

WILLIAM BROWN. (ALSO SHOWN AS BROWNE ON SOME LATER COLONIAL DOCUMENTS)

BIRTH DETAILS: Circa 1800 Norwich, Norfolk, England. **** Refer History Section in this file for further information****

MARRIAGE DETAILS/ RELIGION: Married by Banns on the 28/11/1825, at St. James Church of England Church, King Street, Sydney by the Rev. Richard Hill.

SPOUSE DETAILS: **Wife Elizabeth Catherine Foss (20/1/1810 – 12/12/1854)**
****Refer her own File****

DEATH DETAILS: Died 15/7/1872 Shellharbour. N.S.W. (shown aged 71 years)

PARENT'S NAMES: Unknown - Refer information under History.

SIBLINGS: Unknown - Refer information under History.

CHILDREN: Total 7 Sons & 4 Daughters.

1. William Benjamin Henry Brown. **Refer his own File (SEE PHOTOGRAPH)**

Born: 16/5/1828, Elizabeth Street, Sydney.

Died: 20/11/1883, Brownsville, near Dapto. N.S.W.

Married: 8/12/1851, St. James Sydney; **Sarah Matilda Williamson (BC)**
****Refer her own File** (SEE PHOTOGRAPH)**

Children 11:

1. Frances Victoria Brown. Born: 10/5/1852, Dapto. N.S.W.
(Married Henry Richard Brooks AKA "Richard", eldest son of Henry Brooks of Monaro NSW)
2. Elizabeth Brown. Born: 8/8/1853, Dapto. N.S.W.
(Married Thomas William Musgrave)
3. Henrietta Brown. Born: 20/12/1855, Dapto. N.S.W.
(Spinster)
4. Thomas William Brown. Born: 24/11/1857, Dapto. N.S.W.
(Married Minnie Elizabeth Evans)
5. **Frederick John James Brown. Born: 21/8/1858, Dapto. N.S.W.
(Married Lydia Knight) **Refer their own Files****
6. William George Brown. Born: 24/6/1860, Dapto. N.S.W.
(Married Isabella Edish Goodall Blackman)
7. James Ambrose Brown. Born: 17/4/1862, Dapto. N.S.W.
(Married Mary Porter AKA "Polly")
8. Ambrose Arthur Brown. Born: 10/7/1864, Dapto. N.S.W.
(Married Margaret Nutall Brooks AKA "Nuttie")
9. Edward Charles Brown. Born: 22/7/1866, Dapto. N.S.W.
Died: 1930 Lismore. N.S.W.

(Married 26/7/1898 at Bulli, N.S.W. to Mary Winifred Bourke, Born circa 1876 at Reedsdale. On 12/8/1902 a son Joseph Francis Brown AKA Frank was born to the couple at Wollongong, NSW. Edward at that time is shown as a Commercial Traveler aged 35 years and his wife aged 26 years. There is also another child; Mary E. living aged 3 years with no children deceased.)

10. Alfred Ernest Brown. Born: 11/9/1868, Dapto. N.S.W.
(Married Florence Elizabeth McDonald)
11. Albert Cole Brown. Born: 27/6/1872, West Horsley,
Dapto. N.S.W.
(Married Ethel Elizabeth Knight 27/6/1872)
Died: 21/3/1954, Brownsville. N.S.W.
(Funeral at St. Luke's Church)

2. **Henrietta Brown.**

Born: 1/1/1831, Surry Hills, Sydney.
Died: Unknown

3. **Mary Ann Hunt (Nee Brown.)**

Born: 10/1/1833, Surry Hills
Died: 11/8/1909, Thirroul
Married: 18/9/1860, Wombo, Q'LD; **John Thomas Hunt.**

Children: 10.

