20, 1771,

Mrs. M. J. Ragland is a 6th generation descendant of Michael Braun, through his son, John. She has served admirably as a long-time member and treasurer of the Brown Historical Committee.

Age 37 years and two months. She had nine children, six sons and three daughters.”

Military Record

At the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, the next year, September 1775, John Brown enlisted in the service of his country. In a letter to Senator Lee Slater Overman, dated Jan. 12, 1927, in regard to John Brown's record in the Revolutionary War, the War Department, Washington, D. C. says: “The records show that one John Brown served in that war as an ensign, in the 1st N. C. Continental Battalion. On a list of officers of said organization from the first establishment Sept. 1775 to Sept. 1, 1778 with the dates of their appointments, promotions, deaths, and resignations, the following appears relative to him appointed Nov. 15, 1775; first promotion Jan. 4, 1776; second promotion July 7, 1776; third promotion April 26, 1777.”

The Roster of Soldiers from N. C. in the American Revolution p. 29 and *List of officers of Continental Army* by Heitman says: “Brown, John, Ensn. 1st N. C. Nov. 15, 1775, 2nd Lieutenant Jan. 4, 1776, Captain April 26, 1777, was at King's Mountain October 1780, on list for June 1778, dropped with remark transferred to one of the Dragoon Regiments of N.C.”

Roster N. C. Troops in the Revolution Continental Line page 51 says: “John Brown, captain in 1st N. C. Regiment under Col. Thomas Clark, was transferred to 6th N. C. under Col. Archibald Lytle. He was in the battle of Stono Ferry June 20, 1779; at Charleston May 12, 1780 where Col. Lytle was taken prisoner. He was Com. Capt. Apr. 26, 1777.”

Land Grants

In the publication, *Lands allotted officers and soldiers of the Continental Line* by law p. 275 dated Oct. 14, 1783, it says: “John Brown, 640 acres, months in service 84; dated Aug. 26, 1785.”

According to research in Rowan County Courthouse by Mr. David A. Rendleman, attorney-at-law, Salisbury, N. C., John Brown received by grant on Aug. 9, 1787, recorded in Book 11, page 147, 639 acres of land lying south and west of the Stone House Tract and upon which most of the town of Granite Quarry,

N. C. is now located. John Brown sold 101 acres of this tract to his father Michael Braun. Later, he allowed one John Haselett to take a judgment against him in the small amount of 26 pounds and 10 shillings, failed to pay it, and on March 26, 1793, the sheriff (Book 13 p. 403) sold the remaining 538 acres to John's father, Michael Braun, for 201 pounds (less than \$500.) In November 1793, Michael Braun sold this same land to Frederick Miller (brother-in-law of John Brown) Book 13, page 381, who also lost the property through judgment and execution, possibly for the purchase price.

In 1807 Michael Braun obtained a judgment against Frederick Miller for \$900 under which Edward Chambers, then sheriff, sold the property back to Michael Braun (by deed recorded in Book 21, p. 139) for his son John Brown. This land adjoined the Stone House tract. The same year, 1807, Michael Braun made his will (October 10, 1807), mentioning only five younger sons in it. Certainly the eldest son John had already received his inheritance. This fact agrees with family traditions and records.

While John Brown was in military service, he and Catherine Miller, daughter of the Wendell Millers, were married July 11, 1776, by Rev. J. G. Arndt (from Arndt's Diary in Lenoir Rhyne College Library, Hickory, N. C. *German Settlement and Lutheran Church in N. C.* by Bernheim, p. 242.)

Birth of son

A family record book now in the possession of a descendant Mrs. James Monroe, Salisbury, N. C., says, “Michael Brown, son of John and Catherine Brown was born March 24, 1779.”

Wendell Miller's Will

Catherine, wife of John Brown was the daughter of Wendell Miller. His will in Book of Wills “D”, pages 203-206, dated Nov. 17, 1804, in Rowan County Courthouse, Salisbury, N. C. says: “I give and bequeath unto my daughter Catherina the sum of 100 Spanish milled dollars. But as my son-in-law John Brown has received from me sixty dollars for which I have receipt from under (sic) his hand, it is my will that these sixty dollars shall be deducted (sic) from the above-mentioned sum willed to his wife Catherina and she is to get only forty dollars more dated

Nov. 17, 1804”

Rev. R. L. Brown History

History of the Micheal Brown Family by Rev. R. L. Brown (Pub. 1921) chapter 8, p. 173 says: “Some say that his (Michael’s) sixth son was John and that he was called “Continental John” because of his heroic service in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War.”

Rumple’s History

Rumple’s History of Rowan County (published in 1881) says: “John, the eldest, for some reason or other was called “Continental John”, probably because he served in the Continental Army during the Revolution.”

After returning from service in the Revolutionary War, John Brown with his wife Catherine and children lived on his farm, adjoining his father’s land, the Stone House tract, near Granite Quarry, N. C. Although first and foremost a soldier, John was a farmer and trader and was also closely associated with his father, Michael Brown, in many business transactions. This is evidenced by the fact that he was a witness on many of his father’s deeds, in the Rowan County Courthouse.

Descendents of John and Catherine Brown

John Brown called “Continental” John was the oldest son of Michael and Margareta Braun, born about 1754. “Continental” John married Catherine Miller July 11, 1776. Catherine was the daughter of Wendell Miller. To this union was born five children:

Michael — born Mar. 24, 1779

Sophia — born Jan. 29, 1795

Anna — born July, 1796

Elizabeth — born Feb. 9, 1800

Polly — born Sept. 8, 1804

Michael, the oldest child, married Jane Morgan Phillips June 27, 1805 (Marriage bond in Rowan County Courthouse, Salisbury, N.C.) To this union were born 11 children, and from these children of Michael and Jane Brown have come the known descendants of “Continental” John, son of the original Michael

Braun.

Sophia was unmarried. An inscription on a tombstone at Union Lutheran Church Cemetery says of her “Sophia Brown, daughter of Catherine and John Brown, born Jan. 29, 1795, died Feb. 5, 1846. Dedicated by her brother” (Michael).

Anna and Elizabeth both died in infancy.

Polly, the youngest child is mentioned in *A History of Rowan County* by the Reverend Jethro Rumple. She married Jake Myers, who was Clerk of Court (Rowan County) according to family records. No children were born to this union.

Organ Church Baptismal Records give the following information:

Parent	Child	Date	Witness
John Brown	Sophia	1795	John Brown
John Brown	Anna	July, 1796	John Brown
John Brown	Elizabeth	Feb. 9, 1800	John Brown
John Brown	Polly	Sept. 8, 1804	Job Schuman

As has been mentioned, all the descendants of “Continental” John and Catherine Brown have come through Michael, their oldest child. The 11 children of Michael Brown and Jane Morgan Phillips are as follows.

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Margaret | born March 12, 1807 |
| 2. Moses | born February 22, 1808 |
| 3. Robert Ross | born May 5, 1810 |
| 4. James McCredan | born August 12, 1812 |
| 5. Rachel Rebecca | born November 20, 1814 |
| 6. Sarah Ann | born May 10, 1816 |
| 7. Michael Alexander | born December 12, 1819 |
| 8. William Louis | born January 14, 1821 |
| 9. Mary Elizabeth | born March 26, 1823 |
| 10. Isabella Maria | born March 26, 1826 |
| 11. Jane Sophia | born June 3, 1830 |

Interesting information concerning these 11 children of Michael and Jane Brown are worth noting. Two of their children, James and William never married. Three, Rachel, Mary Elizabeth, and Isabella Marie married, but had no children. Three of the children, Moses, Robert Ross and Sarah Ann all married three times.

1. Margaret married James D. Smith October 8, 1832. To this union were

born three children:

- a. Moses A. Smith born Feb. 22, 1832
- b. Mary Anne Smith
- c. Luticia Smith
- a. Moses A. Smith married Ellen Sophia Correll. A clipping from the *Salisbury Evening Post* of July 27, 1963, headed "A hundred years ago, (1863) Moses A. Smith announced that all persons are expected to pay their Post Office when present, otherwise I will be compelled to sell their papers for the postage."

Seven children were born to this union. Three lived to maturity: William Adolphus Smith, Frank Forrest Smith, and Leroy Alexander Smith.

- (1) Leroy is the father of Grace O. Smith, who for nine years served as bookkeeper for the *Post*.
 - b. Mary Ann Smith, daughter of Margaret Brown and James D. Smith, married Julius Watson. Two of their known descendants are Rev. White Iddings and Mrs. Marie Blackwelder.
 - c. Luticia Smith, the third child, married Adam Cornell. No children.
2. Moses, second child of Michael Brown and Jane Morgan Phillips, married three times:
- a. Mrs. James Briggs Lyerly, first wife — to this union three children were born:
 - (1) Mary Elizabeth Brown
 - (2) Nancy Emma Brown
 - (3) Laura Jane Brown
 - b. Mrs. Fernia Duke, second wife. No children.
 - c. Phoebe Biles, third wife. No children.
3. Robert Ross Brown (b. 1810; d. 1865), Michael and Jane's third child, was married three times:
- a. Jane Killough (1820-1847), first wife, was married to Robert March 12, 1846. No children.
 - b. Esther Ann Hall (1825-1855) Robert's second wife, married Feb. 21, 1850.

Two sons were born to this union:

- (1) Richard Neal Brown, b. Nov. 2, 1851 - d. Feb. 8, 1852
- (2) John Hall Brown, b. Dec. 22, 1852 - d. May 2, 1856
- c. Elizabeth Mathilda Pharr (1826-1911), Robert's third wife, gave him four children:
 - (1) Walter William Brown, b. July 8, 1857 - d. Dec. 21, 1924
 - (2) Sarah Jane Brown, b. Apr. 28, 1859 - d. Apr. 28, 1939
 - (3) Margaret Louisa Brown, b. June 12, 1863 - d. Aug. 25, 1952
 - (4) Emma Robert Brown, b. Aug. 24, 1865 - d. Sept. 28, 1907
 - (a) Walter William Brown married March 3, 1881, to Laura Georgiana Phillips, 1861-1931. (A picture of their home in western Rowan is included in this history.) To this union were born six children:
 - (a) Lillie Jane, b. Dec. 25, 1881 - married Rev. Joshua L. Bowers
 - (b) Tellie Idelta, b. Dec. 7, 1884 - married Silas A. Deal
 - (c) Lula May b. Mar. 31, 1889 - married James Columbus Shepherd

- (d) Charley Robert, b. Nov. 3, 1891 - married Lucyle Blackwelder
 - (e) Annie White, b. Feb. 29, 1895 - married James R. Cress
 - (f) Fannie Omena, b. Apr. 3, 1898 — Henry Ernest Gaskey
 - (b) Sarah Jane Brown, (1859-1939), was married in 1880 to Levy Alfred Deal, (1833-1893). Their children are:
 - (a) Emma Elizabeth Deal, b. Dec. 30, 1881 - was married July 3, 1903 to Alpheus Leroy Karriker, 1876-1953. They have two children.
 - Ruth May Karriker, b. Nov. 10, 1904 - married Rev. Cy Emmet Lutz
 - Sarah Pauline, b. Dec. 18, 1908 - married Howard Wilson Mackie
 - (b) Chester Clarence Deal, b. Feb. 1, 1885 - was married Oct. 28, 1908 to Sallie McKnight, 1888-1962. Chester died July 14, 1948. They had one child:
 - Wilma Janie Deal, b. June 10, 1911 - married Lewis Miller Carrigan
 - (c) Corrie Irene Deal, b. May 26, 1891 - was married April 22, 1920 to Oliver Jackson Lawrence, 1887-1953. Their children were:
 - Rosali Emma Lawrence, b. Nov. 20, 1921 - married Arthur Grady Elliott
 - Albert Leroy Lawrence, b. Aug. 22, 1923 and died July 4, 1947
 - Troy Deal Lawrence, b. Sept. 13, 1924 - married Hazel Deese (Troy died Dec. 7, 1972)
 - (c) Margaret Louisa Brown, 1863-1952, was married November 27, 1884 to Charlie Locke Sloop, 1866-1939. Three children were born to this union:
 - Fred Kannyo Sloop, b. Feb. 22, 1887
 - Infant daughter, b. & d. Jan. 12, 1896
 - Elma Crowell Sloop, b. June 27, 1897
- (1) Fred Kannyo Sloop married Ollie Goodnight, (1889-1964). Fred died June 3, 1970.

Two children were born to this union:

- Ila Louisa Sloop, (1910-1946) - married Luther Franklin Fagert.
- Roy Obediah Sloop, b. Oct. 4, 1911 - married Luna Keisler.
- (2) Elma Crowell Sloop was married on Oct. 15, 1919 to Guy Moody Beaver, 1895-1952.

They are the parents of:

- (a) Louisa Brown Beaver, b. July 27, 1921 - d. July 15, 1939.
 - (b) Guy Moody Beaver, Jr., b. Nov. 26, 1929
- Guy Moody Beaver, Jr., married Mary Ida Fisher on June 16, 1956. They have two children: Louisa Fisher Beaver, b. Sept. 28, 1957 and Guy Moody Beaver, III, b. April 22, 1961.
- (d) Emma Robert Brown, 1865-1907, was married on March 3, 1885, to George Hildred Litaker, 1862-1954. Their children are:
 - (a) Walter Sylvester Litaker, b. Jan. 17, 1887 - married Pearl Sparks. (Walter deceased).

