

# Crawford County Genealogy

*Remembering our Heritage — Enriching the Present — Ensuring the Future*

November 2008

Larry M. Burmeister, 411 S. Redbud Ct., English, IN 47118

## Cross Roads Church of Christ

Southwest Township  
Orange County, IN  
Near Valeene, IN

1898 - 1998  
Centennial Celebration  
October 8-11, 1998



## Cross Roads Church of Christ 1898 - 1998

### Centennial Celebration

Schedule of Speakers

— Thursday, Oct. 8 —

Bro. David Galloway 7 p.m.

— Friday, Oct. 9 —

Bro. Kevin Key, 7 p.m.

— Saturday, Oct. 10 —

Congregational fellowship and salad supper at the  
home of Bruce and Shela Vernon, 3 p.m.

Bro. Ed Weillbaker, 7 p.m.

— Sunday, Oct. 11 —

Bible Study 9:45 a.m.

Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.

Speaker — Bro. Arthur Walton

Dismissal

Centennial Program, 11:30 a.m.

Introduction, Bro. John Harkness

Margie Moon Madden, read by Cathy Madden Koch  
and a poem written and read by Cora Mae Line  
Conrad

Brief history, Bro. Denny Moon

“Show and Tell” featuring church memorabilia,  
members and friends

Special recognition, Bro. Sam Vernon

Basket dinner on grounds

Speaker — Bro. John Fultz

Following service, members are invited to contribute  
items to a 25-year time capsule..

## History of Crossroads Church Of Christ

Valeene, Indiana

*Transcribed by Linda Lockhart*

We, the Church of Christ at Crossroads, Orange Co.,  
Indiana, assemble 11 October 1898 and submit the fol-  
lowing that we the undersigned agree to be governed  
by the laws of the New Testament and the same in  
faith and practice.

Organized by Elders Franklin Martin and John R.  
Radcliff on the 11 October 1898.

ELDERS: John H. Freeman (moved to Hardinsburg),

**MORE on page 2**

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## Cross Roads Church: Cont.

Isom Stroud.

DEACONS: T. W. Moon, Felix B. Moon.

### Charter Members

John H. Freeman moved to Hardinsburg  
 Malinda H. Freeman moved to Hardinsburg  
 James Alexander Lockhart died 4 October 1903  
 Emily Jane Lockhart  
 Aaron W. Whitman  
 Sarah E. Whitman  
 Wilford K. Moon  
 Catherine Moon  
 Thomas McBride  
 Virgil Moon died 14 July 1916  
 John Manship died 26 December 1906  
 Elizabeth Manship  
 Mary Wells  
 Margaret J. Moon  
 Adeline Pierson  
 Matilda Harvey  
 Isom Stroud  
 Eliza Jones  
 Effa Moon Agan  
 Flora Moon Hill  
 Belle Moon Hill  
 Lillie McBride McDonald  
 Felix B. Moon  
 Lizzie Moon  
 Winifred Moon  
 Dora Belle Moon  
 Margaret Bunch died December 1904  
 William Busick  
 Ida Busick  
 John R. Moon  
 Anna E. Moon  
 Simon Cornwell  
 Martha A. Cornwell

### Members

James E. Manship  
 Mattie Manship died 24 August 1905  
 Sanford Moon  
 Benton Pierson moved to Marengo  
 Dessie McBride Pierson moved to Marengo  
 Serena Manship Stroud died 29 March 1903  
 John S. Cornwell died 24 October 1899  
 Henry Mackey moved to Oak Springs  
 Willie Stroud died 24 February 1902  
 Dovie Stroud Vernon  
 John Vance  
 Perry Gobble  
 Margaret Gobble

Charles Lockhart  
 Mattie Lockhart  
 Harley H. Hill  
 James Busick  
 Elmer E. Pirtle  
 Rolla Pirtle  
 Albert Weathers  
 Doss Busick gone to saints or somewhere  
 Lona Busick  
 George A. Bird  
 Ezora Bird  
 John C. Stroud  
 James Stroud  
 Emma Hyslope  
 John Bullington  
 Jacob Crecelius  
 Nancy Crecelius died 23 January 1903  
 Eddy McBride  
 Mary E. Jones McBride  
 Henry Roby gone to Milltown  
 Mbel Overbee Miller  
 Ettie Jones Moon  
 William Hyslope  
 William Busick, Sr.  
 Sarah J. Busick  
 Thomas Stroud  
 Belle Stroud  
 T.W. Vernon  
 Sarah A. Vernon  
 Jacob H. Hutslar  
 Nancy J. Hutslar  
 Bessie B. Hutslar  
 Emma A. Childers removed 8 February 1903  
 James E. Vance  
 Leora A. Roby  
 Ora E. Roby  
 Oma Roby  
 Sarrah Sevedge died 22 March 1903  
 James McDonald  
 Edgar Stroud  
 G. M. Busick  
 Emma Busick  
 Maude Moon  
 Grace Lockhart Bullington  
 Manda Lockhart Manship  
 John Hobson  
 Milton Vernon  
 Henry Roberts  
 Alonzo Moon  
 Albert Free  
 Dellie M. Free  
 Minnie E. McBride  
 Hetty M. Manship  
 Gertrude Jones

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## Cross Roads Church: Cont.

Anna Stroud  
 Minnie Vernon Hutslar  
 Lula Vernon  
 Chloe Moon                      died 28 October 1921  
 Pearl Gobble  
 Gertrude Busick  
 Pearl Busick  
 A.J. Overbee  
 James Stroud  
 Henry Agan  
 Felix McDonald  
 Mat Manship  
 Myrtle Stroud  
 William Jones  
 Dessie Jones  
 Silas Underhill  
 Sally Underhill  
 John Cornwell  
 Billy Manship  
 Chessie T. Roberts  
 Oliver P. Strother  
 Sam Jones  
 Roma Jones  
 Olive Jones  
 Richard Alspaugh  
 Mary Alspaugh  
 Albert Alspaugh  
 Emma Moon  
 Hattie Wells  
 Grace Walker  
 Dessie Wells  
 Elwood Vernon  
 Rosa Bullington

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## Turner - Baker

James H. Turner, born 1809, died March 7, 1859; married Nov. 30, 1824 to Matilda Baker, born 1804, died May 12, 1889, daughter of Basil Baker came from Bedford County, VA, possibly to Bartholomew County, IN.