1. William John Brown. Born: Circa 1861
2. Frederick J. Brown. Born: Circa 1863
3. Henry Thomas Brown. Born: 4/8/1864 Ulladulla.
4. John T. Brown. Born: Circa 1865
5. George Brown. Born: Circa 1867
6. Charles Brown. Born: Circa 1868
7. Sarah M. Brown. Born: Circa 1869
8. Negus E. Brown. Born: Circa 1871
9. James Brown. Born: Circa 1872
10. Elizabeth Brown. Born: Circa 1874

4. **James Brown.**

Born: 21/10/1834, Surry Hills
Died: 13/11/1923, Cooma. N.S.W.
Married: 30/10/1865, Rockhampton. Q'LD; **Elizabeth Dawson (CF)** from
Glasgow.

Children: 10.

1. William George Brown. Born: Circa 1866-1867, Married Jane Kelly.
(They lived at Cooma.)
2. Ann E. Brown. Born: Circa 1868-1869, Married James
Higgins. (They lived at Cooma.)

3. Henrietta Jane Brown. Born: Circa 1870, Married George Mould. (They lived at Adaminaby.)
4. James Edwin Brown. Born: Circa 1871. (Lived at Tumut.)
5. George Dawson Brown. Born: 19/11/1873, Berridale. Married Emily Annie Hawkins at Cooma. Died 19/10/1968 at Cooma.
6. Charles Edmund Brown. Born: Circa 1875-1876, Married Ethel Barnett - AKA "Ettie." (They lived at Tumut.)
7. Alfred Ernest Brown. Born: Circa 1877, Married Ester Chase. (They lived at Tumut.)
8. Frederick Arthur Henry Brown. Born: Circa 1879, Married Eleanor Anne Challis – AKA "Nellie."
9. Franklin Sidney Brown. Born: Circa 1881, Married Phoebe Neil. (They lived at Gundagai & had no children.)
10. Ethel May Brown. Born: Circa 1885, Married Jim Burness. (They lived at Tumbarumba.)

5. **Frederick Brown. (TCA #42379) (SEE PHOTOGRAPHS)**

Born: 10/11/1836, King Street, Sydney.

Died: 9/2/1920

Married: 31/5/1859, Shellharbour; **Mary Ann Weston (BC) (TCA #42380)** also from Shellharbour, underage and a daughter of John Weston. William B.H. Brown (Frederick's elder brother) and his wife Sarah Brown were witnesses to the marriage. At the time of his marriage he was a farmer of Shellharbour who could not read or write. *On the 28/8/1883 he was shown as a laborer.* Frederick acquired a piece of land at Jejedzrick (now spelt Gegedzerick,) land originally settled by the Brooks family. (Two of W.B.H. Brown's children, Frances Victoria Brown & Ambrose Arthur Brown married into the Brook's family.) A descendant of Frederick still lived at Gegedzerick Flat in the 1990's.

Children: 11. (Previously shown as 10)

1. **William John Brown. (TCA #42377) Born Circa 1861. Wollongong.**
2. **Frederick G. Brown. Born Circa 1862.**
3. **Arthur Charles Brown. Born Circa 1864. (TCA #42697) or 1865 Gegedzerick, Berridale. N.S.W.**
4. **Sarah E. Brown. Born Circa 1866.**
5. **John G. Brown. Born Circa 1868.**
6. **Ann Brown. Born Circa 1870.**
7. **George Brown. Born Circa 1873. (TCA #42700) Gegedzerick, Berridale. N.S.W.**
8. **Frances Victoria Brown. Born 6/8/1874. Unmarried. Had a son, Ambrose Henry Brown, B: 11/4/1902.**
9. **Herbert Henry Brown. Born Circa 1877. Had a daughter, Zena Mary Victoria Brown, born 25/10/1910.**
10. **Alfred Ernest Brown. Born Circa 1879. (TCA #43259) Shown as Ernest Alfred. Berridale. N.S.W.**

11. Emily Brown. Born Circa 1881.

6. **Sarah Russell (Nee Brown.)** (TCA confusion with #42794, her sister)

Born: 6/3/1839, Market Street, Sydney.

Died: 20/3/1875, Berridale.