- (b) Cora Lorette Litaker, b. Nov. 5, 1888 - married Stamey M. Rogers
 - (c) Maude Viola Litaker, b. Aug. 23, 1891 - married Carl M. Rogers
 - (e) Baby boy - born and deceased April 30, 1893
 - (f) Newton Pharr Litaker, b. Feb. 14, 1896 - married Clara B. Smith
 - (g) Zene Quinn Litaker, b. Feb. 22, 1898 - married John E. Wise
 - (h) Ethel Rae Litaker, b. June 11, 1906 - married Marion Sthur
4. James Brown, son of Michael and Jane Morgan Phillips, was unmarried.
5. Rachel Brown married William Bales. There were no children.
6. Sarah Anna Brown was married three times:
- a. Hugh Robinson was her first husband. Five children were born to this union: Ada, Addie, John, Essie, and Jay
 - b. Sarah Anna's second husband was John Whitman, one son.
 - c. James D. Smith was Sarah's third husband. No children.
7. Michael Alexander Brown, (1779-1845), married Mary Jane Phillips, (1786-1863).

Their children known as the Texas Browns were:

- a. Moses Alexander Brown
- b. Joseph
- c. Dock James Brown
- d. Martin Luther Brown (twins)

The story of Michael Alexander Brown and his children, who migrated to Texas, is included in Chapter XII "The Texas Browns from Rowan."

- 8. William Brown was unmarried.
 - 9. Mary Elizabeth Brown married Milas Geen. No children.
 - 10. Isabella Brown married Caleb Freeze. No children.
 - 11. Jane Sophia Brown, born June 3, 1830, was the youngest child of Michael and Jane Morgan Phillips Brown, a granddaughter of "Continental" John and Catherine Miller Brown and great granddaughter of Michael and Margareta Braun. She married William Alexander Wright (b. Mar. 21, 1823), Dec. 15, 1852 in Concord, N. C., in the home of her brother, Robert Ross Brown. Their four children:
 - a. Alice Maria, b. Nov. 26, 1857
 - b. Robert Burton, b. 1861
 - c. William Hall, b. Jan. 6, 1865
 - d. Rufus Alexander, b. Aug. 3, 1869
- (1) Alice Maria Wright, died March 5, 1932, She married on March 5, 1884 Richard Mason Pendleton, 1863-1907. One son was born to this union.
- (a) Clarke Henderson, b. June 8, 1888, in Washington, D.C., married Cornelia Earnhardt Sept. 23, 1909. Clarke died June 5, 1939. Two children: Mignon Pendleton, b. Sept. 22, 1911 and Mary Alice Pendleton, b. March 2, 1914.
 - (1) Mignon married Arlie Wilburn Whittinghill, born in Jamestown, Ind. One child born to this union, Mignon Pendleton Whittinghill May 16, 1948.
 - (2) Mary Alice married Robert Downs Poindexter of Shreveport, La., Sept. 5, 1937. One child, Priscilla

Louise Poindexter, b. Aug. 4, 1940. She married Harry Joseph Chris, May 13, 1961. They have two children: Mary Elizabeth Chris, b. Feb. 20, 1962 and Robert Mark Chris, b. April 1, 1963.

- (2) Robert Burton Wright, second child of Jane Sophia Brown and William Alexander Wright married Alice Prince, b. 1866; d. 1885. One child.
 - (a) Willie Josephine Wright, b. Mar. 22, 1884. She married Joseph Gillespie on December 16, 1903. There were three children:
 - Willie Cecil b. Jan. 26, 1909
 - Andrew Joseph b. July 31, 1913
 - Ligon Wright b. May 11, 1917
 - (a) Willie Cecil Gillespie married Albert Edward Kirkner Dec. 16, 1925. Their children are: Josephine Kirkner, b. Dec. 21, 1926 and Curtis Bane Kirkner, born June 13, 1930.

Josephine Kirkner married Darrell Davis Perkins March 21, 1945. Their children are: Darrell Davis Perkins, Jr., b. Dec. 23, 1951 and Sharon Hope Perkins, b. October 12, 1957.

Darrell Davis Perkins, Jr., married Deborah Turbyfill June 13, 1972.

Curtis Bane Kirkner married Nancy Nelson June 24, 1962.

- (b) Andrew Joseph Gillespie, Jr., married Stella Stoessel June 18, 1944. Two children:
 - (1) Andrew Joseph Gillespie, III (called Drew), b. Mar. 9, 1945
 - (2) Rees Bowen Gillespie, b. March 1, 1948

Andrew Joseph Gillespie, III, married Wrenn Treadwell. They have two children: Beverly and Elizabeth.

- (c) Ligon Wright Gillespie, married Rosa Lea Kesler Sept. 10, 1937.

Two children were born to this union:

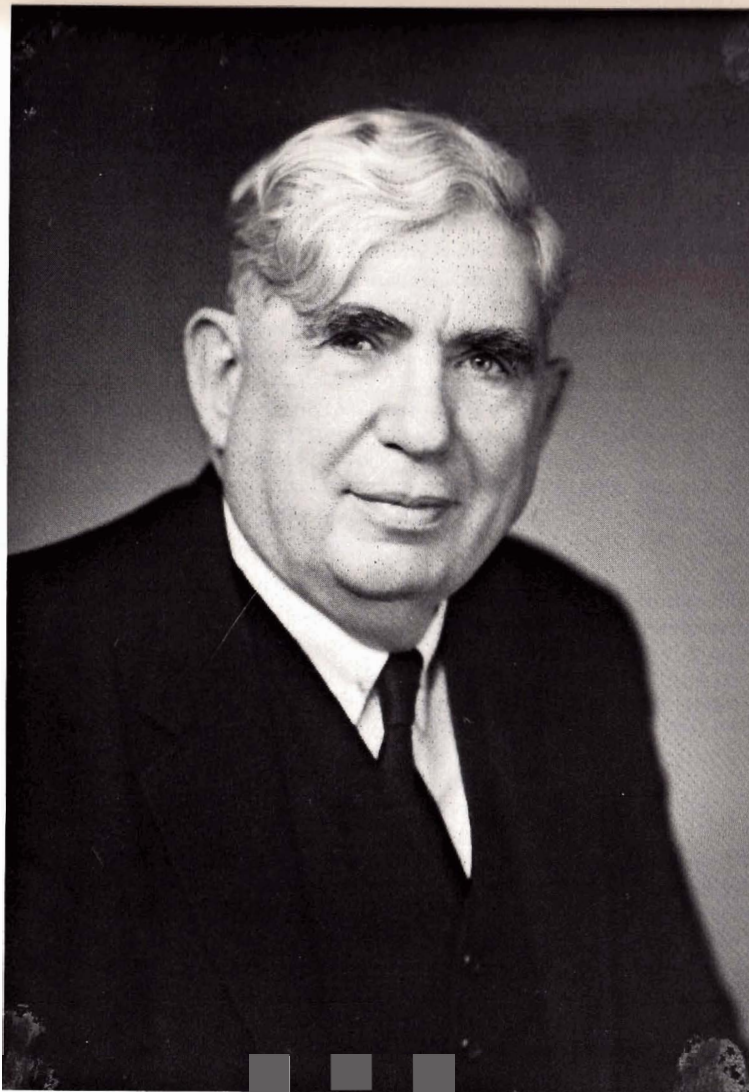
- (1) Ligon Lee Gillespie, b. Oct. 7, 1946
- (2) Helen Rosalie Gillespie

Ligon Lee Gillespie married Jan Harrison. Their children are:

- (1) David Lee Gillespie, b. Mar. 16, 1965
- (2) Michael Scott Gillespie, b. July 19, 1968

Helen Rosalie Gillespie married Bobby G. Fortner.

- 2a. Robert Burton Wright's second marriage was to Laura Maria Fraley, b. May 5, 1863. Four sons were born to this union:
 - a. Robert Ray Wright, b. May 4, 1888
 - b. Richard Brandon Wright, b. Dec. 16, 1889
 - c. Jesse J. Wright, b. Mar. 15, 1894
 - d. Charley Alexander Wright, b. Oct. 18, 1898
- (1) Robert Ray Wright married Mrs. Bertha Carter Aug. 20, 1912. No children were born to this union, but there were three Carter stepchildren.
- (2) Richard Brandon Wright married Ida Mae Johnston Mar. 27, 1908. Two children were born to this union:
- (a) Richard Brandon Wright, Jr., b. June 6, 1916



REUBEN HALL WRIGHT
1890-1964

Judge Reuben Hall Wright recognized as one of the top trial judges in Alabama, is a 6th generation descendant of Michael Braun. He is of the "Continental" John family. Born in West Brocton, Alabama, he is a graduate of the University of that state. Judge Wright comes from a legal minded family — his father, William Hall Wright, born in Concord, North Carolina, was a lawyer and also, Reuben's two children, Camille and George. Camille Wright Cook is assistant to the dean of the Law Department of the University of Alabama. Her son, Sidney Cook, Jr., Duke graduate, has his law degree from the University of Alabama also. Judge Wright was married to Camille Tunstall Searcy April 12, 1923. In recognition of his civic interest he was voted the Good Citizenship Award, given annually to a citizen of Tuscaloosa,

(b) Dorothy Mae Wright, b. Mar. 29, 1921

Richard Brandon Wright, Jr., married Marjorie Bradley July 21, 1941. They have three children:

Sandra Jane Wright, b. Feb. 20, 1943 - married David Pate.

Marjorie Susan Wright married Gary Vern Safrit.

Richard Brandon Wright, III

Dr. Richard Brandon Wright, Jr., second marriage was to Cynthia Maxwell. One daughter was born to this union: Heather Christine Wright, b. Nov. 3, 1974.

Dorothy Mae Wright married Clyde Howard Toomey. One child was born to this union: Patricia Wright Toomey, b. April 20, 1943. She married John Knox Thompson Apr. 6, 1963.

(3) Jesse J. Wright married Essie Rae Gardner June 19, 1918. Mr. Wright is a graduate of the University of Alabama and is a lawyer. No children.

(4) Charles Alexander Wright married Catherine Barclay June, 1928. Mr. Wright a graduate of the University of Alabama is a lawyer. No children.

3. William Hall Wright, b. Jan. 6, 1865 in Concord, N.C. married on Feb. 23, 1888 to Laura Elizabeth Ginn, b. Apr. 19, 1866 in Eden, Ala. The following children were born to this union.

a. Berney Wright, b. Nov. 27, 1888

b. Reuben Hall Wright, b. Feb. 8, 1890

c. Bessie Ginn Wright

d. Jennie Alberta Wright

(1) Berney Wright - unmarried

(2) Reuben Hall Wright married Camille Tunstoll Searcy Apr. 7, 1923.

Two children were born to this union:

(a) Camille Searcy Wright, b. Apr. 12, 1924

(b) George Searcy Wright, b. Nov. 1, 1925

Camille Searcy Wright married John Sydney Cook, Jr. Both graduated in law from the University of Alabama and taught at Auburn University. Camille is assistant in the law department at the University of Alabama. Their children are:

(1) John Sydney Cook, III, b. Aug. 17, 1950

(2) Reuben Wright Cook, b. Feb. 26, 1952 — (twins)

(3) Camille Searcy Cook, b. Feb. 26, 1952 — d. Feb. 27, 1952

(4) Raborn Cade Cook, b. Apr. 7, 1953

(5) Camille Wright Cook, b. April 7, 1953

George Searcy Wright married Stella Rowan Wellborn in Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 2, 1952. Their children are:

(1) Stella Wellborn Wright, b. Feb. 15, 1955

(2) Camille Searcy Wright, b. June, 1959

(3) Maxine Wellborn Wright, b. Jan. 15, 1966

Reuben Hall Wright's son of William Hall Wright, second marriage was to Nancy Seldon on January 30, 1954, in Greensboro, Alabama.

Bessie Ginn Wright, daughter of Laura Elizabeth Ginn and William Hall Wright, married Marcus James Ragland on June 24, 1922, in Birmingham, Ala. One daughter was born to this union:

(1) Anne Elizabeth Ragland, b. Nov. 1, 1925. She married William Charles Stanback on Feb. 2, 1951. Their children are:

(a) Anne Elizabeth Stanback, b. Dec. 15, 1958

(b) John William Stanback, b. Dec. 12, 1960

(c) Mark Thomas Stanback, b. May 18, 1962

Jennie Alberta Wright, daughter of Laura Elizabeth Ginn and William Hall Wright, was born in Woodstock, Ala. She married Arthur Calhoun Halbert June 6, 1933 in Birmingham, Ala. No children.

Jennie's second husband was Frank Phifer Armfield who died Jan. 18, 1974. No children.

3a. William Hall Wright's second marriage was to Laura Fraley Wright (brother Robert Wright's widow). Two sons born to this union:

a. Cornelius Curtis Wright, b. May 7, 1903

b. William Hall Wright, Jr., b. Dec. 31, 1906

(1) Cornelius Curtis Wright married Rose Piriano Dec. 18, 1942 in Baltimore, Md. Cornelius died Aug. 10, 1961. They had two children:

(a) Janet Lucille Wright b. Mar. 4, 1934

(b) Carolyn Lee Wright b. June 11, 1942

Janet Lucille Wright married Robert J. Champness, Jr., June 27, 1954. They had two children: Robert Curtis Champness, b. May 5, 1959, and David Champness.

Carolyn Lee Wright married Dennis H. Kollmann. Two children were born to this union: Dana Denise Kollmann, b. Nov. 23, 1968 and Christopher Gerard Kollmann, b. Dec. 13, 1970.

