

**RESEARCH JOURNAL**  
*of*  
**WILLIAM and MARGARET BROWN**  
**FAMILY HISTORY<sup>1</sup>**

*Covering their ancestors, siblings, children and descendants<sup>2</sup>*

**Fall 2000, Vol. 1, No. 4**  
**December 31, 2000**

*Copyright 2000 by O. James Brown Klein .<sup>3</sup> All rights reserved.*  
*Editor and Publisher*

**1. Journal Index**

1. Journal Index.
2. Announcements.
3. Addendum to Martha BROWN section of THE BROWN FAMILY HISTORY by Erol C. Wiscombe, page 8, Regarding Martha BROWN BOSS and David BOSS.
4. Family Research Projects.
5. Family Research Ideas and Theories.
6. Next Journal Issue: Winter 2001 to be published March 31, 2001.

**2. Announcements and Thanks**

1. **Thank You to our Contributor:** A very special thanks to **Erol C. Wiscombe!** Your time, efforts and sharing are greatly appreciated by the rest of us! We look forward to receiving more from you.
2. **Your Research Projects:** We would like to share what research projects any one is doing on William and Margaret BROWN and their related lines, and maintain this information in this Journal and in the **Brown Library/Center** on the Internet at **<http://www.brownhistory.org>**. See Family Research Projects below. You, or any one you know, is invited to submit what research projects you are working on with how to contact you so that we can organize ourselves on this matter, and know how to contact

---

<sup>1</sup> 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](mailto: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>.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

each other. Please send your information to [journaleditor@brownhistory.org](mailto:journaleditor@brownhistory.org). Thank you.

**3. Addendum to the Martha BROWN section of THE BROWN FAMILY HISTORY by Eroid C. Wiscombe, page 8, Regarding MARTHA BROWN and DAVID BOSS**

**Addendum to the Martha BROWN section of THE BROWN FAMILY HISTORY by Eroid C. Wiscombe, page 8**

**By Eroid C. Wiscombe  
October 15, 2000  
185 North West Temple, # 204  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84103  
Tel: 801-355-6691**

**3.1. MARTHA BROWN and DAVID BOSS**

**Martha Brown**, commonly called, "Patsy", was born 24 September 1794, in Rowan Co., North Carolina. She married **David Boss**, born 1801, also in Rowan County.

David was the second child of eleven children born to Peter and Mary Garner Boss. He was the younger brother of Philip Boss, who married Martha's younger sister, Obedience Brown.

The children of Martha and David, Alexander, Alfred, Calvin, and David Jr., were all born in Davidson County, North Carolina.

Martha's youngest brother, Daniel, had moved to Brown County, Illinois, in 1831, taking with him his two unmarried sisters, Mary "Polly", and Nancy Brown, also his two brothers in law, Alexander and John Stephens, and a nephew, Homer Jackson, his sister Susan's son. Her brother, James Brown, followed in 1833. It was probably at this time that Martha and her family also moved to Illinois. David's father, Peter, and his grandfather, Philip Boss, had moved to Schuyler County, Illinois sometime between 1826-1930. James S. Brown, son of Daniel Brown, stated that his father Daniel was the first of the Brown and Stephens Families to move to Illinois. However, the Boss family was probably there first.

It is not exactly known when David and Martha moved to Illinois, but by 19 January 1846, they were living in Nauvoo, Hancock, Illinois, with the Mormons when their eldest son, Alexander, received his patriarchal blessing.

When the Saints were driven from Nauvoo, Illinois, by the mobs in 1846, the Boss Family went with them. The wagon trains were divided up into hundreds, fiftys, and tens. They were in the first hundred, with Daniel Spencer as Captain, the second fifty, with Ira Eldredge, as Captain, and the second ten, with Hector Caleb Haight, as Captain. Captain Haight would be the man they were to answer to.

Their three younger sons, Alfred, Calvin and David Jr. all received their patriarchal blessings at Winter Quarters, Nebraska 30 and 31 April 1847.

Their family crossed the plains and arrived in the Great Salt Lake Valley, 19 September 1847.

The David Boss Family did not remain in Utah Territory very long. Their eldest son, Alexander, was rebaptized 12 February 1848, in Salt Lake City, Utah.

It is not known if the family caught the "gold fever", or just when they moved, but it was likely 1849, when they headed for California. There most likely would have been plenty of travelers to hook up with on this part of the journey, due to the gold rush.

The family settled in Contra Costa County, in the San Francisco Bay area and purchased land for farming between Martinez and Pacheco. They were not listed in the 1850 Census of California, but the land records of Contra Costa County indicated that David Boss bought 80 acres of the Las Juntas Ranch, from the Welch family, for \$640.

William Welch, an Irishman, born about 1802, came to California in 1821. He married Maria Antonia Galindo, and together they had large land holdings in the Pleasant Hill area. They were the first ranchers in this area, the Boss Family being the second.

