



# Brown Family Centennial

1828 - 1928



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## FOREWORD

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**T**HIS booklet of the Centennial celebration of our family has been compiled for two reasons.

In the first place those of us who attended will be glad to have it as a reminder of a happy day spent together and one to be long remembered.

For those who were unable to be with us we hope it will in a measure at least, give them what they could not hear and see in person.

We know that it has imperfections but we hope you will accept it in the spirit in which it is sent and enjoy it with us.

COMMITTEE.

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*Eva B. Taylor.*  
*Harry M. Wood*  
*J. E. Brown*

## WELCOME



R. Toastmaster and Browns of Nottingham, welcome! Descendants of William and Rachel Milner Brown, you are at the home for years their shelter, the home they loved, the home of their declining days, the home from whence they were borne to their last earthly resting place. William and Rachel are not here to bid you welcome; we, who carry on, do that in their stead. We welcome you most heartily, confidently these forebears would have it so.

Cousin Browns, our heritage is a proud one. Proud, not that William and Rachel were of high renown. Proud, rather, in that they filled their humble niche, filled it well. No blush of shame need tinge a cheek because of any act of theirs. Their lives were filled with the Christian virtues. They lived to give, not to get; to serve, not to be served. The well worn copies of the Scriptures left behind attest they read their Bibles and learned the "greatest of all is the servant of all." Especially did they well serve us of their lineage through their example.

William, my grandfather, passed on before my day, but tradition brings down to me various fragments, testifying to his beneficent influence. Grandmother and her kindly personality I remember as a child of four. My elders here can tell you more of her than I. I recall that her thought was for others. I can yet taste those half-sticks of horehound candy she kept in store for us children and frequently doled out.

Our country's tax-payers have never been called upon to support one of the line of William and Rachel in the White House. It is also true that neither have they paid out \$1 for the maintenance of one in a penitentiary, jail or at a poor-farm. Manifestly, no jail or law-enforcement officials would be required if ours were the only blood. Might we not well contemplate and ponder over this inheritance bequeathed to us by William and Rachel? Could we not well emulate their praiseworthy example?

One hundred eventful years have become history since William and Rachel sought this then wilderness. In a century, the wilds they found have been transformed into the nation's granary. Under these vastly changed conditions, we commemorate the one-hundredth anniversary of their coming and bid all of their blood WELCOME!

L. E. BROWN.

## RESPONSE

Mr. Chairman:

We come, wise men from the East, tried men from the West, true men from the North, and queen from the South, with our spouses and sweethearts, bearing gifts of friendship, love, and hope, to do duty as willing volunteers in this army of peaceful friends, to honor and fittingly commemorate the memory and achievements of our distinguished forefathers who five score years ago settled in this township and soon thereafter erected on this spot an enduring home.

We come, and respond to your generous welcome which fills the bowl of brotherly love to overflowing.

We come, loyal to the broad principles of charity, laid with their hands in the cornerstone of this dwelling—principles that shall endure forever.

We come with glad hearts, to view the work which has wrought so great a change within a century in this community.

The leader of this little band of emigrants looking westward, fixed his eyes on the coveted goal, and neither he, nor his faithful wife, ever looked backward.

Hand in hand, by covered wagon, they slowly carried their family and earthly belongings over poor roads, often swimming unbridged rivers and swollen streams, corduroying impassable swamps, always pressing forward, by day, week, and month, that he and his posterity might live better lives and give better service to their fellow-men.

Here our forefathers found a wilderness teeming with wild deer, wild hogs, wildcats, wolves, turkeys, geese, curlew and pigeons, and the trail of the Indian the only way to some parts, and by their work they transformed this place into a beautiful garden.

The wigwam and tepee of yesterday are the palace and home of today.

Then the whistle of the wild deer, the shy call of the wild turkey, the screech of the curlew, and the thunderous roar of wings of huge flocks of wild pigeons, at times shaking the earth,—sounds long since died away and hushed forever in the silence of the past.

By the effort made to take part in this celebration, our enthusiasm and interest is better told and with more eloquence than the weaving into the warp of rounded periods, the woof of striking phrases.

At the time of the settlement of our forefathers there was not one foot of surface railroad in Tazewell county. Before the tube of London or the subway of New York had been thought of there was, with stations in this county, a railroad—the Underground.

Permit me to digress a moment. If the people of this great Republic could but know the lives of the generous and just men and women who lived here—but know the perfect story of their trials and triumphs—what they did in times of peace and war—but know when the grasping greed of the white man was exiling the red man from home and country—but know when the high and haughty power of slavery forced this peaceful country into war with a weak and helpless nation to make slavery more profitable and respectable, that not one of these gave aid directly or indirectly to either unjust cause—if they but knew that when a great principle was at issue and the liberty of four million human souls was at stake, they sacrificed on the altar of duty a belief and teaching most dear, handed down for two centuries from their leader Wm. Penn. Then came the Civil War and the sounds of the guns at Fort Sumter had not died away before they had placed their lives, fortunes and services in the hands of Father Abraham, thereafter furnishing at all times their full quota of fighting men, and for long years never permitting a draft to be levied in Dillon Township.