Married: 5/6/1869, St. Paul's Church of England, Cooma; **Edwin Russell (CF)** (TCA #42793) shown as a laborer when they married and both were living at Jejedzrick (also know as Gegedzerick and now Berridale.) Mary Ann Brown (her sister-in-law) and David Harrifs were witnesses to the marriage.

Children: 3.

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|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Ellen Russell. (TCA #44282) | Born 15/3/1870, Berridale. |
| 2. William Edwin Russell. | Born 17/12/1871, Berridale. |
| 3. George Russell. (TCA #42795) | Born 27/8/1873, Berridale. |

When Sarah died in 1875 her husband Edwin Russell was left to raise their 3 children, all of whom were under 5 years of age. Four years later Edwin Russell married Sarah's younger sister, Maria Charlotte Brown and had a further 5 children by her. Their youngest daughter they named Sarah in her memory.

7. **Henry Brown.**

Born: 16/5/1843, Lane Cove, Sydney.

Died: Unknown.

8. **Maria Charlotte Russell (Nee Brown.)** (Also shown as Charlotte Maria or just Maria.) (TCA #42794)

Born: 30/3/1845, Cooks River. Baptised only as Maria on 6/7/1845 at their family church St. James, Sydney. Parents shown only as William Brown (Gardener) & Elizabeth Brown of Cooks River, Sydney.

Died: 18/9/1905, Adaminaby.

Married: 11/5/1879, Adaminaby; **Edwin Russell (CF)** Widower (TCA #42793) (Her elder sister Sarah Russell nee Brown was Edwin's first wife.)

Children: 5. (plus Sarah's 3 children)

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|---------------------------|---|
| 1. Henry | Born 4/7/1879, Adaminaby. |
| 2. David (TCA #42821) | Born 31/3/1881, Adaminaby. (Twin) |
| 3. Catherine (TCA #42792) | Born 31/3/1881, Adaminaby. (Twin) – Married Joe Teasdale. |
| 4. Frederick | Born 23/7/1883, Adaminaby. |
| 5. Sarah Elizabeth | Born 13/2/1888, Adaminaby.
- Married Joseph Lowe. (TCA records have combined Joe Teasdale & Joseph Lowe into one person, a Joseph Teasdale Lowe) |

9. **Negus Brown. (SEE PHOTOGRAPH)**

Born: 8/7/1847, Chippendale. Also shown as 6/3/1847.

Died: 30/9/1904. Cooma. N.S.W. (Shown as 60 years old on to his funeral card.)

Married: 25/9/1878, St. Paul's, Cooma; **Isabella McDonald (BC)**

Children: 4.

1. Sarah Ann Brown. Born 17/11/1879, Cooma.
2. Negus Edward Brown. Born 1/2/1882, Cooma.
3. George Alexander Brown. Born 15/12/1885, Cooma.
4. Isabella Brown. Born 6/7/1888, Cooma.

10. John Edward Brown. (SEE PHOTOGRAPH)

Born: Circa 1849, **England. (Refer History.)** *NEEDS FURTHER RESEARCH*

Died: 28/8/1929. Moree, N.S.W.

Married: **Elizabeth Agnes O'Hare, (SEE PHOTOGRAPH)** (Born 2/10/1865 Mt. Macedon VIC., Died 1/11/1907 Urana N.S.W.) Married on 2/1/1895 at the Catholic Church, Gisborne, VIC. Elizabeth O'Hare was a daughter of Matthew and Mary O'Hare (Nee: Tieney.)

Children: 3.

1. John Charles Matthew Brown (AKA "Charlie.") (**SEE PHOTOGRAPH**)
Born 11/11/1895, Urana N.S.W.
Died 7/5/1979, Moree N.S.W.
Married 14/11/1925, Lewisham N.S.W. to
Isabella Parry. (B. 2/6/1906 Moree
D. 19/11/1949 Moree.) Their daughter is Eileen
Bowden nee Brown (B. 14/3/1926) who has
helped compile the Brown Family Records.
2. Frederick George Arthur Brown. (Bachelor)
Born 22/6/1898, Urana N.S.W.
Died 25/8/1983, Holbrook N.S.W.
3. Frances Mary Augusta Brown. (Married Alfred Dixon.)
Born 18/9/1900, Urana N.S.W.
Died 7/10/1955, Junee.