### Children:

1. Elizabeth
2. Adaline, born 1826 in Bedford Co., VA.
3. Amanda, born 1828 in Bedford Co., VA
4. Mary, born 1833 in Bartholomew Co., IN
5. Nancy, born 1835 in Bartholomew Co., IN
6. Matilda, born Feb. 23, 1838, Bartholomew Co.
7. Malissa, born 1839 in Crawford Co., IN
8. James Harden, born 1842 in Crawford; died Oct. 13, 1887.
9. Susan, born April 10, 1843 in Crawford; died

Dec. 27, 1927.

10. John, born 1845 in Crawford.
11. Jesse, born 1854 in Crawford.
12. Sarah.

James H. Turner died March 7, 1859;  
 Matilda Baker Turner died May 12, 1889, possibly in Liberty Twp., Crawford Co.

### **Marriages:**

Adaline married Vandiver Noblett  
 Amanda married William Roberson 1860  
 Mary married Samuel Stewart 1854  
 Nancy married William Reel / Real 1854  
 Matilda married Silas Lambdin 1858  
 Malissa married William Bird 1869  
 Susan married William Holaday Sept 22, 1859.  
 He was born July 29, 1836; died Oct. 5, 1916.  
 John H. married Cynthia A. Weathers 1864  
 Jesse married Juan Bell 1877  
 Sarah married Louis Vandever 1854

Information provided by Edith Key from Mrs. Edward  
 (Hazel) McFall.

Hazel Tarr McFall, b. 10-27-1915; died 7-16-2003.  
 Married: Hazel Jarene Tarr to Edward McFall 1937.  
 Thomas Edward McFall b. 6-21-1911 in Kokomo, IN; died 4-30-1997 at Paoli, IN.

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## Communications

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Wed, 09 Apr 2008 19:21:45 -0700

From: "Rita Moore" <qtchick@eoni.com>

To: "Larry Burmeister" <burmeisterlarry@yahoo.com>

Subject: Crawford Genealogy

Dear Larry,

Each month's newsletter seems to have surnames from my ancestors. It is always exciting to see if there is a connection with the Froman's, Conrad's, Denbo's, Robersons, Grants, Potts and others of my line.. To facilitate finding surnames I discovered using the edit option, then click on find, enter the surname and press either, next or previous. This finds each surname within the pages of the newsletter.

Quite handy!

Sincerely, Rita Morris Moore qtchick@eoni.com

## More on The Brown Family

Current Research on Benjamin Brown Part One Thursday, August 28, 2008 4:50 PM

From: "Tambaymar@aol.com" <Tambaymar@aol.com>

To: burmeisterlarry@yahoo.com

Larry: I've just purged my files for the people researching our Brown Family. I think you have most of this, but you may print it up for your files, anyway Best regards, Jim Patrick

### Benjamin Brown Part One

Summary of Current Research on Benjamin Brown, born 1807 in Greene Co TN, Part One:

We now feel quite secure that Benjamin Brown's parents were John and Catherine Hull Brown.

John Brown and Caty Hull were married 17 Mar 1807 in Greene County Tennessee.

One of our first big clues was the biography of Alfred Brown which Donna had found in a history of McDonough County Illinois, which has previously been published on this list. Although we certainly view biographies with a jaundiced eye, we can't discount their value as a starting point. This biography

placed Alfred Brown's birth in Greene County Tennessee, just 3 years after the Birth of Benjamin Brown.

"History of McDonough County Illinois, its Cities, Towns, and Villages, with Early Reminiscences, Personal Incidents and Anecdotes, and a Complete Business Directory of the County" by S. J. Clark, Springfield, Ill.: D.W. Lusk, State printer and binder 1878

Page 578—

"Alfred Brown was born in Green county, East Tennessee, June 18, 1810, a son of John and Catherine (Hull) Brown. He a native of Virginia, and she of Pennsylvania, and both were buried in Indiana. The family removed to White county, Tennessee, and subsequently to Harrison county, Indiana, living a portion of the time in the adjoining county, Crawford, where they lived at the time of their death. Alfred was married March 27, 1835, to Sarah V. Shields, of Harrison county, a daughter of Robert and Naomi (Little) Shields. In the fall of 1835, with his family, Alfred removed to Fulton county, Illinois, where he lived till 1852, at which time he came to McDonough and settled on section 1, where he bought 80 acres, afterwards buying 94 acres more. He has lived on this place since; at first living in a small house, but in 1877, he built a fine residence 32x25 and 24x16 feet, one and one-half stories high, costing \$1,800. His wife died August 3, 1871, and was buried at Blandinsville, leaving one child—Marinda, now the wife of J. D. Isom, living at the old home, where her father lives with her. She was born May 1, 1849. Mr. Brown is a member of the United Brethren in Christ, as was also his wife and daughter, in which church he has been class-leader for some time. This gentleman is highly respected by all his neighbors, and is considered a very worthy man in every

respect."

We were shocked when Kathy presented us with information from her Aunt June's files, showing that Benjamin Brown had served in the Civil War and that

Elizabeth Brown had filed for a widow's pension. Donna followed up by getting copies of all the original documents and consolidating the information. This set of documents gave us the personal information about Benjamin, letting us know that he was 5 feet 8 inches tall, with dark complexion, gray eyes, and gray hair. This was the place where we finally learned that Elizabeth's maiden name was Elizabeth Spears, by her own testimony, and that she and Benjamin were married in White County Tennessee in 1825. This finally corrected the bad transcription made by a county clerk when he mistakenly wrote Elizabeth's maiden name as "Spencer", rather than Spears". Donna's synopsis of Benjamin's Civil War experience has already been previously published on the Illinois Genweb:

"BENJAMIN BROWN'S CIVIL WAR PENSION Submitted by: \_Donna Walker Wefenstette\_ (mailto:WefenstetD@aol.com)

He joined Company C, 103rd Illinois Infantry Volunteers on August 11, 1862 and was mustered in Oct 2, 1862. The muster roll reads: 55 years old, 5' 8" tall, dark complexion, gray eyes, grizzled hair. He was discharged on disability March 28, 1863 for chronic dysentery.