All mankind were their brothers—to do good their religion.

William and Rachel Brown need no granite hewn monument; by their works they erected an enduring monument in the hearts of all loyal Americans.

MILNER BROWN BAILY.

DEDICATED  
TO  
WM. and RACHEL BROWN

*(To be sung to the tune of Illinois.)*

'Tis a line of pioneers  
Hear ye all, hear ye all;  
And their fame lives through the years,  
Hear ye all, hear ye all.  
From Pennsylvania's wooded shade  
With their oxen, plows, and spade  
Came this family unafraid,  
Hear ye all, hear ye all;  
Came this family unafraid,  
Hear ye all.

To a State then very young,  
Illinois, Illinois,  
Bravely westward did they come,  
Illinois, Illinois.  
So we celebrate today  
As we come from far away  
Hon'ring those who here held sway,  
Illinois, Illinois.  
Hon'ring those who here held sway.  
Illinois.

BETHANIA M. SMITH.

## HISTORY

The village of Puddington in Northamptonshire, England, seems to have been the home of the Browns. William Brown, father of James and William, who came to this country, lived there. He may have lived elsewhere previously, but of this we have no certain knowledge. Certain it is, however, that William was a Friend and endured persecutions for his beliefs. When his sons decided to come to America there was some doubt in the minds of many people, as to the propriety of their coming, for were they not running away from persecution? This doubt seems to have been answered with the argument: "The Lord is about to plant the wilderness of America with a choice vine or noble seed which shall grow and flourish."

James, the son to whom we trace our origin, probably came to this country before 1680, unmarried, and several years before his brother William, who had some difficulty to persuade his wife to leave England. James married Honor Clayton, whose father had come over in 1677, bringing his family with him.

By trade James was a weaver, but as most early colonial tradesmen, he farmed too. He lived in Marcus Hook, which was located in what subsequently became Delaware County, Pennsylvania, and he appears to have been settled there before William Penn obtained his grant in 1681. At any rate we find him securing a patent for 115 acres of land in Chichester Creek, December 20, 1683. It may or may not have been his first land, for he did own several other tracts but sold them all before removing to Nottingham.

William Brown, the ancestor in whose honor we are meeting, was of the fifth generation of James's descendants. He was the only son of Isaiah and Miriam Churchman Brown, and was born February 22, 1780. We know very little of his earlier years but they are rather less vital to us than his later life here in Illinois. We can only conjecture as to his decision to come West, but be that as it may, we find him selling all his land holdings, which consisted of 112 acres and 2 perches, to his cousin Jeremiah Brown, Jr., for the consideration of \$2700.00 in lawful money, and leaving his old home in Lancaster County in August, 1828, to begin the long trek overland with all his Lares and Penates. Grandfather and Grandmother, who was Rachel Milner Brown, their seven children, Daniel Milner, Grandmother's brother, and two servants made up the party. Theirs must have been a rather pretentious caravan for they brought two covered wagons and a light wagon known as a "Carry All." They arrived at their destination early in October having spent about five weeks on the way.

They went directly to the home of Grandmother's sister,



Kitty Wilson, who with her husband, John, had come West two years earlier. They lived on what is now known as the Kinsey farm near the Mackinaw. Grandfather promptly bought an improvement from a Mr. Orndorff and, after adding an extra room to the log cabin already there, moved his family to their new home. The cabin was not large enough to accommodate everyone the first winter so the men slept in the wagons. The next year Grandfather entered 80 acres of land from the Government. It is described as the west half of the southeast quarter of Section 13 and is situated near the Mackinaw at Tremont ford.

The conditions as they found them are described in a letter from Grandfather to his cousin Jeremiah Brown, Jr., which I will quote rather at length. It is dated 3rd 1st 1829, Tazewell County, Illinois. "It is six years ago this spring there was any settlement in this part of the country, although the southern parts have been settled many years, although this part appears to be taking the lead for the time it has been settled. The face of the country is rolling. There are many streams in it although like all western country the waters fail.

"The Mackinaw is about as large as the Octorara, but in flush time of water it rises to a great extent. There are no good mills in the state from the best information. There are two, one within thirteen miles of us, the other seventeen miles north such as none of you ever saw, the mill houses not being better than thy hog-pen. The mill stones a man could carry one at a time. The bolting cloths of muslin are put loose on the reel and turned by hand. They can carry about thirty bushels a day when water is plenty, when scarce from six to twelve per day and make tolerable flour.