(2) William Hall Wright, Jr., son of William and Laura Fraley Wright, married Alma Elizabeth Gooding. Their children are:

(a) James Edward Wright, b. Feb. 2, 1944

(b) Sharon Elaine Wright, b. July 14, 1950

James Edward Wright and wife, Barbara, had two children: James Edward Wright, Jr., b. June 9 and Christi Dawn Wright, b. May 29, 1972.

Sharon Elaine Wright is unmarried.

4. Rufus Alexander Wright b. Aug. 6, 1869 - d. Mar. 20, 1938, married Vasti Swisher Dec. 15, 1885. One son was born to this union:

a. Talmadge Wright married Lillie Cook in Alabama.

4a. Rufus Alexander Wright's second marriage was to Pearl Glymph of South Carolina. Two children were born to this union:

a. John Lee Wright, b. Apr. 27, 1911

b. Florence Inez Wright, b. Aug. 7, 1907

John Lee Wright married Eva Adeline Flynn, b. Apr. 27, 1911. One child was born to this union: John Francis Wright, b. Apr. 11, 1945.

Florence Inez Wright married Robert Haney Harrison. Two children: Jacqueline Inez Harrison, b. Aug. 5, 1936 and Carolyn Patricia Harrison, b. Oct. 11, 1940.

Bessie Wright Ragland
9 North Road
Salisbury, N.C. 28144



Guidinger



Bovell

CHAPTER XII

The Texas Browns From Rowan Of the "Continental" John Brown Family

by Grace Brown Guidinger and Florence Brown Bovell

Texas — The very name had a charm and magnetism for one as energetic and venturesome as Moses Alexander Brown, son of Michael A. Brown of Rowan County. In December of 1881, he came to Texas, hoping to make Texas his home. He settled in Mesquite, Texas. At that time Mesquite consisted of a few stores and a blacksmith shop. Dallas was just a village.

After being in Texas long enough to be sure he liked the location, his wife, Alice and their five children joined him. Later his two younger twin brothers and his father came and settled near him: Dock with his wife, Josephine, and Luther with his wife, Sally, and their father, Michael Alexander Brown. Joe and his wife, Mary, came in 1888, settling in Wills Point, Texas.

Michael A. Brown was born Dec. 25, 1819, in Rowan County and lived near Rockwell, N.C., most of his life until he followed his oldest son to Texas. Michael A. married Mary Jane Phillips. To this union were born:

Moses Alexander Brown, 1849-1926

William Joseph Brown, 1851-1907

Dock J. Brown, 1856-1932

Martin Luther Brown, 1856-1919

We do not know very much about our Grandfather, Michael A. Brown, but we know that he fought in the "War Between the States" and received a serious spinal injury. He was sent home and could not return to re-join his comrades in arms. When he realized

Mrs. Grace Baker Guidinger and the late Mrs. Florence Bovell, sisters of Dallas, Texas, are 6th generation descendants of Michael Braun, through his son, John.

the seriousness of his condition, he called his son, Moses, to him and told him he would have to go and take his place as "there was not a man to spare, and that he must go." Although only 16 years of age, Moses enlisted and served for the duration with honor to himself and others with whom he served. Michael never recovered from his injury.

1. MOSES ALEXANDER BROWN, son of Michael A. Brown, married Alice Krimminger, daughter of Judge Lewis Krimminger, who served as county judge many years. Eight children were born to this union, five while still in North Carolina:

Clarence Brown, born 1870
 Joe Brown, born 1872
 James Brown, born 1874
 Jennie Brown, born 1877
 Lewis Brown, born 1879
 Infant, born 1881-1881
 Florence Brown, born 1882
 Emma Elethia Brown, born 1885

Jennie died September 17, 1882. Another infant was buried in North Carolina. Alice, the wife of Moses, died of typhoid fever, September 17, 1885.

On August 19, 1886, Moses married Mary Ellen (Molly) Campbell (second wife), the daughter of Adam Dean Campbell, Justice of the Peace of a small town north of Memphis, Tennessee. There were nine children born to this union:

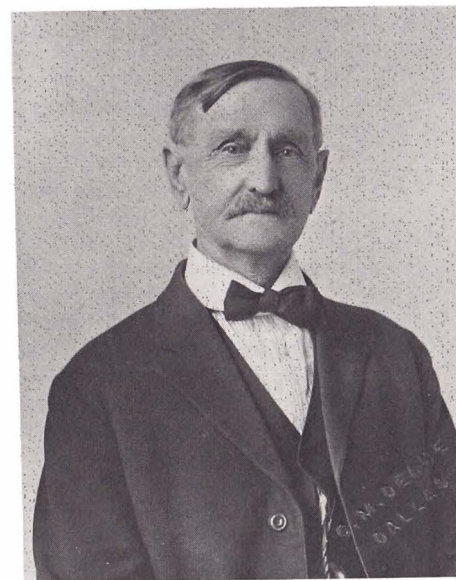
Marvin Brown, born 1887
 Roy Brown, born 1888-1888
 Dean Campbell Brown, born 1889-1890
 Harry Halbert Brown, born 1891
 Eugene Brown, born 1893
 Grace Ellena Brown, born 1895
 Mary Alice Brown, born 1897
 George T. Brown, born 1899
 Raymond R. Brown, born 1904

Marvin died at the age of ten. Eugene was killed in 1918 while breaking wild horses on a ranch in West Texas. Mary Ellen, Moses' second wife, died January 8, 1907, of pneumonia, leaving a large family of young children.

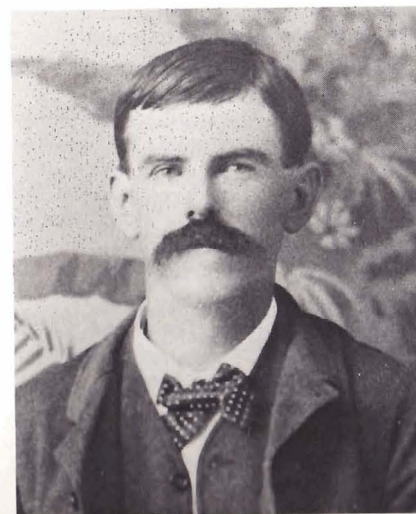
Moses A. Brown, as we have noted, was the father of 17 children. He was a farmer, as was his father before him. A very restless person, he was always trying new things. His ideas were more advanced than most farmers in his community. Known as a man of his word, he was active in his church, superintendent of Sunday School and sang in the choir. Through his efforts, he was able to get rural free delivery mail and telephone service in his community. He worked constantly for better roads.

a. Joe Brown, oldest son of Moses Alexander and Alice Brown, married Edna Motley, November 26, 1900. Joe, a civil engineer, had been grading roads and building bridges for a number of years before his marriage. He and the sheriff of Dallas County were very good friends, so he had Joe appointed as his special

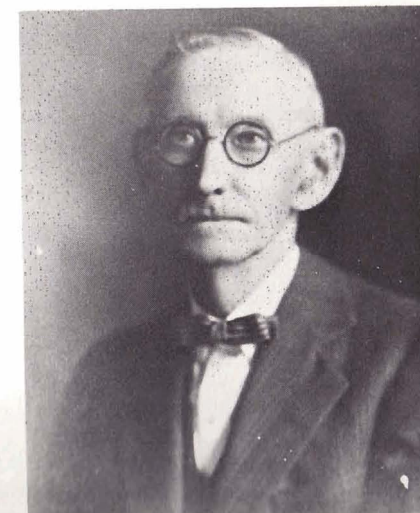
Three Brown Brothers Who Migrated To Texas
 (Great, great grandsons of Michael Braun)



Moses Alexander Brown
 1849 - 1926



Martin Luther Brown
 1856 - 1919



Dock J. Brown
 1856 - 1932

deputy. A fearless man, Joe disregarded any danger that came to him through his association with the sheriff.

Once he was called upon to assist in a raid that was causing trouble, and received a gun shot in his arm, severing all muscles between his elbow and shoulder. He never fully recovered and never gained full use of his arm.

Joe and Edna had two children, F. Martin and Beatrice. F. Martin spent most of his business life with the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company in the Engineering Department. He married Margie Wallis. They had two children, Martin Preston and a girl, who joined the waves and served 19 months, later marrying Robert Owen Brinck, a Marine, September 8, 1946. The Brincks had two children, Martin Preston and Debra Ellen. Joe Lee Brown, Martin's son, studied at Texas A & M in electrical engineering. He and his wife, Madlyn, had two children, Stephen Edward and Terry Frank.

Beatrice, Joe and Edna's daughter, married Chester Bates.

- b. James Luther Brown was the second son of Moses A. Brown. Jim, as he was affectionately called moved to California in about 1900. He was married in 1907 to Albertine Knoblauch of El Paso, Texas. He was employed by the Pacific Electric Company, then began working at the United States Post Office, a position that he held for a number of years. He later became a rancher in Golden Valley near San Bernadino, California.

Tina, as he called his wife, gave him one child, named Margaret. Her mother died when she was small. Margaret married Attorney Royal Hubbard, a member of the City Council of Santa Ana, California.

Later Jim married Jennie Bourland, his second wife. One child was born, Mary Alice. She married Pete McDonald. They had two children. When the children were quite small Pete passed away, leaving Mary Alice to rear the children alone. This she did well. The daughter, Stephanie is married to Melvin Haas of Orange, California. Robert, the son, gave her in marriage.

- c. Lewis Michael Brown, son of Moses A. and Alice Brown, was married to Irene Vaught in December of 1898. They farmed for a few years and during that time two children were born, Claud and Fred. They moved to Dallas in 1904 and Lewis was employed by the Dallas Railway Company. Through the influence of his older brother, Jim, who lived in Los Angeles, California, Lewis and family moved there. In March of 1906, their first baby girl, Ruth, was born. Soon after Ruth's birth, the mother, Irene, was taken ill and died. Mother Vaught came to live with them and helped care for the children.

Lewis Michael Brown was a chip off the old block (old Michael) and believed in laying a firm foundation in character for his children. He instilled into them the desire for a college education and everything resulting from such education. They began as small children to save for that end.

(1) Claud Brown, oldest child of Lewis Michael and Mattie

Irene Vaught Brown, was born in Van Zandt County, Texas, May 9, 1902. In 1906 the family moved to Los Angeles. He attended Antioch College where he was active in sports, receiving his football letter, and served as head of Student Government. It was there he met his first wife, Margaret Elizabeth Little, of Xenia, Ohio, also a student. They were married December 26, 1929, at which time he was head of the security analysis department of Lehman Brothers, New York City.

His wife, Margaret, died on October 16, 1962, after a brief illness. On Dec. 19, 1964, he married Wilma Fistner Weymouth, the widow of F. A. Weymouth. Claud has no children. Until his retirement on June 30, 1966, he was a member of the 38-man Council of Financial Executives of the National Industrial Conference Board and of the 35-member Treasurers' Club of New York.

Some years later, Lewis was married a second time to Mrs. Annie Dickey, a widow. To this union one child was born, Florence May. When she was about 12 years old, her mother, Annie, passed away. When Lewis first moved to California, he worked for the Pacific Electric Company, later the United States Post Office, a position he held until retirement.

In August 22, 1927 Lewis was married the third time. This time to Mrs. Ada Cowles. Together they did Volunteer Red Cross work. Lewis and Ada's children, Claud and Fred graduated from Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio. They had two daughters, Ruth and Florence. Ruth married before finishing her education, but has held an office in the United States Post Office for 30 years. She is married to Robert Milton a veteran of the First World War. He was badly injured in the great conflict and has never been well since. They have no children. Florence married James A. Lukens and they have two girls, Janice and Marion. Florence and Jimmie graduated from Muckingum College in Ohio, and have splendid musical educations. Janice spent one year in the University of Geneva in Switzerland.

- d. Florence Nay Brown, the oldest daughter of Moses Alexander and Alice Brown, was married to Samuel Claude Bovell, August 14, 1900. An artist of national reputation, Florence has been cited for her dedication to pioneering efforts in many field of civic, historical and religious endeavors.

These offices include the following: President of the Dallas Federation of Women's Clubs; the Dallas Women's Forum; the Dramatic Readers' Club; the Dallas Pen Women; the Trinity District of the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs and as a member of the Women's Committee for the Attorney General of Texas.

- e. Emma Alethia Brown, the youngest of the two daughters of Moses Alexander and Alice Brown, his first wife, died with typhoid fever when Emma was three months old. Emma was

married to Jesse V. Harris on December 10, 1899, at Myrtle Springs, Texas. Two children were born to this union — Jesse Lewis and Emma Alice. Soon after their marriage, they moved to Dallas, Texas, where Jesse was employed by the Dallas Railway System. When the children were eight and nine years old their father passed away.

In 1911, Emma Alethia was married to her second husband, Edgar Dugas, a commercial building contractor. During Emma Alethia's life time, she was interested in Social Service work among the poor and needy and was affectionately known by many as "Mamma Dugas". She passed away in 1959 at the age of 75. Edgar followed her in death March 7, 1965.

- (1) Jesse Lewis Harris, Emma Alethia's son, was associated with the Ford Motor Company as Production Control Superintendent until his retirement. He was married to Nell Shanks in 1927. No children were born to this union. Jesse is active in Masonic and Church work.
- (2) Emma Alice Harris, daughter of Emma Alethia Brown, attended Southern Methodist University, studying Journalism and Art. She was married in 1942 to R. W. H. McCullough; was widowed in 1943 and married again in 1952 to John C. Kramer who passed away in 1956. There were no children born to either marriage. Alice was in business as a furniture manufacturer and furniture designer.