11. George Charles Brown. Born: 1/1/1853, Botany, N.S.W.

From this point George Charles Brown's details require clarification:

Previous research by Lynette Brown showed a **Catherine Brown** as George's wife together with 5 children;

1. Herbert F. Brown circa 1882
2. Leslie C. Brown circa 1883
3. Charles G. Brown circa 1884
4. Stella E. Brown circa 1887
5. Beresford Brown circa 1889.

Later research by a Mary Brocklehurst contradicts this and claims the following:

Married: 30/11/1874, St. Saviours Church of England, Goulburn; **Rebecca Hettie Hines**, from Norwood. George (no Charles on the Marriage Certificate,) is shown as a laborer from Norwood at the time of his marriage.

Died: 8/11/1925, Liverpool, N.S.W. Buried 10/11/1925, at Church of England Cemetery, Liverpool, N.S.W.

Children: 5.

1. Hetty Brown. Circa 1875, aged 50 years at time of her father's death certificate. Married to a Jewish man from Baghdad, where they returned before W.W.I.
2. Edward William Brown. Born 25/3/1880 Died 16/7/1972 - aged 46 years at time of father's death certificate. (His daughter is Mary Brocklehurst.)
3. Elfledah Brown (also shown as Heddal and Fleda) aged 40 years at time of father's death certificate.
4. Ethel May Brown, aged 31 years at time of father's death certificate. (married in Nangus near Gundagai in 1908.)
5. Leslie Brown, aged 28 years at time of his father's death certificate.

I however have a copy of this George Brown's death Certificate which shows his parents as an Edward William Brown, Shoemaker and Isabel Brown as his mother. To add further to the confusion, in a Bicentennial Book of Australian Pioneers Rebecca Hettie Hynes is shown as George Charles Brown's wife and his children are shown as the 5 children listed above with Catherine.

OCCUPATIONS: 1818 – Shoemaker of Norwich, England.
1820 until 12/4/1827 – Convict in N.S.W.
1828 - Shoemaker of Elizabeth St. Sydney.
1831 - Shoemaker of Surrey Hills, Sydney.
1833 – Shoemaker of Surry Hills, Sydney.
1834 – Settler of Surry Hills, Sydney.
1836 – Publican of King St. Sydney. (may be wrong Brown)
1837 - Surry Hills, Sydney. (Sands Directory)
1839 – Shopkeeper of Market St. Sydney.
1843 – Settler of Lane Cove, Sydney.
1845 – Gardener of Cooks River, Sydney.
1847 – Gardener of Chippendale, Sydney.
1853 – Gardener of Botany, Sydney.
1854 – Gardener of Cooks River, Sydney.
1867 - Gardener of Shellharbour.
1872 – Resident of Shellharbour at time of his death.
(Information obtained from Birth, Marriage & Death Certificates plus Convict Records.)

HISTORY:

William Brown's origins still require further English research. There are two strong possibilities:

- (A) Earlier family research in 1985 by some of his descendants believed a William Browne, Baptised 17/1/1803 at Thorpe, outside Norwich, Norfolk, England, the son of William Browne (1778 – 1838) and Elizabeth Wyard (1773 – 1808) with a brother and 3 sisters was our William. I have some other

details on them but have not included them as I believe this is the wrong William Brown.

- (B) There is however a William Brown, Baptised at St. Stevens Norwich, the son of James Brown and Sarah Negus (no other dates or information known at this stage.) This seems more than likely to be our William as 3 of William's children have names of James, Sarah and Negus, which is much more than a coincidence. Further, our William's Death Certificate shows his father as a William Brown (no "e") Nurseryman. The certificate however also contains numerous errors, from information supplied by an unknown informant.