"There is not a sawmill within forty miles. There is a large mill in the neighborhood that answers the purpose but takes four strong horses to work it. We have no difficulty to get meal if anybody wants it. The mills will not grind grist but will grind for any person that has the money. Flour sells in this neighborhood for \$2.50 the hundred, cornmeal 50 cents per bushel, but I have bought flour for \$2.00 and cornmeal at 25 cents at the mill south of me. The water mills have the seventh for grinding and the people must carry bags, and in the horse mills the sixth and you must put your own horses in or pay twelve and one half cents in addition to toll.

"The Mackinaw affords a few sites for mills, but some of them difficult to secure owing to high rise of the water and sandy bottom. But good mills or one that could grind all the year would be an independent fortune. Joseph Wilson has been working at one last summer and this winter. He has the dam up, I think it will stand, and the race part dug, the race is about 100 rods long. I think the seat will be secure. He has most of the timber drawn for the saw mill but his funds I fear will run short.

"The land appears to be very rich and it's easy making a farm. There are groves of timber and large prairies which produce a large growth of grass. Cattle thrive and grow fat on it. It makes tolerable hay, much better than the natural grass in your country, but not so good as the timothy or clover. The land is hard to break the first time but when broken is easily worked. Afterwards the people raise from 20 to 40 bushels of corn to the acre by plowing a furrow, dropping the corn, and then continuing to plow and drop just as you would plant potatoes. They can't work it that season as the ground is too tough. A man that has never seen it could not believe it could produce much corn. The second year they can tend it and the land produces very great crops. The grain of wheat is as good as any I ever saw and the land is very natural for it. There is neither fly or weevil to molest it, the mildew has not been known here yet. There has been no body of limestone discovered nearer than 110 miles from this place. But what few stones have been found are mostly of limestone. The gravel is chiefly of limestone and the water tastes of it. There is plenty of stone coal discovered within a few miles of this place. Cattle, horses, and hogs can be raised here as cheaply as any part of the country. Pork has sold readily out of the woods this fall for \$2.00 per hundred. All the hogs and cattle that could be bought have been driven to the mines 160 miles from here. The country around the mines is not worked and many hands at work makes provision high at that place. Flour has sold this winter at from \$15.00 to \$20.00 per barrel. Corn \$1.50 and \$2.00. They cannot conveniently get a stock in the fall when the river freezes and the provision commands a great price. Horses and cattle command as good a price here as in your country or nearly so.

"A large portion of the state cannot be settled for want of timber, although there can be large settlements. The Illinois river 10 miles distant from here is a beautiful river. Steamboats can be run on it a great ways above this place most of the year, reel boats all the year except when frozen. There is a small town begun a year ago on the banks of the river; three or four houses are built, and a store kept there, but a small one, not half sufficient to supply the settlement. The situation is handsome. A man with a moderate capital might do well at store keeping. Goods can be brought up from St. Louis for 50 cents a hundred. Steamboats have offered to bring for 20 cents per hundred. I was at St. Louis last fall to purchase much needed things. It is a place of considerable business, the town not so large as Lancaster but appears to be improving fast. Sugar, tea, coffee, and other articles can be had as cheap as in Baltimore. I bought an anvil at twelve and one-half cents per pound. Castings of a very good quality may be bought for four cents per pound, steel is one-third higher than with you. Axes bring \$3.00 apiece readily and plow irons and log

chains 25 cents a pound without steel. It costs \$2.00 for shoeing a horse around with iron shoes. There is not a smith within 20 miles that understands the business but two that can do something and that but poorly. As respects my own private affairs, when we arrived in this country I took some time to look about, then purchased a claim as they call it in this country, that is an improvement. There are two good cabins, one of these as comfortable as any in this country but none of the best. But with plenty to eat and a wood fire and excellent appetites we do quite well. The houses in this country are one story with stake and rider roof that keeps the rain out very well but the snow drives in smartly.