- f. Grace Ellena Brown, daughter of Moses and Mary Ellen Brown, Moses' second wife, was married to Andrew Pope Hurst in 1912. Two girls were born to this union, Jewell Louise and Juanita Francis. Grace and Andrew were active in Parent-Teacher Association and in all of their church activities. He was an Elder and she was Superintendent of the Junior Department of the Sunday School. In 1937 Andrew passed away suddenly from a stroke.

In 1941 Grace was married to Marshall Edward Baker, her second husband. He was an Elder in his church. Ed had two children by his previous marriage. On August 13, 1963 Ed Baker passed away, quite suddenly, with a heart attack.

Grace is now married to Glenn G. Guidinger, her third husband and brother-in-law, widower of her sister, Alice.

- (1) Jewell Louise Hurst, first child of Grace and Andrew Hurst, was born July 13, 1914. She attended S.M.U. of Dallas. Judy, as she was called, married J. M. (Dale) Yost on December 14, 1931. Dale, formerly a resident of Salisbury, N. C., had grown up on a farm not far from the Old Stone House. One child was born of this union, Don Andrew Yost, July 5, 1937. Judy served in Rowan County Hospital as Red Cross Nurses Aide in the first class ever to train there. They lived in Sallsbury from 1942 to 1945. After moving to Dallas in 1951 Judy served in the Red Cross as a Grey Lady at Woodlawn Psychiatric Hospital. She has continued her studies in art, philosophy and psychology.

- (a) Don Andrew Yost, son of Judy and Dale Yost, was born in Dallas. He attended grade school in Salisbury, N. C. and was thirteen years old when the family moved back to Dallas. Don graduated from Crozier Technical High School in June 1955 with a rank of First Lieutenant. He was awarded a scholarship to Texas Christian University for Marksmanship in R.O.T.C. Rifle competition. For two years he ranked third in the top ten in the state. Passing up the scholarship, he later enrolled at Arlington State College for Engineering and transferred to North Texas State College in Denton, Texas, majoring in Business Administration.

On December 6, 1957, Don was married to Sue Beth Webster. They have two sons: Don Andrew, Jr., born August 11, 1959, and Dale Robert, born April 19, 1962. Their home is in Garland, Texas.

- (2) Juanita (Nita) Francis Hurst, youngest child of Grace and Andrew Hurst was married to Eugene (Gene) Kiowski, November 15, 1933. They have two children: Jeanne Francis and John Wayne. Gene served in the armed forces during the second World War. Nita took a training course in electronics and was employed by Lockheed Aircraft and worked in radio and installation and later was an inspector. In 1960 she built her own transmitter and receiver set and obtained a Ham Radio license.

- (a) Jeanne Francis Kiowski, first child of Nita and Gene Kiowski, was married to Fredrick (Fred) Stanley Foley, Jr. in 1952. Their two children are Gary Alan and Linda Diane.

- (b) John Kiowski, the youngest child of Nita and Gene, attended Crozier Tech High School where he majored in electronics. He was an honor student, receiving the coveted Linz Award Medal for achieving the highest scholastic record in science subjects during his high school career. He married Patsy Jean Huber of his graduating class of January, 1956, and attended Arlington State College. Twin girls were born to John and Pat: Jerry Lynn and Terry Elaine.

In 1960, John was married to Evelyn Elise Ellis, his second wife. They have three children: John Wayne, Jr., Karen Marie and Mark Wayne.

- g. Mary Alice Brown, daughter of Moses A. and Mary Brown, spent two years in Trinity University at Waxahachie, Texas. Later she moved to California where she attended U.C.L.A. and obtained her B.A. and B.E. degrees. Alice married Glenn G. Guidinger in 1925. She served in the Red Cross during the second World War. Glenn with a degree in engineering, served thirty-six years as Sales Engineer for Bethlehem Steel Company. Alice is now deceased.

- h. George T. Brown, next to the youngest of Moses A. and Mary Brown's children, has always been a very restless person. After finishing High School in Texas, he went to California, and then to Yellow Springs, Ohio, where he attended Antioch College for two years majoring in engineering. During the last illness of Moses, George returned to Texas to help Raymond care for their father.

After his father's death, George married Marie King. There were five children born to this union: Jean, Raymond, Lou Ann, Grace and Grady.

- (a) Jean married William Brewer, a Court Reporter. They have two children: Cynthia Anne and William, III.
- (b) Lou Ann is a graduate of Texas University at Austin. She married Warren Gill an architect. They have two children: Eric and Elaine.
- (c) Grace married John Emil Honegger and have one child, John Emil, III.
- (d) Grady is single and lives in Grand Prairie, Texas.
- (e) Raymond Lewis, oldest son, attended Arlington State College, Arlington, Texas. He served in the U.S. Army from 1951 to 1953 and was awarded the "Korean Service Medal", "Good Conduct Medal" and the "Bronze Star."

- i. Raymond R. Brown, youngest son of Moses and Mary Brown, married MaryBelle Payne. Soon after their marriage, they moved in with Moses Alexander Brown to care for him during his illness, which lasted almost two years. Raymond has served as a Deacon in his church for many years.

2. WILLIAM JOSEPH BROWN (Joe), second son of Michael A. and Mary Brown, was a farmer. He was the last of the four brothers to go to Texas. It was about 1888 that he and his wife, Mary, with their seven living children moved to near Wills Point, Texas. After moving to Texas three additional children were born. Their 12 children were:

John Michael Brown
James Wilborn Brown
Luther Brown — died in infancy
Sarah Jane Brown
Albert Eugene Brown
Charles Tranthum Brown
Fannie Mozelle Brown
Arthur Walter Brown
Homer Brown — died in infancy

Born to Joe and Mary in Texas:

Minnie Leona Brown
Bessie Mae Brown
Arthur Francis Brown

Mary, the mother, passed away in 1900 and Joe died in 1907.

- a. John Michael (Mike), b. 1873, oldest son of William Joseph and Mary Brown, was about 15 years old when the family moved to Texas. In 1893 he married Mary Ann Yoes. Six children were born to this union: Edgar Lee, Wilborn Sidney, Beulah Nell,

John Henry, Mary E. and William Albert Broughton. Mike was an Elder in the Presbyterian Church and active in politics and in Community affairs. He died in 1937. Mary died in 1962.

- (1) Wilborn Sidney, b. 1895, second son of John Michael and Millie Ann Brown, was married to Lela Mae Bolt in 1919. One son was born to them: Willie Lewis. Wilborn passed away in 1958. Willie Lewis married Bettie Grath on Feb. 8, 1945. They have one child Dianne Lee.
 - (2) John Henry, b. 1899, third son of John Michael and Millie, was married to Winnie Rodo Gilbert in 1921. Henry, a farmer, was well loved in his church and community. Henry and Winnie Rodo had two daughters: Dorothy Lee and Doris Maria.
 - (a) Dorothy married C. L. Bateman and have four children: Billie Jack, Bobbie Jean, Anna Dee, Johnnie and Maria. Bobbie Jean married Steve Holland of De Soto, Texas, January 16, 1965.
 - (b) Doris Maria married Bob Belzle, April 19, 1958. They have one child, John Robert.
 - (3) William Albert Broughton, b. 1903, youngest son of Mike and Millie Brown, married Cordie Viola Browder. They have a son, William Ralph.
 - (4) Edgar, b. 1894, (5) Beulah, b. 1897, (6) Mary, b. 1901, — These three never married and still live on the family farm where their parents moved soon after their marriage.
- b James Wilborn, second son of William Joseph Brown, was about fourteen years old when the family left North Carolina. He married Lulu Stewart in June 1900. Four children were born: Beulah, Audia Mae, Oscar William, and Charles Adolphus. Lulu passed away in 1939, and Wilborn in 1940.
- c. Albert Eugene, fifth child of William Joseph and Mary Brown, was married about 1900 to Lena Fuller. To this union was born one child, Mary Opel. Albert and Lena were divorced in 1909. Albert and his second wife, Lilly Bell Fitts, were married in 1917. She died in 1919. Albert married Sarah Moore, his third wife, in 1931.
- d. Charles Tranthum (Charlie), sixth child of William Joseph and Mary Brown, was married to Ollie Glenderia Hines in 1904. They had one son, Charles Shortel. Charles Tranthum was killed in an automobile accident in 1949. Charles Shortel was married to Nancy Ruby Robinett in August of 1939. They have two children: Wilson Alan and Loyce Nanette.
- e. Arthur Walter, son of William Joseph and Mary Brown, was married to Mrs. Mollie Turner, a widow, in February 1908. They have two children: Medford and Leah Myrtle. Mollie died several years ago. Medford and Leah married a brother and sister (names unknown to writer).
- f. Minnie Leona, daughter of William Joseph and Mary Brown, was born Dec. 7, 1895 in Wills Point, Texas. She married Robert Lee Hunt on April 4, 1912. Two sons were born to this union:

William Dalton and Harold Lee. Robert Lee Hunt passed away April 14, 1936. Minnie worked in the Traffic Department of Western Union for 38 years and retired in 1956.

- (1) William Dalton Hunt served eight years in the Navy during World War II.
 - (2) Harold Lee Hunt was an Aerial Cameraman of the armed forces with headquarters in Rome.
 - g. Bessie Mae Brown, daughter of William Joseph and Mary Brown, was born at Wills Point, Texas, in 1897. She was married to Fred Fuhlendorf on November 20, 1923. Fred passed away in 1951. There were no children.
3. DOCTOR JAMES BROWN and his wife, Josephine, met and were later married in the Lower Stone Church near Rockwell, North Carolina. This church, a historic stone structure built in 1795, is closely related to the Browns and Fishers of Rowan County. To this union were born the following children:
- a. Effie Cone Brown
 - b. Luck G. Brown
 - c. William Brown
 - d. Luther L. Brown
 - e. J. Frank Brown

Doctor Brown, better known as Uncle Dock, was a merchant in Mesquite for a number of years, running a general merchandising store. He passed away in 1932.

- (1) Effie Cone Brown married J. T. Davis and had two children: Ruth, who became buyer of Cosmetics for Titcher-Goettinger in Dallas, and Odell, the son, had a serious automobile accident, from which he never fully recovered. He passed away in November of 1946. J. T. Davis, the father, was an officer in their town and was killed in the line of duty.
- (2) Luck and William have been gone for a number of years. Luther and Frank are still living.

The following is a brief resume of the life of J. Frank Brown as written by himself:

"My birthplace was China Grove, North Carolina. The date, May 5, 1883. My father and mother were Doctor James and Josephine Brown. There were four sons and one daughter. I was the youngest.

We were processed and headed for Texas and landed in Mesquite on the shank of that same year. For a number of years we eked out a scant living by farming and raising children to the extent of ten.

My father spent many years in the general merchandising business in that country town. I grew up to my early twenties there.

Two years, 1907 and 1908, I spent in Colorado, Utah and Arizona brushing off the bigger part of my wild ideas.

I came back to Dallas and was connected for 52 years with several major oil companies.

I retired in 1961 and have done little since except count my money, spend a little sunshine, and talk about my kinfolks.

In 1915 I married Thelma Pratt. On March 3, 1965, we celebrated our golden wedding anniversary. She was entitled to a purple heart. We have lived together all these years, with never a shot fired, and still going good, counting all the ups and downs.

We have raised three children, two boys and a girl. The elder boy is crowding 50 and is in the Insurance Business. The daughter is Mrs. H. K. Leathers. Her husband is a lawyer and a Doctor of Optometry. They live in Muskogee, Oklahoma. Our youngest son, J. F. Brown, Jr., is past 40 and has spent all his working life in oil laboratories.

We have six grandchildren. The oldest is 27 years old, our daughter's son. He is a young doctor and is on a Jet Carrier.

This is about all that I would be willing to tell.

Lots of love, happiness and success to both the Fishers and Brown families.

Yours truly,
J. F. Brown"

Dock and Josephine's older children were born in North Carolina. After coming to Texas, four additional children were born:

- (1) Hugh Brown
- (2) Annie Brown
- (3) Eula Brown
- (4) Ollie Brown.

- (a) Hugh and Annie lived in Mesquite. Ollie and Eula passed away years ago. Ollie had no children. Eula had two children.

4. MARTIN LUTHER BROWN was a contractor and builder. He was pleasing in appearance, happy in disposition, and a man of intelligence. He passed away suddenly in Dec. 1919.

Luther's wife was Geneva Callie King. Their children were:

- (1) Lonnie R. Brown
- (2) Maidie Dot Brown
- (3) Gussie Beulah Brown
- (4) Cleo C. Brown

All other members of the family of Martin Luther passed away a number of years ago. They were Martin Luther, Callie, Beulah and Lonnie, the older son.

Thus, we have endeavored to acquaint the reader with some interesting characteristics and accomplishments of the Texas Browns from Rowan, along with some genealogical information.

Florence Nay Bovell
and
Grace Ellena Guldinger
Dallas, Texas



MRS. PETER BROWN
1760-1816

Susana Brown, daughter-in-law of Michael Braun, married Michael's second son, Peter Brown. She was the daughter of George Bruner. As Peter's wife she was the mother of nine children and a host of Brown descendants.

CHAPTER XIII



The Family of Peter Brown

by Virginia Black Deal

Peter Brown, the second son of Margareda and Michael Braun, was born in 1756.