From William Brown's Convict records we do know that he was born at Norwich in Norfolk, England and was an apprentice Shoemaker for 2 years prior to being convicted of larceny, at Norwich Quarter Sessions on the 11/4/1820. At the time of his conviction he is shown as aged 20 years, 5 ft 3 ½ inches tall, had a sallow (pale) complexion, black hair and hazel eyes. William was convicted together with James Asker, also of Norwich, a weaver, 18 years old, 5' 6 ½", ruddy complexion, light brown hair and hazel eyes. Both were sentenced to transportation for 7 years. Norwich Quarter Sessions Minute Book, Volume 27 at the Norfolk Record Office further shows:

The King against William Brown

For stealing one silk handkerchief the property of Samuel Smith Value 2 s.

Jury:

Thomas Gay
Samuel Greenfield
Thomas Plaford
William Allcock
William Grimmer
William Calyer

Sworn

John Harbord
Edward Sharman
Johnathon Bibbons
William Skelt
George Dearling
Robert Cook

Jury say guilty.
Judgment see below.

The King against same

For stealing one silk handkerchief the Property of Stephen Walls Value 2 s.

Same Jury
Say guilty.

To be transported to such place or places Beyond the Seas as His Majesty by the Advice of his Privy Council shall order and direct for the term of seven years.

Note: Victims of pickpockets are unable to identify their money which is stolen, however their "silk handkerchiefs," which were used as we would a wallet or purse today, provided the evidence that the Court could use for a conviction.

On the 18/8/1820, William Brown and James Asker departed the Port of Downs, England as convicts aboard the vessel "Elizabeth 1" on her 3rd voyage to N.S.W., with William Osler as Master and Samuel Alexander as Surgeon Superintendent. They arrived in Sydney Cove on the 31/12/1820. James Asker had been assigned to a Government Factory at Liverpool, possibly a jail or asylum, while it appears William was assigned as a convict servant. In Letters & Petitions received by the Colonial Secretary 1789 – 1826, there is a letter from Mansfield, dated 8/6/1823, requesting that his assigned convict servant, William Brown be allowed to accompany him to Hobart Town.

The records of the Colonial Secretary further reveal an application for permission to marry dated 16/11/1825. Convict William Brown, shown as age 22 (more likely 25years,) married Elizabeth Catherine Foss (aged 15 years 10months but shown as 16 years, free-born in the Colony,) on 28/11/1825 at St. James Church of England, King St., Sydney by Banns. The Rev. Richard Hill was the Minister and the witnesses were Anne & Benjamin Smith (Elizabeth's mother & her second husband.) William and Elizabeth's first four children, namely William Benjamin Henry, Henrietta, Mary Ann and James were baptized in this same church in later years as well as their sister Maria Charlotte and possibly other siblings.

William received his Ticket of Leave (Certificate of Freedom) in N.S.W. on 12/4/1827, where he is shown as 27 years old. At this time his description remains unchanged from that shown at his conviction. James Asker however, now 24 years, is 5' 10 ¼", fair ruddy, with light sandy brown hair, hazel & small eyes. He had also lost a front tooth in a public row.

The following year, with the birth of the first of their eleven children, William and Elizabeth were living in Elizabeth St. Sydney, where William had returned to his old trade as a shoemaker. In the ensuing years William lived at Surrey Hills, King & Market Streets, Lane Cove, Cooks River, Chippendale, Botany and finally Shellharbour. He also went from being a Shoemaker to a Settler, possibly a Publican (but unlikely,) Shopkeeper, and a Settler again before eventually establishing himself as a Gardener for the last 17years of his life.

It is believed William and Elizabeth visited England somewhere between 1847 – 1853 where John Edward Brown was born. Elizabeth died on the 12/12/1854 (aged 44 years) leaving William still with 5 young children between the ages of 1 and 11 years of age. His oldest son William Benjamin Henry Brown and wife Sarah (with 2 infant children of their own) took on the responsibility of helping raise these children.