On June 17, 1879 Benjamin Brown went to lawyers, Searns & Learnan, in Canton, Illinois who helped him fill out papers for a pension. Six affidavits were taken on the following dates: July 31, 1879 from Thadeus Knott, M.D., Ben's doctor before & after the war August 9, 1879 from Carey Westerfield, in same regiment August 16, 1879 from Jeremiah Vion, in same regiment August 18, 1879 from T. H. Fleming, M.D., regimental surgeon August 29, 1879 from Amos Lawrence, in same regiment August 18, 1879 from Ben himself. All these affidavits were sent to the Department of the Interior, pension office in Washington, D.C.

On Feb 7, 1880, the commissioner gave the application number 310.215 but returned it for more information regarding his health and medical treatment both before and after the war. (Since they had the affidavits, including one from Dr. Nott his family physician, it's not clear why they wanted more information!)

November 11, 1880, the pension office requested a full military history from the adjutant general's office in Washington D.C. January 20, 1881, the adjutant general's office returned a form to the commissioner of pensions with the military history. February 5, 1881, the surgeon general's office returned a form to the pension office for a report of hospital treatment and a form with the certificate of discharge for disability. By then, Ben had died and the application is stamped ABANDONED.

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## Brown Family: Cont.

February 3, 1881, Ben's wife, Elizabeth, went to a different lawyer, Charles J. Main of Canton to file an application for a widow's pension. ( This form confirms her maiden name of Spears and the date of her marriage as October 25, 1825 in White County Tennessee)

The pension office again took up the application, this time for a widow's pension, assigning the number 480.475, and on June 22, 1881 they requested information from the adjutant general's office regarding the military records of Amos Lawrence, Jeremiah Vion and Carey Westerfield as to the presence or absence on or about the time they were with Co C, 103 Ill Vol Co.

August 6, 1881 the adjutant general's office returned information on these three, that they were indeed with the 103rd regiment at the time of Ben's disability.

On June 22, 1883 the pension office sent P.M. Slaughter a letter regarding the standing in the community and general reputation for truth of T. H. Flemming, M.D. The handwritten reply is: "Canton, Ill June 25, The general reputation for truth and standing in the community of Dr. T. H. Flemming is good (underlined) Yours Resp P.M. Slaughter"

June 22, 1883, a letter was sent to Dr. Thaddeus Nott but was returned by the postmaster with a handwritten note on the letter: T. Knott m.d. is dead J H Hyde pm (post master) psd (initials) asst (Dr. Nott died Aug 5, 1881)

Feb 7, 1887 the pension office sent a letter to Mrs. Benj Brown but it had a hand written note on the envelope "return to writer".

March 22, 1887 a letter was sent to the postmaster in Bryant, Illinois for "the last known post-office address of Mrs. Elizabeth Brown who lived in your vicinity in 1881." There is one line on a piece of paper "Died at this place three or four years ago."

Her application is also stamped ABANDONED.

It appears that neither Ben nor Elizabeth received a pension. I believe if he had filed a claim in 1865 or 1870, he would have received a pension, but 18 years after the fact made the pension office suspicious. The claims floundered in the bureaucratic paperwork and time ran out, first for Ben and then for his wife, Elizabeth."

The next step was to connect Benjamin to some parents. Although we had been pretty sure that Ben and Alfred were either brothers or cousins, there was really no proof. Their closeness was further indicated by the fact that

Hiram Brown named one of his sons John Isom Brown, apparently in honor of Alfred's son-in-law, John Isom.

We knew that Benjamin Brown lived in Harrison County Indiana, along with other Greene County Browns, Trobaughs, and other collateral families, and that they mostly lived near the Crawford County line, in Western Scott Township (present day Harrison township), and that a Benjamin owned a farm in Crawford County for a brief time, just before Ben made his move to Fulton County Illinois. It took a long time to figure out that John and Catherine Hull Brown moved from Greene County to White County TN and to Harrison County Indiana, where Catherine died in about 1833, and that John Brown subsequently remarried, to a woman named "Elizabeth", either Elizabeth Snowden or Elizabeth Stewart, but that can be ironed out a bit later. In 1820 and 1830, John's wife is

enumerated as being in the same age bracket as John. From 1840 onward, his wife is ten years younger, and, beginning in 1850, she is named Elizabeth.

Phyllis and I finally identified the following census records as being the John

Brown who married Katy Hull

++ Federal Census of 1820 of White County Tennessee, page 316

Brown, John 3 2 0 0 1 0 — 2 0 0 1 0 0

3 males under 10 (John H. Brown; George A. Brown; & ?)

2 males 10-16 (Benjamin Brown; Alfred Brown)

1 male 26-45 (John Brown, HOH)

2 females under 10 (??)

1 female 26-45 (Catharine Hull Brown)

++Federal Census of 1830 of Harrison Township, Crawford County Indiana,

page 086

Brown, John — Head of Household — Enumerated next to brother Frederick

Brown and two names from brother George Brown Jr.

2 males under 5 (Samuel Brown & ?)

2 males 5-10 (George A. Brown; John H. Brown)

2 males 15-20 (Alfred Brown & ?)

1 male 20-30 (?)

1 male 40-50 (John Brown)

1 female 10-15 (?)

1 female 15-20 (?)

1 female 40-50 (Catharine Hull Brown)

**Brown Family: Cont.**

++Federal Census of 1840 of Sterling Township, Crawford County Indiana, page 375

Brown, John — Head of Household

one male 10-15 (?);

one male 15-20 (Samuel);

one male 50-60 (John Brown);

one female 40-50 Second Wife, Elizabeth)

++Federal Census of 1850 of Sterling Township, Crawford County Indiana, page 31

384 384 John Brown 66 M Farmer 300 Virginia

Elizabeth “ 56 Kentucky

++Federal Census of 1860 of Ohio Township, Crawford Co Indiana, page 571[?]