On March 11, 1777, he was married to Miss Susana Bruner, daughter of Mr. George Bruner. They resided in Rowan County, North Carolina, and were the parents of three sons and six daughters.

One of the delights of Bertie Peterson Black's childhood was to listen to the fascinating stories told by her grandmother, Virginia Brown Peacock, daughter of Michael Brown II, and granddaughter of Peter Brown, of life in Salisbury, North Carolina, where she lived in a lovely house on the corner of South Main and Bank Streets. This home was built by her father in 1841, and had a gracefully curving stair, many handsome mirrors in the hall and drawing rooms, and a grand ballroom on the third floor. The house was famed for a large front door with frame of hand-carved border of Greek key design and arched fanlight; a gracefully curving stair; a curved window which occupied the wall space just above it; and a curved door, doubled paneled, lovely to look at that stood just below the curving stair, which fitted beautifully into the wall's embrace. The entire hall with its curved accessories was a marvel of the section. The house was known as one of Salisbury's most gracious. The wide front porch with its beautiful door was distinguished by a wrought iron railing, and steps de-

Mrs. Everette Deal, a member of the Brown Historical Committee and a past president of the Brown-Fisher Association, is a 7th generation descendant of Michael Braun through his son, Peter.

scended gracefully at each end.

Life was very pleasant for this daughter of Michael Brown, a prosperous merchant, and prominent citizen of Rowan County.

As the story goes Michael and George Brown married sisters, daughters of Alexander Long, Sr. of Yadkin's Ferry. These brothers were partners in a very successful merchandising business.

There were stories of a happy marriage to a young attorney, William Mitchel Peacock, son of a Presbyterian minister, and of living in Madison, Florida, on a large plantation.

Then there were not so-happy stories for the War between the States took the young husband and the father-in-law, and the plantation. And stories were told of a long ride in a wagon with her four children, and only an elderly Negro couple to help — a ride all the way from Florida to Salisbury and to her father's house again.

My mother loved these stories and longed to visit Salisbury and see the beautiful house.

During the nineteen hundred forties and fifties, Mother's interest in the Brown history was rekindled by the Reverend Roscoe Brown Fisher and she determined to compile her family's genealogy. She wrote numerous letters to cousins and others seeking information. But though she collected much material the Peter Brown family history was not published.

My mother, Bertie Peterson Black is in her ninetieth year and unable to rewrite these facts now, but I have attempted to compile the information she gathered on Peter Brown and his family and now present this in her honor and in loving memory of my grandmother, Lillian Peacock Peterson, whose interesting stories of her childhood captivated me.

Peter Brown died on October 31, 1812, at the age of 56. His wife Susana died November 14, 1816, at 55 years of age. They were the parents of nine children:

The Peter Brown Bible, printed in German, on display in the Old Stone House lists the following:

"Peter Brown Bible for Susana his wife." (printed in German)

"Peter & Susana Brown have married on Thursday March 11th, 1777."

"My daughter Mary was born 20th of Genary 1778 under the planet Mars on Weneday."

"My 2 daughter Margreat was born on the 26th day of July 1780 on Wennesday morning under the planet Leo."

"My 3 daughter Susana was born on 19th day of May 1783 on Monday under the planet Nonebush."

"My 4th daughter Elesebeth was born on the 21 day of Jenary 1786 on Satterday in the sign of the scales."

"My first son Peter was born 28th day of July 1788 under the planet Mercury in the sign of the twins."

"My 5th daughter Sabine was born 2 day of August 1792 under the planet Jufiter & sign of Ma - e on Tuesday."

"My son Michael was born on the 2nd day of December 1793 under the planet of the Lon(?) in sign of Luch(?)"

"My daughter Anabarbarly was born on the 28 day of Jenary 1797 on Sunday."

"My son George Washington was born on the 26 day of December 1800."

"My granddaughter Susannah Bowen was born the 13th day of April A. D. 1796."

Peter Brown first settled about two miles east of Salisbury, but soon moved into town. He purchased the building on the west corner of Main and Innes Streets where he carried on a store for many years.

In the old days customers came to Salisbury from nearby counties and also from Kentucky, Tennessee and other states to trade their home and farm produce for goods. The town was prosperous and a trading center of wide reputation.

We do not have a complete record of Peter Brown's children. However, it has been handed down that:

1. Mary — born 20 January 1778, married Barney Bowers.
2. Margaret — born 26 July 1780, married Joseph Chambers of Iredell County, and was the mother of Major P. B. Chambers of Statesville.
3. Susana — born 19 May 1783, married Mr. Thompson of Randolph.
4. Elizabeth — born 21 January 1786, died 31 December 1857, married Thomas Lincoln Cowan on 26 April 1810. Their daughter Mary, born 28 June 1828, married Josephus W. Hall on December 1, 1853. (They had no children.) Their daughter Charlotte, born 22 July 1813, and died 10 December 1866, married Joel Hicker-son Jenkins on November 5, 1840.
5. Sarah M. (Sabine) — born 2 August 1792, married Dr. Horace B. Satterwhite. She died July 10, 1832, age 40 years, 11 months, 23

days, according to marker in the old Lutheran cemetery in Salisbury.

6. George W. — born December 26, 1800, married a daughter of Alexander Long, Sr. He died on December 18, 1852.
7. Michael, second son of Peter and older than George W., was born December 2, 1793, and died June 6, 1871. He married Isabella Marie Long, daughter of Alexander Long, Sr. She was born on April 22, 1801, and died May 2, 1850, at the age of 49. Michael and Isabella Marie had a number of children. We will go back to Michael and list his children.

Michael, son of Peter and grandson of Michael Braun of the Old Stone House, was an elder in the First Presbyterian Church of Salisbury. It was he who built the lovely home on the corner of South Main and Bank in 1841. Any visiting ministers were usually entertained in the Michael Brown home. During the decades following its building the house was known as one of Salisbury's most gracious. (An article by Valerie Nicholson about this house was published in the Salisbury Evening Post in 1944.)

It is interesting to note that Michael and George W. not only married the Long sisters, but they carried on their father's mercantile business together. And after the death of his first wife, Michael married Elizabeth Long, her niece.

Michael had a number of children:

- (1) Peter (died young)
- (2) Alexander (1823 died young)
- (3) Edward W. born Jan. 20, 1825, and died Aug. 23, 1854, was a doctor; married Jane McConneyghe, and had a son:
 - a. Arthur B.
- (4) Laura — married Joseph Chambers, died at age 22 — (No children)
- (5) Lou (1835-1920) married Captain Potts — (no children)
- (6) Lee — married Sadie Canup —
Their children:
 - a. Sadie — Married Isador Strauss of New York. They lost their lives when the Titanic ship sank —
 - b. Burnard
 - c. Caldwell
 - d. William
 - e. Jennie
 - f. Edward
 - g. Scott — had a son:
 - (a) Armfield Brown — He lived in Columbia, S. C.
- (7) Calvin —
- (8) Susan — buried at Raleigh
- (9) Harriette — First married a Dr. James
Three children were born to this union:

- a. Alex
- b. Annie
- c. Alice

(This Dr. James was always reported to have been the son or grandson of Hinton James, first student to matriculate at the University of North Carolina.)

After the death of Dr. James, Harriette married Reverend Scherer, widower, with six sons, all ministers, and one daughter who married a Lutheran minister. Harriette and Reverend Scherer had one son:

- a. James, A. B.,
who became a missionary to Japan and president of Newberry College. He wrote "Japan Today", "Four Princes", "Young Japan", etc.
(James A. B. Scherer, Ph.D., L.L.D.)

- (10) Virginia — born 1833 and died July 19, 1912, married William Mitchel Peacock, an attorney, who was born in 1829, son of the Reverend William N. Peacock, a Presbyterian minister.

Virginia and her husband moved to Madison, Florida, and lived with or near his father and an uncle, who was a doctor. They owned a number of slaves. The story has been handed down that during the War Between the States, William refused a commission in the Confederate army, but volunteered as a private so that he could be with his younger brother.

William contracted pneumonia and was sent home, but died in 1864. We are not informed as to what happened to the younger brother. His father died in Florida, but his body was later removed to Valdosta, Georgia.

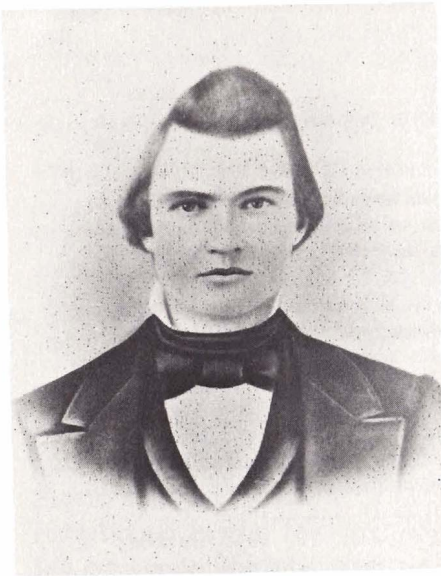
Virginia Brown and William Peacock had a son and three daughters:

- a. Robert Harley — born October 4, 1857 — died April 20, 1935
- b. Annie — born 1855 and died 1943
- c. Carrie
- d. Lillian White — born February 27, 1860 and died April 19, 1941.

(Later we will go back to the families of Robert Harley, Annie, and Carrie.)

Lillian White Peacock often told of coming from Florida to North Carolina in a wagon, after the death of her father. She was only four or five years of age when her mother brought her children home through war torn country.

Michael Brown, father of Virginia Brown Peacock, bought a

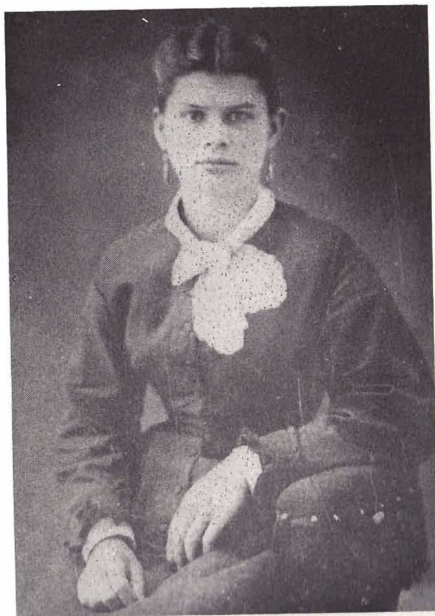


William Mitchell Peacock
1829-1864



Mrs. William Mitchell Peacock
1833-1912

(Mrs. Peacock was Virginia Brown, daughter of Michael Brown II and Isabella Marie Long)



Lillian W. Peacock, age 19
1860-1941
(Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. William Peacock)



Bertie Loring Peterson, age 18
1883-
(Daughter of Lillian W. Peacock)

house in Newton, North Carolina, for his two widowed daughters, Harriette and Virginia. They lived there and taught piano, and reared their children. (Later Virginia married a Mr. Killian.)

Lillian Peacock married Melville Brown Peterson on September 19, 1878. He was born December 19, 1851, the son of the Reverend Jesse R. Peterson, a Lutheran minister, and died December 22, 1918. The M. B. Peterson family resided in Stanley, North Carolina, where he was in the merchandising business, operated a farm out from town, and was active in politics in Gaston County.

They had the following children:

- Jessie Viola — born August 7, 1879
- Charles Alonzo — born February 20, 1881
- Bertie Loring — born August 5, 1883
- Alice Irene — born July 23, 1885
- Katie Virginia — born September 22, 1887
- Robert Edgar — born June 9, 1890
- Ethel — born February 21, 1892
- Mary Grace — born September 16, 1894
- Bessie Oehler — born February 22, 1897
- Lillian Brown — born April 30, 1900

1. Jessie Viola Peterson, born 1879 and died in 1965, married in 1906 the Reverend Milton Whitener, a minister of the Reformed Church, who was born in 1881 and died in 1952. He served in various churches and later was bursar and business manager of Catawba College for a number of years. They had three daughters:
 - a. Catherine Viola — born 1908
 - b. Mary Elizabeth — born 1916
 - c. Margaret Virginia, born 1911, married Hal Kelly Goode, born 1908 and died August 16, 1973. They were married in 1941 and have two sons:
 - (1) Michael Kelly, born May 1, 1942, on Sept. 4, 1965 married Margaret Ann Hardy, born Feb. 17, 1944. They have two sons:
 - (a) Jeffrey Kelly, born April 5, 1968
 - (b) Vance Hardy, born March 30, 1971
 - (2) Gregory Milton Goode, born July 23, 1945; on Dec. 20, 1970 married Peggy Earle Ipock, born April 23, 1945.
2. Charles Alonzo Peterson, born in 1881, and died in 1962. He was a veteran of the Spanish-American War. In 1909 he married Nellie Davis. They had the following children:
 - a. Bessie Brown — born in 1910, married Scott Wood. Their son:
 - (1) Bobby — born in 1938