"We have a good corncrib, warm shed and well of water and twenty-five acres broken and in corn. I gave the man for his improvements forty bushels of corn, with it \$200.00. The land is handsomely situated and has an excellent body of timber attached to it. The land is surrounded on three sides by the Mackinaw, which makes water convenient. I purchased as much corn as I needed early in the fall for which I paid 20 cents per bushel, but it has risen to 25 cents. I think it will be 50 cents before harvest. The emigration was great last fall. I also purchased excellent pork for \$1.75, but it soon rose afterward to \$2.00 and upward. We have collected, cut and hauled for a large pit, and logs for a shop. The winter has been very sharp since the first of the second month; have had considerable snow. We have made rails and hauled them to fence 60 more acres. I intend to smith some and tend to my farm this season. I have a prospect in joining another business but shall take time to examine. Cotton makes a middling crop in this country, hemp, flax, and tobacco grow well. I sold my large wagon without cover for \$130.00 and can get \$100.00 for the other one. I sold two of my horses after I landed here. Deer, turkeys, geese, and ducks are very plentiful. We are all enjoying good health and are satisfied. The people from this country are from all the states in the union, a mixed multitude but they appear very civil and obliging. There are several Friends in the neighborhood, seven in all, more coming this summer. The nearest meeting is 140 miles from here but we have no orthodox. If James Ring could come out to this country I think he might do very well, if he could make out to purchase one half quarter of timber which would be but \$100.00. He might have as much prairie as he pleased without paying for it, and that of the first quality of land. There are plenty of peach trees beginning to bear. And they look thrifty. There are some apple trees planted but not old enough to bear. Taking the advantages and disadvantages I prefer it to any of the western country I have seen. It will not cost as much to move to this country as some allege. My expenses here with two wagons, six horses, eleven persons amounted to \$115.00. The people of the country look pretty healthy, but

newcomers are apt to have a brash the first summer. A good wagon will always command a good price in this place."

On the fifth of November he wrote again, giving further details about his affairs. "I have not received a line from any of you since thy last letter dated in the 3rd month last and had begun to think I was almost forgotten by my friends, although at a great distance from them they feel as near to me as ever and I believe more so as we are situated entirely amongst strangers (except John Wilson's and Dr. Griffith's) from all parts of the union of different customs and habits from what we have been used to but they are very kind. A letter from any of you feels very grateful. Some of us attend the postoffice every week expecting letters.

"We still feel satisfied with the country; the land is fertile. It produces everything that can be raised in the same latitude in the greatest perfection and far outdoes your section of the country for wheat, corn, and potatoes. My crop of corn will exceed 1500 bushels and from five bushels of potatoes planted and without manure we have raised upward of 200 bushels. We put in a new piece of wheat last fall and I bought a piece with the place which will make us plenty of bread and seed. I sowed 10 acres this fall which looks exceedingly well. We have done some smithing this summer, enough to clean our way. Isaiah has taken a considerable wagon stuff out last winter and can have as much work as he can do, and at a higher rate than in your part of the country. I do not expect to work at smithing any or much myself. I shall turn my attention to raising stock.

"My stock of cattle at this time amounts to 40 head and hogs to upward of fifty. Cattle are easily raised in this country; we have not to feed them more than half as long in the winter as you. Hogs live well pretty much all the year. Cattle are ready sale; a clever three year old bullock brings \$10.00. They are bought in the fall and driven through Ohio and the next season into your part of the world. Some droves have gone all of the way. This season the great supply of eastern market must be drawn from this and the Missouri state. Ohio has filled up pretty much and is not half so well adapted as this state for stock. Sheep thrive exceedingly well but there are plenty of wolves yet and they make it troublesome. We have to pen the sheep up every night but the wolves will soon be banished. They are of a small size, a strong dog can easily manage one of them. The country is open, not mountainous.

"Salt comes high, from \$1.00 to \$1.25 per bushel, but we only get 50 lbs: to the bushel. Groceries such as sugar, tea, coffee we can get as cheap as you can, but they ask higher for dry goods. Land in this section of the country was sold last week. I have purchased what I want. A great many of the settlers were surprised, the land sale was not advertised half as long as common.

There is an entire new set of officers. Jackson men of course, and it is said the receiver and his secretaries are not worth \$500.00, and he has received of the public money \$40,000.00. He may do well but it is thought by many that know him, otherwise. The officers that were turned out were of respectability and standing. Money will bring from 25 to 40% readily and good security.

"I have purchased 240 acres which will be as much as I will need at the present. The people here secure the good land, the prairie they don't buy much except enough to secure their buildings. I have also purchased one twelfth part of a town site situated on the Illinois. My prospects are fair, how they will turn out Providence only knows. One thing is certain, I was in debt before I sold and now I am a free man, which is a great satisfaction. Besides the above mentioned purchases I have been able to lend as much money as will bring me a handsome farm every year and still as much cash as will purchase stock as I need and what I will need for other purposes. Among all disadvantages I have one satisfaction that I owe no man anything but good will and feel myself a free man and if I keep my senses, no man will ever catch me otherwise."

In 1835 Grandfather moved to an 80 acre farm which he had purchased from Ebenezer Wright. Here they lived until Grandfather's death, February 3, 1852. It is on that farm that we are meeting today.

Emigration continued on an increasing scale and six years after his arrival Grandfather had become an old settler, in fact he was so well established that he had been elected as a representative to the state legislature. The capitol was at Vandalia and he wrote to his cousin from there in regard to the Internal Improvements issue which was the great question of the day. To quote again—"Vandalia, Illinois, December 4th, 1834. I am in Vandalia at this time and shall remain here until the first of March. I should like it if thee would write to me as soon as thee receives this and send me a statement of how your canals and railroads are coming on. I was elected to the legislature at the last election and as our state seems wild to follow the eastern states in improvements, I would like to know whether your works are like to be an advantage to the state in general or not.