1433 1434 John Brown 76 M Farmer 390 200 Virginia

Elizabeth 65 F Kentucky

++Federal Census of 1870 of Ohio Township, Crawford Co Indiana, page 61

51 51 Brown, John 87 M Farmer 700 150 Virginia

Elizabeth 75 F Keeping House Kentucky

We still didn't have anything tangible to tie Benjamin Brown to Alfred and back to John Brown and Caty Hull. I found a will abstract for John Brown's will in: "Slevin, Ruth M. Will records: books 1-2. 1974. 71 pp.", but although the abstract mentioned Benjamin, it did not mention Alfred, and we already had a biography that tied Alfred to John Brown. Karyn got tired of my dragging my heels, so she wrote off to Crawford County for a copy of the original will, and I did a verbatim transcript, which we'll publish in part two.

Regards, Jim Patrick

Current Research on Benjamin Brown Part Two Thursday, August 28, 2008 4:50 PM

From: "Tambaymar@aol.com" <Tambaymar@aol.com> View contact details To: burmeisterlarry@yahoo.com

**Current Research on Benjamin Brown Part Two**

Summary of Current Research on Benjamin Brown, born 1807 in Greene Co TN, Part Two:

John Brown's Will has been previously published on this mailing list, but we'll show it again, for those who might not have been on the list at that time: Last Will and Testament of John Brown, Crawford County Indiana. Transcribed by James W. Patrick Page 148 of Crawford County, Indiana Will book Two John Brown's Last Will and Testament

I, John Brown, of Crawford County, State of Indiana, being in good bodily health and of sound mind & memory and ca-

pable of disposing of my property, calling to mind the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and being desirous of settling my worldly affairs and directing how my Estate that I possess shall be disposed of after my death while I have Strength and Capacity so, do make and publish this, my last will and Testament, hereby Envoking my disposal of my property that I have heretofore made, and first I commend my immortal being to Him who gave it and my body to the Earth, to be buried with little expense or ostentation by my Executor hereafter named.

And my worldly estate and all the property, Real and personal of which I shall die possessor of at the time of my decease, my will is that my just debts, be if any, and my funeral expenses hereafter named by him as shall be found shall be paid by Executor, hereafter named by him, as shall be found convenient by him. I then give devise and bequeath to my wife Elizabeth Brown, all my household furniture, my dwelling to have and to hold the same during her natural life, also give to her the use and income or rental of my home and appurtenances, to have and to hold the same during her natural life. Said land tenements situate in the County of Crawford State of Indiana.

2nd I give to my son Benjamin Brown the sum of one dollar to be paid in one year after my death by my Executor hereafter to be named.

3rd I give devise and bequeath to my son John H. Brown the Reversion [reversion?] or the Remainder of my dwelling house lands, situate in the County of Crawford State of Indiana described as follows: the south west qt of the S.W. qt of Sec No. 17. Also the south East of the South East qt of Sec. No. 18 all in Tp [?] 3 South of Range one east and all of my personal property at the death of my wife Elizabeth Brown to have and to hold the same, him his heirs and assigns forever, from and after the death of my wife Elizabeth Brown, to him, John H. Brown to his and their use ... [behoof ??] forever.

4th I give to my son, Alfred Brown, the sum of one dollar, to be paid by my executor, hereafter named, in one year after my death.

5th I give to the heirs of Geo A. Brown, the sum of one dollar to be paid to them or their order within one year after my death, by my Executor hereinafter named.

6th I give to my son Samuel Brown, the sum of one dollar to be paid him in one year after my death, by my Executor herein after named.

7th I hereby appoint George W. Riddle, of Crawford County and State of Indiana, my Executor of this my last will and Testament.

And lastly my express will and meaning is and I do hereby order and appoint that if any difference, dispute, question, or controversy shall be moored, arise, or happen concerning any gift, matter, or thing in this my will, given and bequeathed, expressed, or court arise that then no suit or suits in law or

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**Brown Family: Cont.**

equity or otherwise shall be brought, commenced, or prosecuted for and concerning the same

Page 149 of Will Book Two: determination of my friends Hamilton Martin & John S. Wright, both of Crawford County and State of Indiana, and what they shall order, direct, or determine therein shall be binding and conclusive to all and every person therein concerned.

In testimony whereof, I, the said John Brown, have to this my last will and testament, contained on one where thereof subscribed my name and affixed my seal this 2 day of September, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and seventy three ~~~  
John (his X mark) Brown (L.S.)

The above instrument consisting of one sheet was now here subscribed by John Brown, the testator in the presence of each of us, and was, at the same time, declared by him to be his last will and Testament, and we, at his request, sign our names hereto as attesting witnesses

Hamilton Martin  
John S. Wright

The State of Indiana }  
Crawford County } SS

Be it Remembered that on the 21st day of November, 1884, Hamilton Martin, one of the subscribing witnesses to the within and foregoing last will and Testament of John Brown, late of said county deceased, personally appeared before the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Crawford County in the State of Indiana, and being duly sworn by the Clerk of said Court upon his oath declared and testified as follows, that is to say that on the 2nd day of September A.D 1873, he saw the said John Brown sign his name to said instrument in writing, as and for his last will and Testament, and that this deponent, at the same time heard the said John Brown declare the said instrument in writing to be his last will and Testament, and that the said instrument in writing was at the same time at the request of the said John Brown, and, with his consent, attested and subscribed the said Hamilton Martin & John S. Wright in the presence of said testator and in the presence of each other, as subscribing witnesses thereto, and that the said John Brown, was at the time of signing and subscribing of said instrument in writing, as aforesaid, of full age, that is more than twenty on years of age, and of sound and disposing mind and memory and not under any coercion or restraint as the said deponent verily believes, and further and sayeth not.

Hamilton Martin

Sworn to and subscribed to by the said Hamilton Martin before me, W. S. Ross, Clerk of said Court, at Leavenworth this 21 day of November 1884, in attestation whereof I ave hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the seal of said Court.