- b. Maxwell married Hilda Barr and they have three children:
 (1) Jack
 (2) Priscilla
 (3) Ronald
- c. Polly — was born in 1919 and died in 1924.
- d. Charles A., Jr. — born in 1923, married Dorothy Hock,
 Their son:
 (1) William David — born in 1948
- e. Jack E. — born in 1929, married Mariam Moore.
 (The Charles A. Peterson family moved to California a number of years ago.)
3. Bertie Loring Peterson, born August 5, 1883, on June 7, 1905, was married to Luther David Black, born June 23, 1879, and died April 13, 1940. He was owner of a merchandising business on Main Street in Lenoir for many years.
- a. Mildred Lillian — born May 2, 1906, on December 25, 1928, married Leonard Cornell Atwell, born in 1905, lives in Charlotte. They have two daughters:
 (1) Dorothy Estelle — born December 14, 1929, on September 18, 1948, married John Patrick Terry, born in 1923.
 Their children are:
 (a) Mildred Lorraine — born 1949 married J. Allen Philbeck
 Their children:
 1. Gregory Allen — born 1973
 (b) John Patrick — born March 20, 1951
 (c) Timothy Nathan — born Oct. 30, 1961
 (2) Karolyn Virginia — born Oct. 20, 1936, on Feb. 1, 1959, married Gordon Meredith Thornton, born 1937. They have three sons:
 (a) Clifton Cornell — born 1960
 (b) Meredith Alan — born 1962
 (c) Gordon Edward — born 1964
 (3) A son, Leonard Cornell, died shortly after birth in 1938.
- b. Luther David — born November 2, 1907, married on July 22, 1936, Martha Lorene Mauney, born Jan. 4, 1909, daughter of Marcus L. Mauney. They live in Charlotte.
- c. Mary Virginia — born April 12, 1910, married Marcus Everette Deal, born August 16, 1904, son of Eli Milton Deal. They were married on June 17, 1935, and live in Newton. They have one daughter:
 (1) Sarah Virginia — born February 14, 1939, and married to Larry Charles Bostian, born November 10, 1934. They were married on September 5, 1959, and live in Charlotte.
 Their children are:
 (a) Ida Elizabeth — born December 3, 1964
 (b) Charles Marcus — born October 4, 1968
- d. Ruth Peterson Black, born January 7, 1912, married James Sherrod Tuttle, son of Rev. Magruder Tuttle, on August 19, 1937.
 They live in Lenoir, N. C. and have three daughters:
 (1) Amelia Rachel — born April 10, 1941, and married Firman W. Beckwith on September 30, 1962.
 Their children are:

- (Twins:) (a) Rachel Adelle — born 1963
 (b) Carla Ruth — born 1963
 (c) Firman Alexander — born 1968
 (2) Patricia Ruth — born on September 12, 1944
 (3) Anna Sherrod — born on August 14, 1954
- e. Sarah Ethel Black — born on February 4, 1917, married Anton Haraldsen on October 10, 1944. They live in Richmond, Illinois, where he teaches in high school.
- f. Rodney Alfred Black — born on July 20, 1928 and died May 16, 1936.
4. Alice Irene Peterson — born July 23, 1885, and married Walter L. Mason, born in 1883 and died in 1950. She died September 7, 1970. This family lived in Mebane.
 Their sons were:
 a. Walter L. — born 1911, married Mary Margaret Hollingsworth.
 They have one son:
 (1) Walter Hollingsworth — born in 1949
 b. Robert H. born in 1912, married Frances Fulton.
 Their daughter is:
 (1) Frances Fulton —
 Married to Robert F. Bladwin
 c. Marvin H. — born 1916, married Harriette Weatherly.
 They have three sons:
 (1) Marvin H. —, married to Mary Alice Huss
 (2) John W.
 (3) G. David
 d. Joe B. Mason — born in 1914 and died in 1964
 e. Thomas Edward — born in 1917 and died in 1918
5. Katie Virginia Peterson — born Sept. 26, 1887 and died Oct. 20, 1917, married the Reverend James Francis Deal, a Lutheran minister. Their children:
 a. James Francis — born 1911, married Vada Hatley, who was born in 1912. They live in Landis, N.C. and their children are:
 (1) Charles Steven — born in 1936, married Nancy Goforth
 (2) James Francis III — born in 1938, married Frankie Wolfe. Their children are:
 (a) Sandra Leigh — born in 1962
 (b) Mark Alan — born in 1964
 (3) Judith Belinda — born in 1941, married Bob Spencer.
 b. Charles Calvin — born in 1913 and lost at sea in 1938
 c. Elizabeth Virginia — born in 1915, married Jephtha McKnight and lives in York, S. C. Their children are:
 (1) Donald Eugene — born in 1938, married Ingrid Hilfenhaus.
 (2) Martha Virginia — born 1941, married Charles Thomas Blackwell.
 (3) Richard Gettys — born 1944, married Cecilia Jane Ferguson.
 d. Sarah Lillian — born 1917 died in infancy —
6. Robert Edgar Peterson — born June 9, 1890, married Elizabeth Clary on October 7, 1917. For a number of years he was representative for the Southern Railway system and lived in Charlotte, where he died on August 12, 1936. (No children)

7. Ethel Peterson, born Feb. 21, 1892, married William Alexander Goodwin. They lived in Charlotte where he was a highly respected salesman in the printing, publishing enterprises. Their children:
- a. Lillian Josephine — born in 1919, married the Reverend David F. Cooper, a Lutheran minister, on January 2, 1942.
Their sons are:
 - (1) David Mark — born December 6, 1942
He is a Lutheran minister. Married Sandra Green.
 - (2) Paul Robert — born in 1944 and is a Lutheran minister.
Married Debbie Ash.
Their daughter:
 - (a) Mary Ashley
 - (3) Stephen Goodwin — born 1950. Married Gail Miller.
Their daughter:
 - (a) Dale Elizabeth
 - (4) Michael James — born 1959
 - b. Robert Evens — born in 1930, married Betty Jean Fowler on October 6, 1956. They live in Charlotte and their children are:
 - (1) Robert Evens — born 1957
 - (2) Sandra Jean — born 1959
 - c. William Alexander Goodwin, Jr. — born 1916 and died in 1921
 - d. Melvin Brown — born in 1922 and died in 1924
 - e. Betty Ann — born in 1925 and died in 1927
 - f. Ralph Bonner — born in 1927 and died in 1928
8. Mary Grace Peterson — born Sept. 1894, married Marvin C. Filler. He was connected with the B&O Railroad in Washington, D.C. for a number of years. He died in 1967. They lived in Lovettsville, Virginia, and had one daughter.
- a. Dorothy Peterson — born in 1922, married James W. Graham, who was born in 1921. They live in Warrenton, Virginia.
Their children:
 - (1) James William — born in 1947
 - (2) Mary Susan — born in 1949
 - (3) Robert Filler — born in 1959
9. Bessie Oehler — born Feb. 22, 1897, married on October 7, 1921 Robert A. Wyckoff, born in 1898. They lived in Stanley, N. C., where he operated a garage. He was killed in an automobile accident August 15, 1943. (On Dec. 14, 1960 she married Richard Rhyne.)
Children were:
- a. Robert Andrew — born in 1923, lives in Lancaster, South Carolina
 - b. Doris Irene — born in 1928, married Blair A. Hall on January 2, 1947.
Their children are:
 - (1) Stephen Blair — born 1947
Married Cathy McDaniel
 - (2) Deborah Dianne — born in 1950
Married Charlie Young
Their children:
 - (a) Jody Dianne — born Nov. 29, 1973
10. Lillian Brown Peterson — born April 30, 1900, died April 4, 1937, married James Earl Smith on September 30, 1920. They lived in Stanley

where at one time he served as Mayor.

Their children:

- a. Helen Brown Smith — born September 13, 1923.
Married J. Matthew Boddie on Nov. 1, 1941, and lives in Charleston, S. C.
Their children:
 - (1) James Matthew — born in 1944, married Sandra Jannelle Garnett
Their children:
 - (a) James Matthew Boddie, III — born 1965
 - (b) Wendie Lynn Boddie — born 1967
 - (2) Nancy Gwendolyn — born in 1947
 - (3) Daniel Peterson — born in 1952
 - (4) Lisa Michelle — born in 1958
- b. Miriam Earl Smith — born 1926, married Jake Allen McGinnis, and lives in Stanley, N. C.
Their children:
 - (1) Jake Allen — born 1941, married (1st) Marilyn Kay Smith & (2nd) Betty Jean Mullis
 - (a) Gary Lloyd — born 1960
 - (b) Marilyn Leigh — born 1964
 - (2) Janet Lillian — born 1946, married Timothy Alfred Bumgarner
Their children:
 - (a) Jason Heath — born April 15, 1970
 - (b) Rodney Taylor — born Nov. 2, 1973
 - (3) Edward Earl — born 1954
- c. James Franklin Smith — born 1931, married Jean McIntyre.
This family lives in Atlanta, Georgia. He is an Attorney.
Their children:
 - (1) Bryant Killian — born in 1957
 - (2) Jean Allyson — born 1960
 - (3) Miriam Louise — born 1963
 - (4) Earl Stuart — born Dec. 16, 1966

Lillian White Peacock Peterson, wife of Melville Brown Peterson and mother or grandmother of the descendants mentioned, was greatly loved by all of them. She died on April 29, 1941, and was buried in the churchyard of Christ Lutheran Church in Stanley, North Carolina.
Now we will go back to the son and other daughters of Virginia Brown and William Peacock: (Virginia was the daughter of Michael, and granddaughter of Peter)

 1. Robert Harley Peacock — born October 4, 1857 and died April 20, 1935; married Mary Jane Creighton, born July 10, 1847 and died May 3, 1920. They lived in Rock Hill, S. C. and had two daughters:
 - a. Bessie Hope — born June 26, 1882 and died July 16, 1950
 - b. Mary Harley — born June 7, 1886, married David McNabb Mackintosh. They lived in Rock Hill, S. C. and had three children:
 - (1) Mary Lula — born July 22, 1913
married Nicolas Dunton in 1941.
(Lives in Memphis, Tenn.)

Their children:

- (a) Nicolus — born 1942
- (b) Mary Hope — born 1945
- (2) David McNabb — born May 25, 1916, married Ida Harriette Watson in 1940, lives in Charlotte, N. C., and has a son:
 - (a) David McNabb Mackintosh, III
- (3) Robert Harley — born May 29, 1920, married Mary Elizabeth Fewell in 1944, is a dentist in Rock Hill, S. C., and has two sons:
 - (a) Richard Fewell — born 1946
 - (b) Robert Harley — born 1950

2. Annie Peacock — born in 1855 and died in 1943, first married Mr. Oehler. They had one daughter:

- a. Clara — born in 1873, married William Buck

Their daughter:

- (1) Elizabeth — married John Meddleton

After the death of Mr. Oehler, Annie married Lovard James, her first cousin. They lived in Salisbury, N. C. and their children were:

- a. H. Herbert — born March 6, 1878 and died Jan. 23, 1950; on December 17, 1901, married Jennie Mae Love, who was born in 1884. They lived in Charlotte, N. C. and in Jacksonville, Florida. They had three children:

- (1) Hinton James — born Dec. 17, 1902, married Hallie Griffin, born in 1904, and lives in Jacksonville, Florida. Their children:

- (a) Margaret — born in 1925
- (b) Harold — born in 1928

- (2) Norman James — born in 1909, on April 10, 1936 married Dorothy Curington, born in 1911. They live in Charlotte, N. C. Their children are:

- (a) Mae Love — born in 1937
- (b) Champ — born in 1941
- (c) Sandra — born in 1944
- (d) Michael — born in 1946

- (3) W. A. James — born in 1906, on March 7, 1926 married Flonnie Holmes, born in 1908. They live in Chattahoochee, Florida. Their children:

- Twins: (a) Ralph — born in 1928
- (b) Robert — born in 1928
- (c) Vickie — born in 1945

- b. Walter James — born in 1886 was married twice and had two girls by each marriage. (Lived in Orange, Virginia)

- (1) Clara — born in 1908
- (2) Helen — born in 1914
- (3) Elizabeth Anne — born in 1929
- (4) Patsy Rebecca — born in 1932

- c. Daysie James — daughter of Annie Peacock and Lovard James

- d. Ernest James — son of Annie Peacock and Lovard James (We do not have the history of Daysie and Ernest)

3. Carrie Peacock — daughter of Virginia Brown and William Peacock, married Samuel Oats. Their children were:

- a. Mitchel
- b. Orval or Orville
- c. Fred
- d. Minnie — married J. D. Butler and lived in Salisbury. They had a son and two or three daughters, one of whom married a Fisher.

Now we will return to *Elizabeth*, fourth daughter of *Peter and Susana Brown*, who was born 21 January 1786, and married Thomas Lincoln Cowan on 26 April 1810. Their daughter Charlotte, born 22 July 1813, married Joel Hickerson Jenkins on November 5, 1840.

Children of Charlotte Cowan and Joel Hickerson Jenkins were:

- 1. Elizabeth Cowan Jenkins — born October 1, 1842, died January 26, 1902; married E. Nye Hutchison on July 26, 1865. (This couple had eleven children and we will return to them later.)
- 2. Ella Jenkins, born January 14, 1846, married Armstead Burwell (later North Carolina Supreme Court Judge) died November 28, 1907)
- 3. Sally — born January 9, 1849, married Dr. John H. McAden on October 12, 1871, and died January 8, 1934.
- 4. John H. — born October 8, 1851, died March 1885 — never married.
- 5. Charlotte Cowan (Lottie) — born June 4, 1853, married Walter C. Maffitt, died September 23, 1917.

Soon after the War Between the States the Jenkins family moved to Charlotte.