In the early 1850's, California passed a law stating that women could own land in their own name. Anna Maria Welch de Birnie declared that she owned an entire and separate property in her name, also 25 head of cattle, 2 horses and one top buggy she had bought from proceeds of land sold to David Boss.

County records indicate that Calvin Boss was a witness for the County Recorder, Thomas Brown, to documents in 1850. He knew the Spanish people and spoke their language. (History of Pleasant Hill, California, p.63, by Valley Jo Whitfield). This helps prove that the family was indeed in California by 1850.

On the 28th of February 1853, their eldest son, Alexander, purchased 160 acres of land in the vicinity of Monte del Diablo, in Contra Costa County. On 28 October 1853, Alfred purchased 160 acres of government land in Mount Diablo Township of the same County. Later, 12 Dec 1853, his twin brother, Calvin, purchased 160 acres of government land in the same Mount Diablo Township. Then on 1 August 1853, the youngest brother, David Jr. purchased 160 acres of government land near Martinez.

The barn built by David Boss was said to be the first one built in the Pleasant Hill area.

The 1860 Census of Contra Costa County, California, lists in house number 499, David Boss, 62, a farmer, born in N.C., with \$12,000 worth of real estate and \$8,300, in personal estate. His wife, Martha, was 68.

In the next house, #500, lived the eldest son, Alexander, 32, a farmer with \$6,000 worth of real estate, and \$1800 in personal estate. The census taker listed his wife as Eliza J., 18, born in Illinois, but her name was actually Elitha Jane Clark, born 5 August 1843, a daughter of James Clark of Ohio. Their son, George W. Boss, age one month, born May 1860, was living with them.

The house next to Alexander, #501, belonged to Alfred Boss, 28, who owned \$2500 in real estate, and \$1620 in personal estate. He also had a wife, Eliza, 23, born in Missouri. Her name was actually, Emma Ameline Davis. They also had a three year old son, Andrew, living with them, and Alfred's twin brother, Calvin Boss, 28, who owned \$3000 worth of real estate and \$1130 in personal estate. In the same house lived also the youngest brother, David Boss Jr., 27, also worth \$3000 in real estate and \$1566 in personal estate.

In the short time the family lived in California, they had done quite well for themselves, financially. However, Brigham Young had warned the Saints in the Salt Lake Valley that if they went to the gold fields, they would lose far more then they gained. None of Martha's descendants remained in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

### **Alexander Boss**

The early marriage records of Contra Costa County are not complete. The 1900 Census of California stated that Alexander and Elitha J. had been married 41 years. That would make them married in 1859. This census also stated they had had six children and five were still living. Other census records presents some problems. Compare the following:

#### 1870 Census

Alexander, 47, b. NC

Elitha, 27, b. Ill.

George, 10, b. Cal.

Elizabeth, 9, b.Cal.

Florence, 8, b.Cal.(female)

James, 6, b.Cal.

Clara, 4, b.Cal.

Carra, 1, b.Cal.

#### 1880 Census

Alexander, 55, NC

Elitha, 37, Ill.

George W., 20, Cal.

Elizabeth, 19, Cal.

Francis, 17, Cal. (male)

James H., 15, Cal.

Clara B., 13, Cal.

Nellie May, 11, Cal.

The census taker obviously made an error with Florence. They did have a son Francis called Frank. Also Carra and Nellie May are the same person. Contra Costa did not start keeping birth records until 1906, so it is difficult to prove some of these problems.

The second son, Alfred, married, 1 Oct. 1854, in Contra Costa County, Emma Ameline Davis, born in Missouri. Alfred's twin brother, Calvin, married 11 Nov 1862, Hulda M. Lee. This was recorded in Vol. 1 p.44, they were married by Justice of Peace, W.K. Leavitt. The youngest son, David Jr. married 1862, Lucy S. Kinger, who was born in Virginia.

Martha Brown Boss died in 1869, according to family records kept by her brothers. Contra Costa County burials were not recorded this early. Her husband, David Boss, was living with Alfred's family in 1870, or rather, Alfred and Emma A., with six year old Willie, were living with Alfred's father, David Boss, 70, a retired farmer.

David Senior, now owned \$16,000 of real estate and \$2600 in personal estate. According to the census, he was 70 years old, but when he died, 6 April 1873, the record stated he was 71. He died at his home near Pacheco, Contra Costa, California. Alfred had preceded his father in death, when he died 29 March 1871.

A complete record of the grandchildren of Martha and David has been difficult to find. The Census record help some, but others were found in cemetery records.

The Alhambra Cemetery at Martinez, Contra Costa County, California contains the following entries.

Frank Boss, died 24 Dec 1887, age 25, farmer. He died near Pacheco of consumption.