"We have had a dry summer but the crop of corn is good, wheat also. People are flocking to this country at a rapid rate. The emigration this fall exceeds any heretofore by one-half. Any letter thee sends soon I will receive at this place, otherwise direct to Dillon as usual. I shall send our Governor's message to thee. If thee has any papers giving account of your public works, they will be acceptable."

By 1843 Grandfather's family had married and begun for themselves with the exception of his youngest daughter and son.

Miriam, the oldest, was the wife of Jeremiah Baily. Her two youngest children, Cyrus and Rachel Baily Davis, are the oldest of Grandfather's surviving grandchildren. Happily Mrs. Davis is with us today.

Isaiah Brown married Eliza Ann Baily, sister of his brother-in-law, Jeremiah. Isaiah and Eliza Ann moved to California and lived there until their deaths.

Joshua was twice married, his first wife being Hannah A. Russell of Fulton County. Of their seven children two lived to maturity. Julia Ann Cook was his second wife. Her home was Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. They had three sons and one daughter.

Milner Brown married Rebecca Russell, a sister of Hannah, Joshua's wife, and was the father of one son and one daughter. Only the daughter lived to maturity.

In a letter of 1843 Grandfather says: "Joshua's and Milner's land joins mine. They have each of them about 400 acres of land and have been improving largely. They raised last summer a year ago 1500 bushels of wheat, and upwards of 4000 bushels of corn this year."

Hester married Jesse W. Fell and lived nearly all her life in Normal. Six of their children grew to maturity, one son and five daughters.

In the year 1834 there was an epidemic of cholera. Several of Grandfather's family were ill with it, and one daughter, Eliza, died from it. They were unaware of its existence until it had taken too firm a hold to be broken. Eliza was unmarried.

The youngest daughter, Rachel, was also unmarried, making her home with her younger brother Daniel, and preceding him in death only one week.

Daniel, youngest of the family and the only member born in Illinois, married Arietta Lilly from New York state. Two sons were born to them.

Grandfather Brown was a quiet man, tall, a little stooped, smooth shaven, and of a genial disposition. He wrote that at the age of 64 he was beginning to "feel the old man creeping on pretty fast." Of his wife he said: "Rachel stands it pretty well, but begins to look older and not as stout as she has been."

As we read between the lines of these old letters and try to visualize the struggles depicted and the hardships endured, we can only be deeply grateful for the bravery and hardihood of our pioneer ancestors in building, even better than they knew, for us, their children, that we might have "something better." Certainly we are all proud to be descended from such forbears.

And now may I make Grandfather's wish mine also, "that health and happiness may attend thee both here and hereafter."

CAMILLA WOOD.

## BIRTH RECORD

William Brown, son of Isaiah and Miriam Brown, was born 22nd of 2nd month, 1780, at half past 10 o'clock P. M.

Rachel Brown, daughter of Nathan and Mary Milner, was born 9 mo. 24th, 1786, between 9 and 10 o'clock in the evening, first of the week.

Miriam Brown, daughter of William and Rachel Brown, was born the 23rd day of 12 mo., 1805, at two o'clock in the morning.

Isaiah Brown, son of William and Rachel Brown, was born 14th of 3 mo., 1808, at half past 1 o'clock P. M.

Joshua Brown, son of Wm. and Rachel Brown, was born 11 day of 8 mo., 1809, about 6 o'clock in the evening.

Milner Brown, son of Wm. and Rachel Brown, was born 20th of 3 mo., 1812, about 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

Mary S. Brown, daughter of Wm. and Rachel Brown, was born the 23rd day of 11 mo., 1814, about 50 minutes after 6 o'clock in the evening. Died 2mo.

Eliza Brown was born 24th 11 mo., 1816, about 1 o'clock in the morning.

Hester Brown was born 2nd 3 mo., 1819, about 10 o'clock in the evening.

William Brown was born 8 mo. 23rd, 1821, and died 1823.

Rachel M. Brown was born 4 mo. 23rd, 1824, about 6 o'clock in the morning.

Israel Brown was born 1 mo. 10th, 1827, about 5 o'clock in the morning.

## MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE

Whereas, William Brown, son of Isaiah Brown, and Miriam his wife, of Little Britain Township in Lancaster County and State of Pennsylvania, and Rachel Milner, daughter of Nathan Milner and Mary his wife of the same County and State, having Declared their Intentions of Marriage with each other, before several Monthly meetings of the People called Quakers, held in Little Britain according to the good order used amongst them, and having consent of Parents, their said proposals after Deliberate consideration, they appearing clear of all others, were approved of by said Meetings. NOW these may certify to all to whom it may concern, that for the full accomplishing their said intentions this Thirteenth day of the Third Month in the year of our Lord 1805, they, the said William Brown and Rachel Milner, appeared in a publick meeting of the aforesaid People, assembled at Eastland meeting house, where the said William Brown taking the said Rachel Milner by the hand, did in a solemn manner openly declare that he took her to be his wife, promising through divine assistance to be unto her a loving and faithfull husband, untill it should please the Lord by death to separate them, and then and there in the same assembly she, the said Rachel Milner, did in like manner declare that she took him, the said William Brown, to be her husband, promising through divine assistance to be unto him a loving and faithfull wife, until the Lord by death should separate them, or words to the same effect, WHEREFORE They, the said William Brown and Rachel Milner, she according to the custom of marriage assuming the name of her husband, as a farther confirmation thereof did then to these presents set their names—

WILLIAM BROWN  
RACHEL BROWN

And we being present at the solemnization of said marriage and subscription aforesaid, have as witnesses hereunto set our names, the day and year above written.

Lydia Wood	Jane Mason	Abigail Churchman
Slater Brown	Benjamin Mason	Isaiah Brown
Jesse Cutler	Jeremiah Brown, Jr.	Meriam Brown
Jesse Wood	Elisha Brown, Jr.	Nathan Milner
Benjamin Mason	Vincent King	Mary Milner
Sarah Mason	Francinah Patterson	Elizabeth Vandere
Thurzia Eastburn	Elizabeth Ash	Hester Baden
Daniel Kenny	James King	Cyrus Milner
Hannah Kinsey	Samuel Carter	Deborah Brown
Phebe Kinsey	Ruth Carter	David Churchman
Reuben Reynolds	Eleanor Renny	Robert Patterson
Mary Kinsey	Alec Lanburn	Peter Ash
Jno. Kinsey	Rachel Carter	Molly Patterson
Joseph Paxson	Hannah Brown	Jno. Wilson
Hannah Paxson	Elizabeth Harlan	Cassandra Churchman
Mary Harlan	Mary	Daniel Milner



## LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF WILLIAM BROWN

I, William Brown, of the town of Dillon, Tazewell County, Illinois, being of sound mind, though extremely feeble in body, do make this my last Will and Testament. As follows, to-wit:

First. I direct my executors hereinafter named, to pay all the expenses and charges of my funeral and interment, with the first available means of my Estate.

Second. All of the debts that may be due to me at the time of my decease or may become due my estate afterwards. I direct my executors to collect as soon as possible and apply the proceeds to the payment of the liabilities of my estate. Should the means realized from this source be insufficient to pay off my debts in a reasonable time, then, in this event, I direct my executors to make the balance from the sale of a portion of my Real or Personal estate, whichever can be sold to the best advantage, and with the sum thus realized to pay off the remainder of the indebtedness held against my estate.

Third. To my beloved wife Rachel Brown, I give, grant and bequeath 1st All of the remainder of my personal estate, after my direction in the two foregoing articles shall have been duly performed, absolutely, *Saving* and *Excepting* therefrom Ten several Promissory Notes for the original amount of \$100 each which I now hold against my son-in-law Jeremiaah Baily, which said Promissory Notes I hereby direct my executors to collect as soon as they conveniently can, and hold the amount so collected as a part of the estate. 2nd, I also bequeath to my wife aforesaid all the rents and profits of my improved land near the Mackinaw River, after deducting the amount required for keeping the fences and tenements in proper repair, Until my executors shall make sale of the same as hereinafter directed. 3rd, I further bequeath and devise to my said wife Rachel Brown—to her, her heirs and assigns forever, absolutely, the eighty acres of land upon which I now reside, purchased by me of Ebenezer Wright and described as the East half of the North East quarter of Section 35, Town 23, Range 4, with all tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging—also the 40 acres of timber land described as follows, to-wit: the South East quarter of the South East quarter of Section 24, Town 23, Range 4. These bequests to my said wife being made in the heir of dower.

Fourth. To my son Daniel Brown, his heirs and assigns forever, I give, devise and bequeath the South West quarter of the North West quarter of Section 24, Town 23, Range 4 (40 acres, timber). If I should sell the same last mentioned lot so bequeathed to my said son Daniel, before my decease I then in the place of the said lot if so sold devise and bequeath to him, Daniel Brown, so as aforesaid the North West quarter of the North West

quarter of said last named Section (40 acres). I also desire to give to my said son Daniel Brown the benefit of one year's schooling providing he will embrace the opportunity I therefore direct my executors if he, the said Daniel, will attend school for one year, within the two years next following my decease, that they make suitable provision from out of my estate to pay his tuition, board, washing and clothing, due regard being had to prudence and economy.