Children of Elizabeth Cowan Jenkins and Dr. E. Nye Hutchison were:

- (1) Thomas Jenkins, born June 6, 1866, died October 8, 1866
- (2) Susan Nye — born June 10, 1867, died Sept. 17, 1889
- (3) Charlotte Cowan (Charlee) — born March 7, 1869, died October 6, 1936
- (4) Mary Cowan, born August 8, 1871, died Sept. 9, 1889
- (5) Joel Jenkins — born Nov. 2, 1873, died April 25, 1964
- (6) Bessie Jenkins — born May 18, 1876
- (7) Anna Locke — born March 2, 1878, married Thomas Clancy Evans
- (8) Ebenezer Nye — born Feb. 17, 1880, died Jan. 30, 1968
- (9) Francis Cowan — born April 22, 1885
- (10) John Cowan — born August 5, 1886, died Nov. 1888
- (11) Robert Stuart — born August 20, 1882, married Sarah Grant Claywell, born Feb. 23, 1895 and died May 1, 1971.

Mr. Hutchison is a well known Attorney-at-law in Charlotte and has been a ruling elder of Old Second (now Covenant) Presbyterian Church. He is a dedicated churchman. I am indebted to him for the information on the Cowan, Jenkins and Hutchison families.

Robert Stuart Hutchison and Sarah Grant Claywell had two children:

- a. Robert Stuart — born July 25, 1920 and married Mary Tyler Montague.

Their children:

- (1) Robert Stuart, III
- (2) Tyler Nye
- (3) Debra

- b. Bettie Jenkins — born October 21, 1921. Bettie is secretary at the Presbyterian Foundation.

The family Bible of Peter and Susanna Brown was presented by Robert Stuart Hutchison and Miss Bessie J. Hutchison and their brothers and sisters

to the Rowan County Museum. It is now on display in the "Old Stone House".

We are justly proud of our ancestors for they have left us a story of courage, steadfastness, faithfulness to duty, and an abiding faith in Almighty God.

One of the purposes of this record is to inspire our children and their descendants to live in such a way as to bring honor to their name.

In these changing times, it is well to remember the fifth commandment — "Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God commanded you; that your days may be prolonged; and that it may go well with you, in the land which the Lord your God gives you."

(For part of the information given we acknowledge an indebtedness to *The History of Rowan County* by Rumble and *A History of the Michael Brown Family* by Reverend Richard L. Brown.)

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CHAPTER XIV

The Daughters of Michael Braun

by Lucy Lee Lancaster

The tombstone of Margaret Braun, first wife of Michael Braun, states that she had six sons and three daughters. A search of the marriage records of Rowan County, N. C., has not proved very enlightening in the attempt to discover how many daughters Michael Braun had and who they were. There is a record of a marriage of *Mary Braun* to Martin Basinger on June 11, 1785, with Martin Bessle as witness. The spelling of the surname would lead one to associate this Mary Braun with the Michael Braun family. The date of the marriage would fit into the period when Margaret Braun's children were growing up. In the list of initials of children's names which are on the Old Stone House there is none for Mary. But she could have been born after the house was built and before 1771 when Michael Braun's wife Margaret died. More investigation on this marriage needs to be carried on.

The writer of these notes has studied from time to time the notes made by Mrs. Mamie G. McCubbins which are on file in the Rowan Public Library in Salisbury, N. C. Mrs. McCubbins states that there is a record in Rowan County of the marriage of *Margaret Brown* to Frederick Miller on May 10, 1779. Another note reads: "Another opinion of no consequence until proved, is that Esquire Michael Brown had a daughter by his first wife, named Margaret, who married Frederick Miller in 1779 and followed her husband to Jefferson Co., Ky."

Still another note made by Mrs. McCubbins says: "D.A.R.

Miss Lucy Lee Lancaster is librarian for Virginia Polytechnic Institute of Blacksburg, Virginia. She is a 7th generation descendant of Michael Braun through Michael's daughter, Christina.

Lineage Book, Pension Roll of Kentucky in 1833: Frederick Miller, born in Rowan Co., N. C., in 1756, died in Jefferson Co., Ky., in 1840, married in Rowan Co., to Margaret Brown in 1779 and had: Margaret (married George Stuckey and had Michael Miller Stuckey who married Amelia B. and had Miss Minnie Stuckey of Woodsboro, Ill., who joined as no. 38041)".

She writes at another time: "Michael Brown seems to have attached some land on Crane Creek next his own and the land of John Gardner which belongs to Frederick Miller who once lived upon it, but is in Jefferson Co., Ky., April 16, 1808. This Frederick Miller makes his son Frederick Miller of Rowan Co., N. C., his lawful attorney to get it. This may be only the lawful terms for getting his portion of Michael Braun's estate". Deed Book 21, p. 372-408, is given as the source of this record of Frederick Miller's power of attorney.

In still another place Mrs. McCubbins writes the following memorandum. Its significance is not clearly understood. "I went to the Michael Brown Family reunion at Granite Quarry in July 1925 and was introduced to Mr. Boyden Miller who lives about twelve miles toward eastern portion of the county from Granite Quarry. He is descended of Peter Miller and Michael Braun through Margaret. Has the old Peter Miller deed and wants more information. Marriage bond: Michael L. Brown to Elizabeth Miller, April 12, 1831, signed Peter Miller. Refer to Chapter III, page 89, for Michael L. Brown (son of David and Sarah Miller Brown and grandson of Stone House Michael Brown)". This writer believes that the "ME" in the list of letters inscribed on the Old Stone House stands for *Margaret Brown*. If these letters are in the order in which the children were born, Margaret would then be the third child, after John and Peter. The "CH" in the list of letters is believed to stand for *Christina Brown*. If "BE" has not been identified as a son then it must stand for the third daughter of Michael and Margaret Brown. If it does not represent a daughter, then the third daughter must have been born after the house was built and before the mother's death in 1771.

Whether Michael Brown had any daughters by his second wife has not been discovered by this investigator.

He did have one daughter after his third marriage, with Mrs. Eleanor Reeves. He mentions her in his will as being expected. She

was born on November 11, 1807, just a short time before her father died. Her name was *Susan Clementine Brown*. She married Charles Verble on December 13, 1821. The Rev. Jethro Rumble in his *History of Rowan County, North Carolina* (Salisbury, J. J. Bruner, 1881) says on page 164 that she had a daughter Eleanora (d.1900) who married Thomas E. Brown and became the mother of Lewis V. Brown of Texas, and Frank Brown of Salisbury, N. C. Thomas E. Brown was the son of Allen Brown who came from England to Fayetteville, N. C. and from there to Rowan Co. in 1840. Capt. Frank Brown married in 1868, Addie Reid, the daughter of Hon. Rufus Reid, of Iredell Co., and Isabella Torrance (his third wife).

The writer's knowledge of the life of Christina Brown, daughter of Michael and Margaret Brown, is rather limited. She married John Echols probably in the 1770's but no record of this marriage has been found. The earliest estimated date of birth of any of her children is about 1778. She was probably born in the late 1750's or early 1760's. If the children listed by first letters of their names on the Old Stone House are in order she came between Michael and David, and was not quite grown up when her mother died in 1771.

After she married she must have lived for awhile in North Carolina, for census records show some of her children were born there. Her husband, John Echols, bought 100 acres of land on both sides of Sinking Creek in Montgomery County, Va., in October 1799, of Alexander McPherson and Mary his wife (Montgomery Co. Deed Book C, p. 283). This was later in Giles County, when that county was formed from Montgomery County in 1806. When the family moved to Virginia is not known but probably about this time.

On the 22nd day of September 1810, John Echols (court record is written "Echolds") gave his power of attorney to his son Peter, both of Giles Co., Va., to act for him "to collect and receipt for any monies that may be due and owing me as my wife Christina Echolds part of the estate of her father Michael Brown, deceased, late of the county of Rowan and state of North Carolina . . ." (Giles Co. Will Book A, p. 57). John Echols died in 1826, it is believed, for the sale bill of his property is recorded as of August 12, 1826 and the dower rights to his property were

allotted to his widow Christina Echols on August 10, 1827. The year she died is unknown. The above mentioned power of attorney was witnessed by John Brown and Henry Price. Henry Price was a son-in-law of John and Christina (Brown) Echols, but whether John Brown was a relative of Christina (Brown) Echols is not known.

The writer of these notes believes the following to be children of John and Christina (Brown) Echols: Joseph, Margaret, Peter, Christina, Anna, and Susan.

It is thought that Joseph, Margaret and Peter were born in North Carolina and Christina, Anna and Susan were born in Virginia. The various census reports vary on Peter's state of birth. One gives North Carolina, another Virginia. The 1860 census shows Christina as born in Virginia, but she was shown as 67 years old at that time which would make her date of birth about 1793. Unless the family lived in Virginia before acquiring the land on Sinking Creek in 1799, it is likely she was born in North Carolina, too.

There may have been other children in the family, but no clues to their names have been found. The 1810 census shows the John Echols household as consisting of two males, one over 45, and one between 16 and 26; three females, one over 45, one between 10 and 16, and two under 10. These would have been the father and mother (John and Christina), Peter who did not marry until 1817, Christina probably, who married in July 1810, and Anna and Susan. The eldest son Joseph, and the eldest daughter, Margaret, were both married by 1810 and were reported in their own households, no doubt.

Joseph Echols, son of John and Christina (Brown) Echols, was born about 1778 and on December 10, 1805, married Magdalena Garst (b. 1782, d. 1871), the daughter of Frederick Garst (b. 1752, d. 1842) and Magdalena Rauch (b. 1752, d. 1845) of Botetourt Co., Va. They lived in Botetourt Co. and later in Giles Co. They had at least eight children, five boys and three girls: Jacob, James, John, Joseph, Polly, Anna (or Annie), Henry, Christina. Their exact order of birth can only be guessed. The first three mentioned are probably the oldest as the approximate birthdates for the later children are known. The census record of 1830 shows children of the probable ages of the last five named,

and one other male between the ages of 30-40. This may have been one of the first three named or some other individual unknown to this researcher.

(Something of what is known about the five younger children will be given.

Joseph Echols, son of Joseph and Magdalena (Garst) Echols, was born on July 9, 1814. On September 27, 1839, he married Wilmuth D. Wingo (b. Mar. 22, 1814). They had ten or more children: Mary J. Echols (b. about 1840) married Jan. 18, 1865, Flayl (Phail, or Flail) P. Payne, as his second wife; Frances A. Echols (b. about 1841) married in 1859 Michael C. Martin (b. about 1835, d. June 23, 1864), married, second, October 14, 1869, John Henderson Keister (b. July 1, 1842, d. Nov. 4, 1913) as his second wife; Jeremiah G. Echols (b. about 1842, believed killed in the Civil War); Louisa C. Echols (b. about 1843) married Dec. 19, 1865, J.L.C. Haislip (b. about 1841); Nancy V. Echols, (b. about 1844); Christina A. Echols (b. about 1845); Margaret D. Echols (b. about 1847) married July 25, 1866, Robert P. Holliday (b. about 1840); Martha L(?) Echols (b. about 1849) married May 6, 1872, Lewis B. Rowan (b. about 1848); John W. Echols (b. May 12, 1852, d. 1932) married, May 14, 1874, Sarah Elizabeth Cook (b. April 9, 1855, d. 195?); Banie Echols (b. about 1854) married May 10, 1876, James W. Dowdy (b. about 1849).

Polly Echols, the daughter of Joseph and Magdalena (Garst) Echols, was married on Jan. 20, 1834, to George Williams. Her descendants have not been traced by this relative.

Anna (or Annie) Echols, the daughter of Joseph and Magdalena (Garst) Echols (b. about 1817) was married in the 1830's to Isaac Epling (b. about 1813) and was living in Giles Co. in 1860. The Eplings had nine or more children. Information gathered mainly from census and marriage records show them to be: Adaline J. Epling (b. about 1837) married Dec. 18, 1856, William H. Martin (b. about 1836), son of James and Frances Martin; Fleming Epling (b. about 1839); John H. Epling (b. about 1841) married May 24, 1861, Mary A. Clemens; Margaret Epling (b. about 1843) married Dec. 24, 1862, John S. Martin (b. about 1838) son of James and Mary Martin; James H. Epling (b. about 1846) married Dec. 6, 1874, Jennie Robey (b. about 1855) daughter of Thomas and Mary Robey; Albert Epling (b. about 1848); George W. Epling (b. about 1851) married Aug. 25, 1878, Mary C. Huffman (b. about 1850) daughter of J. A. and E. Huffman; Martha Epling (b. about 1855); Dorothy Epling (b. about 1860) married Feb. 20, 1877, Miles K. Albert (b. about 1854), son of Lewis and Maria Albert.

Henry Echols (b. about 1828), the son of Joseph and Magdalena (Garst) Echols, married probably about 1850, March Ann Caldwell and they were living at Simmonsville, Craig Co., Va. in 1870. Their children as far as known by the writer of these notes were as follows: William M. Echols (b. about 1853) married June 19, 1883, Lorena W. Kyle (b. about 1866) daughter of William M. and Virginia S. Kyle. William M. Echols was a surveyor or engineer. He married again on October 25, 1906, Mrs. Sallie Elizabeth (Craft) Bell (b. about 1872), daughter of James and Christina Craft; James A. Echols (b. about 1855); John M. Echols (b. about 1857) married on Jan. 1, 1877, Josie A. Reynolds and had at least eight children; Josephine Echols (b. about 1859).