W. S. Ross, Clerk, Circuit Court

State of Indiana Crawford County } SS

Page 150 of Will Book Two: I, W. S. Ross, Clerk of the Crawford Circuit Court, do hereby certify that the within annexed Will and Testament of John Brown has been duly admitted to probate and duly proved by the testimony of Hamilton Martin, one of the subscribing witnesses thereto, that a complete record of said will and of the testimony of the said John Brown in proof thereof has been by me duly made and recorded in Book 2, at Page 148 of the Records and Wills of said County.

In attestation whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the Seal; of said Court at Leavenworth this 21st day of November A.D. 1884  
W. S. Ross, Clerk (L.S.) Of the Crawford Circuit Court

Since we felt we had finally pinned down Ben’s parents, we wanted a more personal connection with this generation of Browns:

On Thursday, May 29, 2008, Phyllis, Tom and Mark Groutage and I drove from Carterville Illinois to English Indiana, in Crawford County, to look at some of the historical documents at the old courthouse on the hill in English. The town of English was moved several years ago, from its original location in a valley, to a nearby hill, after a series of floods which devastated the town. It’s a little bit spooky to come down out of the hills into this location and see the streets and sidewalks all in place, but no buildings. The old courthouse is a concrete block building, apparently in good condition, but empty except for the historical documents. The present caretakers of the documents told us that, when the new courthouse was to be constructed, they were assured that special rooms would be provided for the historical documents, but, when the courthouse was dedicated and opened, no such provision had been made. What a surprise! Now, everything is still in the old courthouse, safe on a hill on the opposite side of the valley from “New English”. Although we spent most of our time at the Historical Society facility in the old courthouse, we also visited the new library, up in New English, where we were able to view the newspaper microfilms.

Since we had called ahead earlier in the week, Larry Burmeister, Vice-President of the Crawford County Historical and Genealogical Society, was awaiting our arrival with the County Historian, Richard Eastridge. We explained that we have a copy of the will of John Brown, which we’ve transcribed, but we wanted to find the record of distribution of the bequests, which would most likely note the residence of the beneficiaries. The will was submitted on November 21, 1884, and was approved on December 23, 1884, so we, and all other researchers have reckoned that Old John Brown had died in 1884, although the original will had been written on September 2, 1873. As

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## **Brown Family: Cont.**

usually happens with genealogy research, we found that our notions were a bit incorrect.

Despite our best efforts, we couldn't find any distribution records, although we think they are still buried somewhere in those old books. In the will, the major beneficiaries were John H. Brown and Old John Brown's widow, Elizabeth. After burial and payment of debts ... "I then give devise and bequeath to my wife Elizabeth Brown, all my household furniture, my dwelling to have and to hold the same during her natural life, also give to her the use and income or rental of my home and appurtenances, to have and to hold the same during her natural life. Said land tenements situate in the County of Crawford State of Indiana."

A dollar to son, Benjamin Brown, then ..... "I give devise and bequeath to my son John H. Brown the Reversion [reversion?] or the Remainder of my dwelling house lands, situate in the County of Crawford State of Indiana described as follows: the south west qt of the S.W. qt of Sec No. 17. Also the south East of the South East qt of Sec. No. 18 all in Tp [?] 3 South of Range one east and all of my personal property at the death of my wife Elizabeth Brown to have and to hold the same, him his heirs and assigns forever, from and after the death of my wife Elizabeth Brown, to him, John H. Brown to his and their use ...[behoof ??] forever."

A dollar to son, Alfred Brown

A dollar to the heirs of his son, George A. Brown

A dollar to son, Samuel Brown

George W. Riddle is appointed as Executor of the will.

We already knew all of the above information, but Richard Eastridge began to dig elsewhere.

He found a page that showed the fees paid to file the will in 1884, all paid for by Squire Brown (b. abt 1846 IN), Old John's grandson, son of John H. Brown (b. abt 1812 TN).

Then, he found a notation in the transcribed Crawford County Tract book 3, Land Records, that the land described in the will was transferred from John H. Brown to Squire V. Brown on January 10, 1885. Although we don't know his date of death, John H. Brown is buried in Mt. Sterling Cemetery, south of English Indiana. Our conclusion is that John H. Brown was in ill health and unable to travel to the county seat for filing of the will and payment of fees.

Richard Eastridge subsequently found an entry wherein Squire V. Brown had committed an Elizabeth Brown to the Poor Farm in 1885. We have no further information. We can't find Elizabeth in the census of 1880. She would have been about 85 years old at that time. We can't be sure that the person committed to the Poor Farm was the second wife of Old John Brown, but it seems a considerable coincidence if it refers to other people. Our assumption would have been that she had died before 1885, when the property was transferred to Squire, but would the property have been tied to

the household goods? It was my opinion that the house, lands, and personal properties were all tied to Elizabeth Brown until her death. If Squire or his father (John H. Brown) had Elizabeth declared incompetent, they might have been able to transfer the property prior to her death. On the other hand, Richard Eastridge, the County Historian, believes that only the household goods were tied to Elizabeth. In Squire's defense, if Elizabeth was aged and perhaps senile, Squire might have thought it best to place his step-grandmother into the only institution available to them. Who knows? It's a subject for further research.

Further questions evolve. An article in the Crawford County Democrat of Thursday, December 20, 1877 (published at Leavenworth, Indiana), says: "Died at

100 Years Old. Old Uncle John Brown, one of the oldest citizens of this county, died Friday last, of old age. His birth day would have been next May, and which time he would have been one hundred years old. His remains were interred at the Riddle schoolhouse cemetery, being followed by a large cortege [sic] of citizens."

All previous census entries record an age for Old John Brown that would place his birth at 1783-1784, instead of the May of 1778 date indicated in the newspaper. There's little question that all these items: the will of 1873 (filed 1884), the census records of 1850, 1860 and 1870, the 1877 newspaper article, the land transfer from John H. Brown (son of Old John Brown) to Squire Brown (son of John H. Brown) all apply to the same John Brown. One could only guess why Old John Brown might have shaved six years off his actual age all those years, if that's the case. Did it happen at the time of his second marriage, to Elizabeth Snowden on 26 Dec 1833 in Harrison County Indiana? Or was his impending 100th birthday a fabrication by an editor, something not unknown in newspapers of the time? For the moment, we have chosen to believe that the newspaper was wrong about his age, either because the 100-year-old story was more interesting, or because the editors received flawed information. From the article, we place the date of John's death at 14 Dec 1877. For our purposes, we continue to estimate John's date of birth to be May of 1784.