William died at Shellharbour on 15/7/1872 aged 71 years from apoplexy (stroke.) Henry South JP, Coroner of Kiama, certified his death. On the 16/7/1872, William's body was buried at the Shellharbour cemetery by George Rankin, undertaker. Witnesses to the burial were James Williamson (most likely William

Benjamin Henry Brown's brother-in-law) and a James Condon. The information on William's Death Certificate (provided by an unknown informant,) shows him as a shoemaker, 49 years in N.S.W. (correct figure 52 years,) and with only 5 male and 3 female children living and 1 male child dead which is also incorrect. What is indisputable however is that William Brown with his wife Elizabeth established a dynasty of Brown descendants, who were all pioneers in this new country Australia.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- (A) Some of this information on **William Brown's Children & Grandchildren** is also contained in a Bicentennial Book of Australian Pioneers, which has **numerous errors**. These errors are due in part to the repeated use of various common names given to brothers, cousins, uncle's etc., incorrect research, plus transcribing of some information. Details have been updated with the correct information where Birth, Death, Marriage Certificates etc. can substantiate these new details. Descendents of William Brown owe an enormous debt of gratitude to past family historian descendents: Lynette Brown of Griffith N.S.W., Elaine Laughton in Tasmania, Eileen Bowden of Miranda N.S.W. (who added to Lynette's work) and Velloa Brown of Mcdowall Q'LD for their tireless and painstaking manual research in the 1980's and earlier.
- (B) The extensive details of the grandchildren and extended family connections of William Brown & Elizabeth Catherine (Foss) Brown, I have endeavored to unravel from conflicting previous family research and have also included, where possible, to give assistance to future generations reading this document who may be also trying to establish their lineage with this Australian Pioneering couple.
- (C) While researching the location of Gegedzerick, by chance I came across the Turnbull Clan Association (TCA) website www.turnbullclan.com which has a fantastic genealogy database that includes numerous details (although some appear incorrect) of our William Brown's children: Frederick, Sarah & Maria Charlotte plus their extended families. Details (where applicable,) from this database *I have shown in Italic's with their TCA references*. I have also sent their webmaster a copy of this document to help their research and perhaps clarify some areas of confusion.
- (D) Government Records Abbreviations: **CF** – Came Free, **GS** – Government Servant (Convict,) **FS** – Free by Servitude, **AP** – Absolute Pardon, **TL** – Ticket of Leave, **BC** – Born in the Colony, **NE** – Never Emigrated.
- (E) A word of helpful advice to all Family Historians researching our William Brown shown above... **take extreme care you research the correct William Brown who arrived in the colony as a convict aboard the vessel**

“Elizabeth 1” on her 3rd voyage to N.S.W. Numerous ships from the first fleet onwards have a William Brown or William Browne listed among their convicts, soldiers, settlers & passengers and it is easy to make a mistake.

- (F) **Some “general location directions” to assist you:** Bulli on the South Coast is north of Wollongong, New South Wales, almost in the middle of the Illawarra District. **Cataract River** is near Bulli. **Horsley**, also known as **West Dapto**, is now a suburb of Wollongong. **Dapto** is south-west of Wollongong. **Brownsville** is near Dapto. **Shellharbour** is south-east of Dapto. **Jamberoo, Kiama & Kiama Heights** are all roughly south of Shellharbour. **Adaminaby** was a rural town that was flooded over by Lake Eucumbene (Snowy Mountains,) **Jejedzrick** or **Gegedzerick** is now Berridale, also Snowy Mountains area.

- (G) **THE INFORMATION SHOWN HERE HAS BEEN UPDATED AND IS CORRECT, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITY, AS AT 21st AUGUST 2007. PLEASE DESTROY ANY EARLIER COPIES OF THIS RECORD TO ENSURE THAT INCORRECT DATA DOES NOT CARRY FORWARD TO CORRUPT FUTURE RECORDS...Jeffrey Weber.**