Christina Echols (b. June 12, 1829, d. Aug. 18, 1900), the daughter of Joseph Echols and Magdalena (Garst) Echols, was married on Dec. 27, 1849, to Hiram Tracy Jones (b. Aug. 13, 1828, d. Sept. 15, 1909), the son of

William and Jane (Reynolds) Jones, probably at Gravel Hill in Craig Co., Va. They lived in that locality for awhile, and moved later to Giles County, living first in Clover Hollow, near Newport, and later at Green Valley, near Eggleston. They had eleven children, seven of whom lived to maturity and married. Their children were as follows: Mary Jane Jones (b. Oct. 4, 1850, d. June 1927), married Mar. 5 1868, John ("Jack") Robert Payne (b. Mar. 22, 1842, d. Aug. 23, 1902), son of Charles Henry and Rebecca (Price) Payne. They had four children. Martha Ann Jones (b. Dec. 21, 1851, d. June 4, 1923) married Oct. 20, 1870, Martin Luther Sibold (b. Dec. 1, 1844, d. Sept. 26, 1914), son of Jacob Franz and Margaret Eveline (Surface) Sibold. They had five children. Sarah Catherine Jones (b. Nov. 4, 1853, d. Mar. 4, 1854). Margaret Elizabeth Austin Jones (b. July 13, 1855, d. Apr. 30, 1928) married Feb. 1, 1872, John Floyd Walker (b. June 7, 1843, d. Apr. 21, 1904), son of George and ——— (McClagherty) Walker. They had eleven children, nine of whom grew to maturity and have descendants. William Jeter Jones (b. Apr. 23, 1857, d. Mar. 26, 1859). Leuvenia Alice Jones (b. Dec. 30, 1858, d. Feb. 13, 1863). Demarius Arabelle Jones (b. Sept. 8, 1860, d. May 2, 1933), married June 15, 1879, John Moore Kessler (b. Sept. 7, 1853, d. Dec. 16, 1925), son of William Cox and Nancy (McCulloch) Kessler. They had eleven children, ten of whom reached maturity, and four of whom have descendants. Adeline Miller Jones (b. Sept. 16, 1862, d. Apr. 18, 1940) married Aug. 4, 1880, Hugh Estil Bailey (b. Dec. 25, 1847, d. Sept. 7, 1923), son of Hugh Sherman and Margaret (Helms) Bailey. They had nine children, all of whom grew to maturity and three of whom have descendants. David Peck Jones (b. July 4, 1864, d. Aug. 26, 1867). John Chapman Snidow Jones (b. June 2, 1866, d. Apr. 18, 1919), married first on Dec. 1, 1891, Annie Willie Robinson (b. Aug. 7, 1867, d. Nov. 8, 1896), daughter of George Thomas and Lucy Ann (Parish) Robinson. There were three children by this marriage, all of whom have descendants. J. C. S. Jones married a second time on Oct. 2, 1907, Mattie Rosaline Lee. There were three children of this marriage; two of whom have descendants. Mason Wiley Jones (b. June 12, 1868, d. Aug. 10, 1947) married on Aug. 18, 1891, Martha Anderson Guthrie (b. May 14, 1869, d. Jan. 21, 1948), daughter of Eppa Dennett and Nancy Katherine Guthrie. They had nine children, six of whom grew to maturity, and four of whom have descendants.

Margaret Echols, daughter of John and Christina (Brown) Echols was married to George Lugar on Aug. 19, 1800. This marriage is recorded in Montgomery Co., Va. George Lugar bought land of Jacob Peck, attorney for Jacob Mann, on Little Creek, branch of Sinking Creek in Giles Co., Aug. 9, 1806. George Lugar and Peggy, his wife, granted 160 acres of this land on Sinking Creek to James Wilson in 1815 (Giles Co. Deed Book A, p. 440). George Lugar was one of the administrators who settled the estate of his father-in-law, John Echols. To date no more has been discovered about this couple and their descendants.

Peter Echols, son of John and Christina (Brown) Echols, was born about 1788 and died in 1866. He was married at Salisbury, N. C. to Nancy Markland, Dec. 5, 1817. Witnesses on the marriage record are "Peter Eckholes and Jeremiah Eckels". Nancy Markland was born in 1792 and died in 1870. She was probably the daughter of Joseph Markland who died in 1816. Peter Echols' father and mother sold him 132 acres of land in Giles Co. on Nov. 12, 1818, a part of what had been acquired by John Echols from Alexander McPherson. He acquired other property in that county as well. Peter and Nancy Echols were still living in Giles Co. in 1850 and 1860. They had many children. A list of these gathered from census and marriage records and from F. P. Porterfield's *The Porterfields* are as follows: John Wesley Echols (b. 1823, d. 1914) married, Feb. 21, 1849, Ellen Nancy Porterfield (b. 1826, d. 1880), daughter of Alexander and Susan (Williams) Porterfield, and had at

least six children; Mary Ann Echols (b. June 25, 1825, d. Oct. 31, 1905) married, Jan. 22, 1849, Jehu Harlan Porterfield (b. Mar. 25, 1818, d. Apr. 30, 1897), son of William and Mary (Albert) Porterfield, and had seven children; Harrison Perry Echols (b. about 1829) married, Feb. 9, 1854, Clara A. Atkins (b. about 1835), daughter of Hiram and Mary Atkins, and had at least four children; Arena Echols (b. about 1830); Hezekiah B. Echols (b. about 1831) married Harriet ——— (b. about 1835) and had at least seven children; Martha Ann Echols (b. about 1833); William T. Echols (b. about 1833) married, October 28, 1857, Margaret G. Williams (b. about 1836), daughter of George S. and Mary Williams; Gerry M. Echols (b. about 1834) married first, Oct. 29, 1857, Lewetta (Luetta?) E. Williams (b. about 1836), daughter of George S. and Mary Williams. Gerry M. Echols married again on Sept. 14, 1881, Mrs. Agnes C. (Williams) Taylor (b. about 1846), daughter of George H(?) and Mary Williams; Sanford Echols (b. about 1836); Pauline Echols (b. about 1838); George A. Echols (b. about 1840) married, Feb. 12, 1861, Cartha J. Fillinger (b. about 1849), daughter of John W. and Mary Fillinger; Harvey M. Echols (b. about 1844) married, Jan. 20, 1881, Elvina C. Cundiff (b. about 1861), daughter of E. B. and S. Cundiff. For those of these children who married Porterfields the reader is invited to look in the above mentioned book for more information on descendants: Porterfield, Frank Burke. *The Porterfields*. Roanoke, Va., Southeastern Press, Inc., (c1947).

Christina Echols, daughter of John and Christina (Brown) Echols, was born about 1793. The census of 1860 gives her age as 67 and states that she was born in Virginia. But the late Dean Harvey Lee Price of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute in preparing a family outline of the Price family indicates that she was from Salisbury, N. C. If her parents did not come to Virginia until they bought land on Sinking Creek in 1799 then she was probably born in North Carolina. She married, on July 21, 1810, Henry Price, the son of David, Jr. and Hannah Price, of Giles County. The marriage is recorded in Giles and Henry Price and Peter Echols ("Eckhols") are given as security on the bond. Henry and Christina Price had at least seven children. The information collected so far about them is sketchy. The order of their birth is not known. The sons were David, Peter, and Henry, the daughters, Nancy, Sarah, Rebecca, and Susanna. David B. Price (b. about 1812, d. Sept. 30, 1883), son of Henry and Christina (Echols) Price, married Mary Hammond. They had five daughters and three sons.

Peter Price (b. Oct. 15, 1815, d. Sept. 7, 1898), son of Henry and Christina (Echols) Price, was married three times. He married first, on May 2, 1838, Nancy Prillaman Snidow (b. July 16, 1819, d. July 11, 1856), daughter of George Snidow (b. 1790, d. 1865) and Elizabeth Surface (b. 1793). They had eight children. One of these was Mary Christina Price (b. Aug. 30, 1848, d. Dec. 10, 1933). She married on December 9, 1868, James Crockett Price (b. Apr. 30, 1844, d. Sept. 5, 1905), the son of Lewis Price Jr. and Elizabeth Keister (b. 1820, d. 1899). Their grandson, Nelson Osborn Price, of Blacksburg, Va., has prepared an outline of their descendants. Peter Price, married second, on Feb. 15, 1859, Kezzia Ann Jane Williams (b. Mar. 20, 1837, d. June 3, 1877), daughter of George H. and Elizabeth Williams. They had six children. Peter Price married again on July 29, 1877, a widow, Mrs. Mary Jane (Johnson) Stafford (b. May 9, 1833, d. July 2, 1908). They had no children.

Henry A. Price (b. about 1818), son of Henry and Christina (Echols) Price, married Catherine Powell and had a son and a daughter and possibly other children.

Nancy A. Price (b. about 1815), daughter of Henry and Christina (Echols) Price, married Flayl (Phail or Flail) Payne on Oct. 23, 1838. Seven children are listed with these parents in the 1860 census record, from the ages of 2 to 19. It is possible that the eldest children had married and moved away from

home by this date. Nancy (Price) Payne died soon afterward, and Flayl Payne married, on Jan. 18, 1865, her cousin Mary J. Echols, daughter of Joseph and Wilmuth (Wingo) Echols.

Sarah Price, daughter of Henry and Christina (Echols) Price, married William Eakin on Nov. 17, 1846, and had at least four children.

Mary Rebecca Price, daughter of Henry and Christina (Echols) Price, married on Oct. 5, 1839, Charles Henry Payne (b. Jan. 1, 1817, d. May 18, 1891). They had nine children and she died before 1860. Mr. Payne then married Kizzie Kinzer (b. about 1841).

Susanna Price, daughter of Henry and Christina (Echols) Price, married on Feb. 15, 1834, Charles Lewis Peck (b. 1807, d. 1889). They had at least four children. It is thought that Henry Price, the husband of Christina (Echols) Price died rather young. On Oct. 29, 1828, according to the Giles Co., Va. Court Order Book for 1822-29, Christina Price produced a sheriff's receipt for \$10.50 (license cost) and "leave is given her to keep an ordinary at her house until the May Court next, and the court do certify that she is a person of good character and will in their opinion keep a useful and orderly house of entertainment whereupon she entered into bond with security conditioned as the law directs". An 1833 map of the Cumberland Gap Road shows the location of certain homes and businesses along its route. Along the Sinking Creek road, near where one now turns up to Mountain Lake, is a mark for "Brown's Mill". Nearby is a house or farm marked "Browns" and not far away is indicated "Mrs. Price's". This is probably the location of her home and ordinary. The 1860 census lists her as head of a household, the other members being her son Henry A. Price and his son Robert Price.

Anna Echols, daughter of John and Christina (Brown) Echols, married on Oct. 26, 1819, James Frederick Williams (b. May 26, 1798). Almost nothing is known by this writer about this couple. They had a daughter Linnie Williams, born about 1822, who married Joseph Burk on Oct. 24, 1842. There were probably other children. This information was obtained from Kelly's *Notes from Burke Family of Southwest Virginia and the Valley*, p. 13.

The youngest child of John and Christina (Brown) Echols was likely Susannah. The census of 1860 gives her age as 59 so she must have been born in 1801. The census of 1850 gives her age as 41, by which the year of her birth would work out to be 1809. It is believed that she never married, altho she did have some children. In the Giles Co., Va. Register of Deaths the entry for Wesley B. Echols who died in October 1880, shows his age as 43, states he is "the son of Susan Echols, not in wedlock". The census of 1850 for Giles Co., Va., shows the household of "Susan" Echols to consist of Martha Echols, 16 years old, Nancy Ann Echols, 25 years old, Wesley B. Echols, 13 years old, Mary C. Echols, 14 years old. In 1860 Wesley B. Echols, 22 years old, a carpenter, is listed first in the household, then Susannah Echols, 59 years old, housekeeper, Nancy S. Echols, 34 years old, domestic, William H. Echols, 19 years old, waggoner, and Almira Collins, 8 years old. In the Giles Co. Clerk's Office is an old letter written on Jan. 8, 1868, to John W. Easley, Clerk of the County Court of Giles. It reads: "Sir, This is to certify that Almyra Collins was bound to me about twelve years ago, and has lived with me ever since. She is engaged to be married to John H. Collins to which I readily consent. She is now sixteen years of age, and as I am her protector I have thought this statement necessary to enable the clerk to issue the license. Nancy A. Echolds". Witnesses are W. B. Echols and R. H. Harless.

Wesley B. Echols, son of Susan Echols, was born about 1837 and died Oct. 1880, married on Mar. 20, 1867, M. J. Summerfield (b. about 1843), the daughter of E. and P. Summerfield. They had at least one child, Edgar L. Echols (b. about 1879), married Mar. 26, 1913, Ina J. Huffman (b. about 1888), daughter of Ballard and Martha Huffman. Nothing more is known

about the members of Susan Echols' household as recorded in the census reports. In 1828 or 1829 in Giles Co. when the estate of John Echols was being settled, "Susannah Eckholes" brought action against the administrators Robert M. Hutcheson and George Lugar in trespass. The jury said the defendants were guilty and assessed the plaintiff damages of \$25.33 1/3.

The writer of this sketch has almost a complete record of the descendants of Christina (Echols) Jones, who was her great grandmother, her grandmother being Martha Ann (Jones) Sibold and her mother Lucy Lee (Sibold) Lancaster. She has been collecting information on various ancestors and their descendants as she could do so. Opportunities to pursue this interest are limited, so progress is slow. As she knows little about all the daughters of Michael Braun (Brown) but most about only one, Christina, it was thought best to include in this chapter only enough to indicate what she has collected so far. It would be desirable for all who know anything of the Brown daughters' descendants to pool their information and produce some day another volume of Braun/Brown genealogy called "The Descendants of Michael Braun's Daughters".

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July 1966