We had decided before our trip to Indiana that we would visit the property owned by old John Brown, on Riddle Church Road, near Riddle Indiana, in Crawford County. However, the obituary gave us the graveyard location and provided us with another point of reference. We drove some twelve miles southeast, from English to Riddle Church Road, where we had expected at least a little store or something to indicate that a town had existed there. We knew we had arrived because we were following a map, and when we turned to the right, we saw the old schoolhouse and the graveyard. Other than those landmarks, the only other feature was one house. Riddle is no longer on most highway maps.

## Brown Family: Cont.

We realized that the locus of the former town of Riddle is about a quarter mile to the north of Riddle Church Road, on Carnes Mill Road. Google Map:

[http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&ie=UTF-8&q=riddle+indiana&um=1&sa=X&oi=geocode\\_result&resnum=1&ct=image](http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&ie=UTF-8&q=riddle+indiana&um=1&sa=X&oi=geocode_result&resnum=1&ct=image)

The schoolhouse is now a Methodist Church, said to have been founded in 1836, which might have been shortly before Old John Brown arrived on the scene. It's not clear if the church had originally been Methodist. If Old John Brown had anything to do with the founding, it probably would have been some sort of Reformed German Church of the Brethren, since two of his brothers were pastors in that church tradition. The present building is resting on a foundation of rough-hewn limestone blocks, and we suspected that they might have supported the original school when Old John Brown arrived on the scene. Of course, the schoolhouse might have also served as church in the earliest days in Riddle. The building is laid out very much like old schoolhouses, but the two such organizations often used to use the same buildings. We like to say that we saw John Brown's grave, because we looked at every grave on the property and examined every gravestone that might have been in place in 1877, although we found no gravestone with his name. There were at least a dozen stones that had weathered enough to be unreadable, any one of which might have been John's. We chose one particular stone, near the site of the original building, near another Brown headstone and decided, arbitrarily, that it would be John Brown's. That's our story, and we're sticking to it until proven otherwise.

We left the graveyard and headed west about a quarter-mile to the property which had been John Brown's. The unpaved road going westward out of Riddle makes a sharp turn to the left, and Old John Brown's property is on the right, just at the corner. One of us got out of the truck and asked the people in the yard if we might take some photos of the house and property, because one of the ancestors of the lady sitting in the car had lived there 150 years ago. One of the men standing around on the property indicated that he saw no problem in our photographs, so I took a couple of snapshots. The man explained that they were renting the property, and that the present owner had recently purchased the property. He said that locals place the construction of the house at more than 100 years ago, but it would be difficult to date it on outward appearance. However, the back part of the house was resting on some stones that appeared to be exactly the same size and general appearance as those under the schoolhouse/church. Shortly, a younger man came outside and said that his mother was upset at our photographing the place, since the owner was a bit difficult about such things. Of course, we had a legal right to photograph anything we wanted to, but we had no interest in riling up

the local citizenry, who didn't seem to be very happy with us. We snapped a couple of photos yet from the car and fled the wrong direction, around the corner, on a dead-end road. We turned around and headed home, having not really found exactly the kind of information we were looking for, but having found different, more interesting stuff.

Another article noted in the great index of old newspapers at the Historical Society in Crawford County Indiana, was for the death of John W. Brown (son of George A. Brown), a grandson of Old John Brown. Although the cemetery listings note a John W. Brown buried in Crawford County, it is not this particular John W. Brown, who is buried in Trilla (Coles Co) Illinois. We think that George A. Brown died 1850-1855 in Sullivan County Indiana, and his wife, Sophia Williams, remarried three times, as noted below, migrating with her kids to Coles Co IL.

Looking at the local newspapers on microfilm was interesting. We found that these small-town newspapers published mostly articles lifted from magazines or other newspapers, even as late as 1913 — From "The English News", March 14, 1913 (published at English Indiana):

Trilla Loses One of its Old Residents

John W. Brown, Civil War Veteran Passed Away — Funeral Services on Sunday Morning.

Trilla, Ill, March 1. — John W. Brown, aged seventy-two years and nine months one of the founders of the town of Trilla died at the family resident here Friday night at 10:40 o'clock. Death is attributed to pneumonia. Funeral services will be conducted on Sunday morning at the Presbyterian church at ten o'clock. Burial will be made in the Beals cemetery. Rev. Harris who has been conducting revival service at the church for two weeks, will officiate. [It's interesting to note that Sophia Williams' mother was Azuba Beals, so the contact with the Beals family was maintained after migration.]

John W. Brown was born in Crawford County, Ind., on May 17, 1840, and came to Trilla shortly after the civil war. He served in the war for four years and a half as a member of the thirty-first Indiana Volunteers, having enlisted as a -private and was promoted from time to time until he attained the rank of lieutenant[t]. John W. Brown was postmaster of Trilla for four years. For twenty years he was engaged in mercantile business under the firm name of Brown & McPherson. He was an active church worker having been an elder for fifteen years in the Presbyterian Church. he was also interested in lodge work, and held membership with Post 503 of the Grand Army of the Republic, Lodge, No. 393 of the Ancient Free and Accepted Mason, chapter 254 of the Eastern Star, and the Charleston branch of the Masonic Protective association. Mr. Brown was married on September 25, 1887 to Miss Mary Hays. Surviving him are two brothers, L. W. Brown of Trilla and Levi Brown of English; one son, O. C. Brown, of

**MORE On Next Page**

**Brown Family: Cont.**

Trilla; one daughter, Mrs. Laura Jones of Trilla, nine grandchildren and five great grandchildren. mr. W. A. O’Day, who resides at 1016 South Fifteenth Street, Mattoon, is a granddaughter.

