

RESEARCH JOURNAL
of
WILLIAM and MARGARET BROWN
FAMILY HISTORY¹

Covering their ancestors, siblings, children and descendants²

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Editor and Publisher

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2. Purposes and Policies of the Research Journal

This is the first volume of the Research Journal of William and Margaret BROWN Family History, which is being published in conjunction with the creation of the William and Margaret BROWN Family History Library and Center.

The primary purpose of the Journal is to provide a vehicle published quarterly on the Internet, with all volumes being filed in the Brown Library where they are available 24 hours

¹ Published quarterly: March 31; June 30; September 30; December 31. Free subscriptions are available on the Internet. Mailed subscriptions are available at \$5.00 per issue, prepaid. Send all inquiries, Internet subscription requests, information, articles and manuscripts according to Journal Policies to O. James Brown Klein, Editor and Publisher, at journaleditor@brownhistory.org. Sponsored by the **Klein Storrs Family Association**, O. James Brown Klein, President. Affiliated with the **William and Margaret Brown Family History Library and Center** on the Internet at <http://www.brownhistory.org>.

² William and Margaret BROWN lived in Rowan County, North Carolina in the mid-1700s, with most, if not all of their 9 children. William was of English and perhaps Scottish descent, and Margaret was of Portuguese descent. We do not yet know who are their ancestors or siblings, and we only have verified who are their descendants through one of their children, James BROWN.

³ O. James Brown Klein (Jim Klein) is a direct descendent of William and Margaret BROWN. They are his maternal third great grand father and grand mother. Jim is an attorney and business man living in Mesa, Arizona.

daily. The Journal is where those involved in family genealogical and history research can share their research findings with each other, and all interested parties.

All relevant, accurate and source documented information regarding the William and Margaret BROWN family is solicited for publication. All such information, including articles and manuscripts, must be submitted in Microsoft Word computer file format to the Editor 7 days before the quarterly publication dates for consideration, which are: March 31; June 30; September 30; December 31.

Send all publishable information to: journaleditor@brownhistory.org. Thank you.

3. Journal Motto

“Ask of God; ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh, receiveth; and he that seeketh, findeth; and unto him that knocketh, it shall be opened.” *JST Matthew 7:12, 13; See also Mathew 7:7, 8.*

4. Free Internet Subscriptions; Mailed Subscriptions Available

Free subscriptions are available on the Internet. Send your email subscriptions to journaleditor@brownhistory.org.

Mailed subscriptions are available at \$5.00 per issue, prepaid. Send your name, address and prepaid subscriptions with checks for the number of issues desired, payable to Klein Storrs Family Association, to: Jim Klein, Editor, Brown Research Journal, 2038 East Kael Circle, Mesa, AZ 85213.

5. Report of North Carolina Research Trip by Jim Klein and Eroid Wiscombe

This trip was highly successful. Jim and Eroid spend 10 days researching 9 county and state libraries, working long days, and returning with 2 boxes of wonderful information. They will continue to evaluate this information and published their documented findings in subsequent issues of this Research Journal.

The most significant and miraculous find was the Thomas STILLWELL – 1819 Randolph County Estate Papers which prove beyond doubt that James BROWN’s parents are William and Margaret BROWN of the 19 February 1772 Rowan County Will.

The next 2 paragraphs, # 6 and # 7, are provided for your information.

6. Thomas STILLWELL – 1819 Randolph County Estate Papers

The key document Jim Klein and Eroid Wiscombe found in our April 2000 North Carolina research trip was a 6 page abstract of the Randolph County Estate Papers of Thomas

STILLWELL who died in Johnston County in 1819. The court case of this estate lasted from 1819 to at least 1826.

The source of the abstract is: Randolph County Estate Papers, Thomas STILLWELL – 1819, The Genealogical Journal, by the Randolph County Genealogical Society of the Randolph County Historical Society, North Carolina, Volume 13, Number 3, 1989, Summer, pages 15 – 20.

The Editor's note at the beginning of the abstract reads: "This is a large file [which is in the State Archives in Raleigh, North Carolina]. There were several copies of the same documents. This Thomas STILLWELL did not die in Randolph County. [He died in Johnston County where his estate was]. The file appears to have been compiled in the county because of the participation of Seth WADE [an attorney living in Randolph County] in the court case. There is a great deal of genealogical material contained in the documents, so it is printed here. As with most court cases, the testimony is not always in agreement. You, dear reader, may judge. (FHS)"

The parties in the dispute over Thomas STILLWELL's estate, including his significant holdings of property and 16 slaves, appear to be as follows:

Plaintiffs:

David STILLWELL, James BROWN, Robert JACKSON, and Jacob GOSS and Phebe, his wife.

The referenced James BROWN is either William BROWN's son, James, or his grandson, James BROWN (2) who is Captain James Brown. Both are mentioned in the abstract.

Most significantly, all of William and Margaret BROWN's 9 children are named in these documents, except John BROWN. Their daughter, Elizabeth, is identified by her husband's surname, HENDRIX, which really is HEADRICKS. This is so because we found Elizabeth HEADRICKS named in the Toms Creek Baptist Church Minutes where our BROWNS were members during this same time period. James BROWN (2) was a clerk in this church.

Defendants:

Philip RAEFORD and Elender W. STILLWELL, administrators of Thomas STILLWELL.