Fifth. To my daughters Miriam Bailey and Hester V. Fell, I give each Five Dollars. I wish that I had the ability to leave them more without doing injustice to the rest of my children. I know no difference in my attachment to my children—I am equally attached to all—but I have already paid out large amounts for the benefit of the husbands of my two daughters above named, and it does not appear to me just, that after receiving already so large a portion of my property, they should yet be admitted to an equal share in the remainder with the rest. I hope that they will understand my motives, and do them justice.

Sixth. Saving and excepting the land or Real estate above bequeathed to my said wife Rachel Brown and my son Daniel Brown, I hereby order my executors to sell off all the Real Estate of which I die possessed, wherever located or situated, at as early a time as they can do so without a sacrifice of the interests of my estate and in any manner that they may deem best for the interests of my heirs herein named and I do hereby empower my said executors to convey and make title to the same in as full and ample a manner as I could myself when living.

Seventh. After all the provisions, directions or orders of this MY Will above set forth shall have been duly carried out and complied with and all the debts, indebtedness, and liabilities of my estate having been duly paid, I leave, give and bequeath all the remainder or residue of my property or proceeds of the sale of the same (not otherwise disposed of) to my four sons Joshua Brown, Milner Brown, Isaiah Brown and Daniel Brown and to my daughter Rachel M. Brown—the said residue or remainder to be equally divided among them in equal shares or parts—all to share alike, that is one fifth of said residue or remainder to be given to each.

Eighth. I hereby make and constitute my two sons Joshua Brown and Milner Brown executors of this my last will and testament, exhorting them to settle up my estate according to the provisions and directions herein contained in as speedy and economical a manner as possible.

Ninth and Lastly. I hereby revoke all former wills and testaments or Codicils, made by me previous to the date hereof.

In token of the above, I do hereunto set my hand and seal this 27th day of January A. D. 1852. WILLIAM BROWN.

In the presence of

Wm. C. Clark

Wm. Slaughter

*As Witnesses*

## A LETTER FROM RACHEL MILNER BROWN TO HER CHILDREN

My Dear Children: I write you with mournful feelings from a still and gloomy house. The sands in the hour glass of your father seem nearly run out—his life draws to a close. Almost daily we are expecting the event of his dissolution. We are of course a sad and sorrowing household. I wish, Oh how earnestly, that the whole family could collect in his dying hour at his bedside—it would soften the pillow of death to him—it would be a satisfaction and a consolation to me. This seems impossible and it only remains for us to keep all informed of his situation. He is now confined almost entirely to his bed. With aid, he manages to sit in his chair a very little, but most of the time he passes in his bed in a state of stupid repose. When able to converse he speaks in terms of warmest affection of all his children and shows that they are all remembered and everyone very near his heart. Joshua comes over nearly every night and remains until morning, and we all feel that his death may occur at any hour.

He seems resigned and uncomplaining—and if there be any desire with him to remain upon earth, it seems to spring from a wish to arrange his worldly affairs more for the advantage of those he leaves behind. He may revive up some and last a very few weeks but in all human possibility not many days will close his earthly pilgrimage.

To me his loss will be most severe. For nearly fifty years have we trod life's rough uneven road together and now I am about to lose the companion of my way—he who has cheered and comforted me in sorrow and guided me in prosperity. Although I am encouraged and sustained by the reflection that my children are still spared me—yet they cannot supply his loss altogether. I can but feel lonely and sad at parting from him. He wishes you to know that there is no hope of his recovery.

Father has desired me to say to you that if you can, possibly, he wishes you would make that man finish off and send down the buggy—he says he is leaving me without any conveyance—not even a decent waggon to get about in—and he feels badly about it, though he does not blame you at all. He says he should have made provision differently but for this fellow's promises which he relied upon. He still trusts that you will compel him to finish it up.

Francis is attending school and seems doing well. She says that she will soon she hopes be able to write her parents.

Adieu my dear Children,  
Affectionately Your Mother,  
RACHEL BROWN.

LETTER OF DISMISSAL FROM KENNET  
SOCIETY  
TO  
NOTTINGHAM SOCIETY

Dear Friends: Nathan Milner requested our Certificate for himself and Mary his Wife to be joined to your Meeting. These may Certifie that enquiry was made and we do not find but that their Lives and Conversations have been in a good degree orderly, often attended our Religious Meetings and their outward affairs settled so as not to hinder them having a Certificate we recommend them with their seven children (for whom he likewise requested) to wit Cyrus, Daniel, Isaac, Jehu, Rachel, Mary and Elizabeth Milner to your Christian care and oversight, desiring their welfare and remain your Friends.

Signed in and on behalf of Kennet Mo. Meeting held the 13th of the 8th mo., 1801.