Best regards to all, Jim

**Parts 3 and 4 to Continue in Next Edition.**

**Order Book A — Continued**

**June Term 1822 — 2nd Day — Continued**

**State of Indiana vs. William Brown — Larceny.**

The Defendant comes and defends the wrong and injury when he for plea says he is not guilty in manner and form as in the Indictment is charged against him and for his trial puts himself upon the county and the Prosecuting Attorney doth the like, and thereupon came William Brown and acknowledged himself to owe and stand indebted to the State of Indiana for the use of the seminary of Crawford County to be rendered in the sum of \$500 and Allan D. Thom, his security, in the sum of \$300 to the use of the seminary of Crawford County, to be levied of their respective goods and chattels, lands and tenements if default be made in the condition following, to-wit: The condition of the above recognizance is such that if the said William Brown shall personally be and appear at our next Circuit Court to be held in the Town of Fredonia and County of Crawford on the first day of our October Term next to answer to an Indictment preferred against him for larceny and not depart the Court without leave then this recognizance to be void, else to remain in full force and virtue in law.

ORDERED TO be certified to the County Commissioners that each Grand Juror served two days at the present term.

ORDERED TO be certified that Joseph Tibbs served two days as Bailiff to the Grand Jury at 75 cents per day.

**State of Indiana vs. Stephenson & Others — On Sine Farias**

On motion of Prosecuting Attorney this cause is ordered to be continued until next term and an *alias sine farias* be awarded against Stephenson as to whom the Sheriff has returned former *sine farias* “not found in any bailwick.”

ORDERED THAT Court adjourn until Court-in-Course.

Michael Real & James Glenn, Associate Judges.

**October Term 1822**

AT A Circuit Court held according to law in the Town of Fredonia in the County of Crawford in the State of Indiana in and for the Fourth Judicial Circuit on Monday, the 28th day of October, 1822. Present: The Honorable James R. E. Goodlett, President.

AT THIS TIME Moses Smith produced in Court a Commission from His Excellency Jonathan Jennings, Governor of the State of Indiana, commissioning him Associate Judge in and for the County of Crawford and State of Indiana upon which commission was endorsed as evidence of his having taken the oaths of office prescribed by law; Thereupon

Present: The Honorable Moses Smith, Associate Judge.

AT THIS TIME David Stewart produced in Court a Commission from His Excellency Jonathan Jennings, Governor of the State of Indiana, commissioning him Associate Judge in and for the County of Crawford and State of Indiana upon which commission was endorsed as evidence of his having taken the oaths of office prescribed by law; Thereupon

Present: The Honorable David Stewart, Associate Judge.

THE SHERIFF returned into Court the following as a list of Grand Jurors, to-wit:

- |                           |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Allan D. Thom, foreman | 8. Henry Warfield |
| 2. Oliver Stone           | 9. John P. Cannon |
| 3. Thomas Fleming         | 10. Thomas Barn   |
| 4. Samuel Monk            | 11. Thomas Easley |
| 5. Archibald Slone        | 12. Samuel Glenn  |
| 6. Abraham Froman         | 13. E. E. Morgan  |
| 7. James Kellems, Jr.     | 14. James Totten  |

Fourteen good and lawful men who being sworn well and truly to inquire for the body of the County of Crawford and having received a Charge from the Court retired from the bar to consult of Presentments and Indictments.

JOSEPH TIBBS was appointed by the Court as Bailiff to the Grand Jury and thereupon the discharge of his functions.

**State of Indiana vs. John Stephenson — Larceny.**

At this time came the Prosecuting Attorney and says he will not prosecute this suit any further; Therefore it is considered by the Court that the Defendant go hence without delay.

**State of Indiana vs. John Stephenson, John Lynch, James Kellams Jr., and Daniel Weathers.**

And now at this day came Harbin H. Moore who

**MORE On Next Page**

**Order Book A — Continued**

prosecuted the pleas of the State on the *sein facias* heretofore issued against the Defendants having been returned executia as to John Lyntch, James Kellams Jr. and Daniel Weathers and two *nihies* as to John Stephenson and the said Defendants being three times solemnly called came not but made default — It is therefore ordered by the Court that the State of Indiana have and recover of the said Defendants the sum of \$300 against John Stephenson and the sum of \$100 against John Lyntch, James Kellams Jr. and Daniel Weathers each to be levied of their respective goods and chattels, lands and tenements as also the costs and charges of this prosecution in this behalf expended.

**State of Indiana vs. James Miller — Counterfeiting.**

And now at this time came as well the Prosecuting Attorney as Jacob Zinck in his proper person who was appearance bail for the Defendant and in discharge of his recognizance surrendered the Defendant in open court and thereupon the said Defendant was remanded into the custody of the Sheriff and the said Jacob Zinck is discharged from his recognizance in this case.

And now at this time came as well as the Prosecuting Attorney as the said Defendant in his proper person and says he is not guilty in manner and form as in the Indictment is charged against him and of this he puts himself upon the county and the Prosecuting Attorney doth the like and thereupon came a jury, to-wit:

- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| William Campbell | James Spencer      |
| Charles Ridge    | Nathaniel Staughan |
| Edward McCurry   | Thomas Williamson  |
| Levi Beals       | John McCarty       |
| William Pearson  | John Bell          |
| Alexander Frakes | Enoch Rollins      |

twelve good and lawful men who being elected tried and sworn well and truly to try the issue joined having heard the evidence and argument of counsel retire from the bar and after some time returned into Court the following verdict, to-wit: “We of the jury find the Defendant guilty as charged in the Indictment and we do further find that said Defendant be fined in the sum of \$40, being four-fold the amount of the bill he attempted to pass as charged in said Bill of Indictment, and we do further find that said Defendant be confined to hard labor in the State Prison at Jeffersonville for the term of 18 calendar months.” Alexander Frakes, foreman. But before entering judgement, the Defendant by his attorney moved the Court for a rule to shew cause why a new trial should not be granted which rule is granted. Therefore it is considered by the Court that the Prosecuting Attorney shew cause on tomorrow morning why a new trial should not be granted.

**State of Indiana vs. William Brown — Larceny.**

And now at this time came the Prosecuting Attorney and says he will not prosecute this cause any further.