We obtained copies of all documents in this file at the State Archives in Raleigh, North Carolina. Because of their significance to our family, these documents will be carefully transcribed and published in their entirety in subsequent of the Brown Research Journal.

7. William BROWN 19 February 1772 Rowan County Will

The following is taken from The Brown Family, Descendents of Daniel Brown and Elizabeth Stephens, by Erol Clark Wiscombe, 1986, pages 24 – 26:

Notes on William Brown Will.

Transcribed by Kristine A. Card 8 August 1985

This will is in the State Archives in Raleigh, North Carolina.

The will is in good condition. The paper is a light brown color and the ink is dark brown, but it is very readable. The will was folded in half right along the line which reads "I give and bequeath to my daughter Margaret Brown one Cow and one year old lamb and". The ink on this line is much more faded than the rest of the document, but it is still readable. However, it is easy to see how the line could be missed if not studied with care.

The will was obviously written by a scribe and William Brown signed with his mark. The mark is visible between the words *William* and *Brown* with the word *his* over it and the word *mark* below. The mark is difficult to describe. There is a strong slanted line as in the letter X from upper right to lower left. The cross the other direction is very short and faint above the line of the other diagonal and below is looped and bent.

Almost every word was readable. The few words that were questionable I have marked with a question mark in brackets following the word, like this [?]. Also in one instance the word *my* was written where I believe he meant *may*. I have put *may* in brackets following *my*. I have done the same with *Being* [*been*].

I have kept all spellings as they are in the original document and capitalizations as best I could determine. I have preserved all line divisions; because his lines are longer than mine, I have indented all continuations. There were no indentations in the original.

After the final word in the first paragraph, *following*, there is a broken line (dashes) from the end of the word to the right edge of the paper; likewise after the word *distributed* in the next sentence. At the end of each sentence that begins "I give and bequeath" there is a solid line from the last word to the right edge of the paper.

The word *Seal* after the name of William Brown is encircled with small, continuous arches, each interior point looped in a small circle. The best description I can think of is an elementary drawing of a cloud.

After the names of witnesses John Bentley and John Northen, there is something written in very small letters. It looks like the two are identical, and I believe both begin with the letter *I*, but that is all I could determine.

William BROWN's Will:

In the Name of god Amen I William Brown of the County of Roann in
The province of North
Carolina being of a perfect and sound memory tho of a Weak and
frail body and Calling to mind
that it is appointed for all men once to Die do Constitute and
appoint this *my* last Will and testament
Revoking and disannulling all other heartofore made by me:
Imprimis I give my Body to the

ground from Whence it was first taken and Recommend my Soul into
the hands of almighty
god Beseeching his most gracious acceptance of it: as to my
Burial I desire it my [may] be neat [?] and
decent without pomp or pride according to the Discretion of my
Executors hear after named
and as to this Wordly Estate it has Being [been] the almightys
pleasure to bestow upon me I Will
and desire in manner following...

I will that all my Just Debts be Justly payd before my Estate be
Distributed

I give and bequeath to my well beloved wife Margret Brown my
Improvement where I now

live and all my houshold furniture and my sheep and my work
horses and nine head of

Cattle and my hogs and my plantation working tools during her
natural life

I give and bequeath to my daughter Charity Robson one shilling
sterling and that is all I will give her

I give and bequeath to my daughter hannah Elliot one shilling
sterling and that is all I shall give her

I give and bequeath to my son William Brown one Cow and that is
all I shall give him

I give and bequeath to my son John Brown one sorril hors and that
is all I shall give him

I give and bequeath to my son James Brown one horse Colt and that
is all I shall give him

I give and bequeath to my daughter Constant wynn one Cow and that
is all I shall give her

I give and bequeath to my daughter Susannah Brown one Cow and
that is all I shall give her

I give and bequeath to my duaghter Elizabeth Brown one Cow and
that is all I shall give her

I give and bequeath to my daughter Margret Brown one Cow and on
Year old [?] lamb and
that is all I shall give her

I give and bequeath to my granddaughter Margret Brown the daughter
of Susannah
Brown one heifer Calf and that is all I shall give her

and the Remainder of my Estate If there be any left I leave unto
the disposal
of my wife Margret Brown

I do hereby through the love and goodwill I Bear to my well
beloved friend Henry
Strange appoint him with my well beloved wife Margret Brown as
Executor and
Executrix of this my last will and testament depending on their
faithfull discharge
In witness where of I have here unto set my hand and Seal this
nineteenth day of february
In the year of our lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy
two

Sind Seald and acknowledged in the
presence of us
John Bentley
Abner Cotton
John Northen

his
William Brown Seal
mark

8. Family Research Projects

Please let all of us know what research projects you are working on so we can coordinate and share our information. Your research projects and their status should be published here.

9. Family Research Ideas and Theories

Please let all of us know what research ideas and theories you are thinking about so we can coordinate and share our information. Your research ideas and theories should be published here.

10. Next Journal Issue: Spring 200 to be published June 30, 2000

We look forward to receiving your contributions for the Spring issue, which will be electronically published on the Internet on June 30, 2000. Thank you.

11. The New William and Margaret BROWN Family History Library and Center

See and participate in the new **Brown Library/Center** on the Internet at **brownhistory.org**. The Research Journals will be permanently stored there for future reference.