By

CALEB PENNOCK  
MARY HOUSE

RELATIVES IN ATTENDANCE

1. Harry M. Wood.....	Delavan, Ill.
2. Eva B. Taylor.....	Delavan, Ill.
3. Kathryn Lou Ames.....	Council Bluffs, Iowa
4. Milner Baily Schaefer.....	Seattle, Wash.
5. Everett J. Harding.....	Dresden, Ohio
6. Rebecca Harding.....	Dresden, Ohio
7. Allen H. Taylor.....	Delavan, Ill.
8. Bethania Meradith Smith.....	La Prairie, Ill.
9. J. Allan Smith.....	La Prairie, Ill.
10. Milner Brown Baily.....	Dunlap, Iowa
11. Miriam Richardson.....	Ames, Iowa
12. George Richardson.....	Ames, Iowa
13. Violet E. Richardson.....	Ames, Iowa
14. Anna L. Taylor.....	Delavan, Ill.
15. Jess Baily Annis.....	Council Bluffs, Iowa
16. Albert Brown.....	Detroit, Mich.
17. Louise Brown.....	Detroit, Mich.
18. Esther Graves Brown.....	Holder, Ill.
19. Edward Brown, Jr. ....	Holder, Ill.
20. Edward S. Brown.....	Holder, Ill.
21. Milner Brown.....	Chicago, Ill.
22. Clara Brown (Mrs. Milner).....	Chicago, Ill.
23. Alice S. Brown.....	Normal, Ill.
24. Effie Baily Meradith.....	Danvers, Ill.
25. W. G. Meradith.....	Danvers, Ill.
26. Miriam E. Bush.....	Normal, Ill.
27. W. N. Bush.....	Normal, Ill.

28.	William H. Bush.....	Normal, Ill.
29.	Miriam Bush.....	Normal, Ill.
30.	Eva Meredith.....	Danvers, Ill.
31.	Mercy Baily Cauffman.....	Peach Bottom, Pa.
32.	Lewis B. Cauffman.....	Peach Bottom, Pa.
33.	Camilla Wood.....	Delavan, Ill.
34.	Esther Wood Stewart.....	Kalamazoo, Mich.
35.	Mary H. Baily.....	Oxford, Pa.
36.	Joseph Scott Baily.....	Oxford, Pa.
37.	William H. Baily.....	Oxford, Pa.
38.	Edwin H. Baily.....	Oxford, Pa.
39.	Chas. Brown.....	Anchor, Ill.
40.	Lotella R. Brown.....	Delavan, Ill.
41.	Priscilla H. Baily.....	Springhill, Kansas
42.	Frances Baily.....	Springhill, Kansas
43.	Clifford Brown.....	Normal, Ill.
44.	Thomas Brown.....	Detroit, Mich.
45.	Milner Brown.....	Detroit, Mich.
46.	Billy Brown.....	Detroit, Mich.
47.	Betty Brown.....	Detroit, Mich.
	(Twins) (Albert Brown children.)	
48.	Harry S. Baily.....	Delavan, Ill.
49.	Myrtle Baily.....	Delavan, Ill.
50.	Rachel M. Davis.....	St. Louis, Mo.
51.	Mrs. Frank Welch.....	Lafayette, Ind.
52.	Miller Welch.....	Lafayette, Ind.
53.	Chas. B. Welch.....	Lafayette, Ind.
54.	Sue Brown Welch.....	Lafayette, Ind.
55.	Frank J. Welch.....	Lafayette, Ind.
56.	D. M. Brown.....	Delavan, Ill.
57.	Chas. B. Wood.....	Delavan, Ill.
58.	Amy M. Wood.....	Delavan, Ill.
59.	Mary Wood (aged 5).....	Delavan, Ill.
60.	Mary Brown.....	Delavan, Ill.
61.	Louis H. Brown.....	Delavan, Ill.
62.	Lewis E. Brown.....	Delavan, Ill.
63.	Eliza Teft Brown.....	Delavan, Ill.
64.	Daniel L. Brown.....	Delavan, Ill.
65.	Nellie O. Wood.....	Delavan, Ill.
66.	William Baily Waltmire.....	Chicago, Ill.
67.	Florence Nelson Waltmire.....	Chicago, Ill.
68.	Avonell Waltmire.....	Chicago, Ill.
69.	Robert Waltmire.....	Chicago, Ill.
70.	Beverly Waltmire.....	Chicago, Ill.

## GUESTS

1.	Wm. R. Baldwin.....	Delavan, Ill.
2.	Mrs. Wm. R. Baldwin.....	Delavan, Ill.
3.	Ellen McGinnis.....	Normal, Ill.
4.	Elizabeth Davis Lawton.....	Delavan, Ill.
5.	Richard C. Sunderland.....	Delavan, Ill.
6.	Mary King.....	Dayton, Ohio