Therefore it is considered by the Court that the Defendant go hence without delay.

**State of Indiana vs. Andrew Mason — Perjury.**

At this time came Andrew Mason and Abner Joliff and jointly and severally acknowledged themselves to owe and stand indebted to the State of Indiana for the use of seminaries to be rendered Andrew Mason in the sum of \$500 and Abner Joliff in the sum of \$300 in good and lawful money of the United States of America to the which payment well and truly to be made, we bind our goods and chattels, lands and tenements jointly and severally firmly by these presents. The condition of the above recognizance is such that if the above bound Andrew Mason shall be and appear at the next term of the Crawford Circuit Court and then and there answer to what ever may be objected against him and not depart without leave, then this obligation to be void or else to remain in full force and virtue in law.

AT THIS TIME came John Star and Archibald Allen and acknowledged themselves to owe and stand indebted to the State of Indiana in the sum of \$100 good and lawful money of the United States each, for the use of the public seminaries to be rendered to the payment of which well and truly to be made, we bind our goods and chattels, lands and tenements jointly and severally firmly by these presents. The condition of the above recognizance is such that if the above bound John Star and Archibald Allen shall attend on the first day of our next term to give evidence against Andrew Mason on behalf of the State on an Indictment for Perjury and not depart without leave then this recognizance to be void, else to remain in full force and virtue in law.

**State of Indiana vs. James Riddle — Assault & Battery.**

At this time came as well the Prosecuting Attorney as the said Defendant in his proper person and says he is not guilty as charged and puts himself upon the county and the Prosecuting Attorney doth the like and thereupon came a jury, to-wit:

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Enoch Rollins     | Edward McCurry      |
| Charles Ridge     | John Justus         |
| Levi Beals        | James Spencer       |
| William Campbell  | Nathaniel Straughan |
| John Bell         | William Pearson     |
| Thomas Williamson | Reuben Kemp         |

twelve good and lawful men who being elected tried and sworn well and truly to try the issue joined having heard the evidence and argument of counsel retire from the bar and after some time returned into Court the following verdict, to-wit: “We of the jury find the Defendant guilty as charged and assess his fine at one dollar. John Justus, foreman. Therefore it is considered by the Court that the Defendant make his fine aforesaid to the State of Indiana for the use of public semi-

**Order Book A — Continued**

naries to be rendered as aforesaid and that he pay the costs of this prosecution and that he stand committed until sentence be performed.

Ordered that Court adjourn until tomorrow 8 o'clock.  
R. E. Goodlett

**October Term 1822 — 2nd Day**

Tuesday, October 29, 1822. Court met pursuant to adjournment. Present: As yesterday.

JAMES PURDY Esq. applied to the Court for admittance as an attorney and Counsellor-at-Law in this Court and having produced a license and took the oath prescribed by law is admitted accordingly.

**State of Indiana vs. James Miller**

At this time came the prisoner in his proper person in the custody of the Sheriff and thereupon came Harbin H. Moore and John Miles Esquires, his attorneys and filed the following reasons for a new trial: 1- Verdict against the law. 2 - Verdict is contrary to evidence. — and after argument and mature deliberation thereon — It is the opinion of the Court now here that the rule entered yesterday for a new trial in this case is discharged. Therefore it is considered by the Court that the said Defendant make his fine of \$40 to the State of Indiana for the use of the public seminaries of the County of Crawford and that he be taken from hence and be confined in the State Prison at Jeffersonville to hard labor for the term of 18 calendar months and that he pay all the costs of this prosecution and that he stands committed until sentence be performed.

**John Tony vs. John Dennison — On Petition.**

At this time came the Plaintiff by Joel D. Thomasson, Esq., his attorney, and filed the following petition, to-wit:

Crawford County Circuit, October Term 1822.

To the Honorable Judges of the Crawford Circuit Court now sitting the petition of John Tony would show to your honors that he is . . . that one John Dennison as his assignee will commence a suit or suits against him for recovery of the amount of several notes of hand given by the said John Tony to the said John Dennison subject to a certain verbal condition which condition was to have performed previous to the prayers of this petition which condition the said

Dennison has wholly neglected and refused to perform for the benefit of said John Tony as he had bound himself to do — Thereupon your petitioner prays your honors to grant him a *dedimus* to take the depositions of William Brownfield and Elizabeth Brownfield, they being old and infirm, to be perpetuated and read as evidence in favor of the said John Tony as prescribed by an Act approved January 10, 1818, entitled “An Act to Perputate Testimony” and as in duly bound.  
/s/ John Tony

Therefore it is considered by the Court that a *dedimus* be awarded him and that Notice be given in the Indiana Gazette, published at Corydon, as the laws direct of times and . . . of taking the deposition.

**State of Indiana vs. James Riddle**

And now at this time came as well the Prosecuting Attorney and the Defendant in his proper person and on motion of the Prosecuting Attorney this cause stands continued until next term.

AT THIS time came James Riddle and Martin H. Tucker and acknowledged themselves to owe and stand indebted to the State of Indiana, James Riddle in the sum of \$100, and Martin H. Tucker in the sum of \$50, good and lawful money of the United States each, for the use of the public seminaries to be rendered to the payment of which well and truly to be made, we bind our goods and chattels, lands and tenements jointly and severally firmly by these presents. The condition of the above recognizance is such that if the above bound James Riddle shall be and appear at the next term of the Crawford Circuit Court and then and there answer to whatever may be objected against him and not depart without leave, then this obligation to be void or else to remain in full force and virtue in law.

**Allan D. Thom vs. Andrew Dounon.**

This cause continued by consent.

**William Babb vs. Daniel Weathers**

At this time came the Appellant by his attorney and this cause is dismissed at the Defendant cost. Therefore the Appellee may recover his costs.

**Chestley Denham vs. His Creditors.**

Ordered by the Court that this cause be dismissed.

**For older issues of this newsletter, see:  
<http://www.yatesville.net/histctr/58.html>  
Mr. Ron Yates has placed all my newsletters  
on his excellent website. Check it Out!**

—————  
**To Be Continued —**