Miss Nettie Boss died 21 June 1918, age 55, at Martinez.

Mrs. Zelitha (Elitha) Boss died 26 May 1917, age 74.

David Boss, died 6 Apr 1873, born in NC, age 71.

Alfred Boss died 29 Mar 1871, age 40, of pneumonia.

Calvin Boss died 17 Feb 1866, age 39 years, 4 months and 10 days, near Pacheco.

David Boss Jr. died 14 Sep 1864, age 34. There are other discrepancies in David's birth records. When he received his patriarchal blessing, 31 Apr 1847, he listed his birth date as 26 March 1827. This would only be five months after the birth of his older twin brothers. His death record indicated he was born in 1830. Early records indicate he was born in North Carolina, one of the census records listed Illinois for his birth.

In the 1900 and 1910 Census the question is asked: "Where were you born? Where was your father born? Where was your mother born?" We get all kinds of strange answers. It leaves one to wonder if children ever talked to their parents about such matters.

The land records of Contra Costa County furnish some of the best information on the family. In 1850, David received 80 acres of land from the Welch's for \$640. On 2 Sept. 1852, he took lots 17, 18, and 21, for \$480, a total of 160 acres. On 10 July 1856, he took lot 20 of 143 1/3 acres for \$430. This would give him over 200 acres. Each of his four sons also owned 160 acres near by, plus additional land they owned later.

David Boss died 6 April 1873, at the age of 71, near Pacheco, Contra Costa, California. His estate was in Decree of Distribution, 9 July 1880, to the family with eldest son, Alexander Boss, as administrator.

Research done by Muriel and Coulter Claeys, a great great grandson of Alexander states:

"They came from Illinois in 1849 by covered wagon. On 18 May 1853, Alexander leased from Juan Welch, land grant 'Rancho San Gabriel'. On 18 Jan 1854, he purchased this land for 75 cents an acre. Ref: Vol. 1 p.393; Vol. III pp.518-520; Vol. IV pp.144 and 147. On 8 June 1880, Alexander purchased for his family and heirs, Rancho Las Juntas. Ref: Vol. 58, p.259. His heirs now owned 6,000 plus 1500 acres in the Pleasant Hill Area.

"Alexander married at age 30, Elitha Jane Clark, by eloping with her on horseback. She was 17 years old. He died 1904, at the age of 82, and was buried in the Boss Cemetery plot in Martinez. His wife died in 1917, at the age of 74. She is buried by her husband.

"Between the Boss and Clark Families, they owned 9,820 acres in 1860."

Alexander's brothers did not live long in California. The youngest brother, David Jr. died 14 Sep 1864, at the age of 34. He had only been married less than two years. He left one child,

Mary Ann. In 1865, his wife Lucy S. Kinger Boss remarried, William Hill Dukes, and had six more children.

Calvin Boss, the third son of the Boss Family, married 11 Nov 1862, Hulda M. Lee. He died three years and three months later, 14 Feb 1866. It is not known if he left any children. His wife could have remarried or moved away before the 1870 Census was made. No children were found for this couple.

Alfred Boss, died 29 Mar 1871, at the age of 40. He had two children, Andrew and William. Andrew must have died before the 1870 Census, as Willie was the only child listed with this family in that census.

When the distribution of the Boss properties was made in 1881, lots 1 and 2 went to Mary Ann Boss and William F. Boss, the two surviving children of David Jr. and Alfred Boss. This would probable indicate that Calvin didn't leave any posterity. Additional information is found on the family group sheets.

---

#### Document Data

Notes: Minor spelling and punctuation corrections provided.  
Sources: Sources are identified by Erol C. Wiscombe.  
Copyright: Used by permission.  
Level: B (document verified and proofed by the transcriber or typist).  
Certificate: *Document Donor:* Erol C. Wiscombe, October 15, 2000. *Transcribed:* Erol C. Wiscombe, October, 2000. *Verified/Proofed:* Erol C. Wiscombe October 15, 2000. See Donors.

**Editor's Note:** Erol prepared family group sheets reflecting this new information, which will be placed in the library once a GEDCOM file has been prepared using this information.

---

#### **5. Family Research Projects**

Please let all of us know what research projects you are working on so that all family researchers can coordinate and share our information. We invite you to share your research projects and their status so that they may be published here. Please email your information to [journaleditor@brownhistory.org](mailto:journaleditor@brownhistory.org). Thank you.

#### **6. 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. We invite you to share your research ideas and theories and their status so that they may be published here. Please email your information to [journaleditor@brownhistory.org](mailto:journaleditor@brownhistory.org). Thank you.

**7. Next Journal Issue: Winter 2001 to be published March 31, 2001**

We look forward to receiving your contributions for the Winter issue, which will be electronically published on the Internet on March 31, 2001. Thank you.