

The Braunds of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, USA

Branch 3

Lynne Ridler-Wall

This is the story of William Arthur Braund, of Branch 3. William was born about 1829 in Sheepwash, Devon and emigrated in 1852 or thereabouts, settling in Chagrin Falls Village, Cuyahoga County, Ohio. It's not clear neither why he left Devon nor why he chose Chagrin Falls, which was then a settlement of a few hundred people. But he did have 'transferable skills' as a carriage maker and/or blacksmith which would no doubt have been welcomed in this community.



Sheepwash

“Chagrin Falls, a picturesque village of 4000 residents, sits at the edge of Cuyahoga County, about 40 minutes from downtown Cleveland. The town, named for the scenic falls in the center of town, is known for its historic architecture, varied restaurants, interesting antique shopping and art galleries, and its vibrant arts community.

The Village of Chagrin Falls was discovered in the mid-19th century by the early settlers of Connecticut's Western Reserve. These early residents were a largely religious group and several of the village's churches, including the Methodist Church on Franklin Street, date back to this era. The town grew quickly around the falls, along which flour, woollen, and paper mills developed as well as a foundry. The village was incorporated in 1844.

Business owners and tradesmen built elaborate brick homes in a variety of styles. Many of these mid-19th century homes have been restored to their original glory and

several are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.”¹

In the year of his arrival in the States, William married Fanny Whitlock, on 16th November. However, I’ve not been able to locate them in either the 1860 or 1870 US census. But the 1880 census does provide us with some useful information. William is described here as a carriage maker. Later, in 1900 and in 1920, he is recorded as ‘Blacksmith, Carriage Maker’. Fanny is aged 50 and so was born about 1830. In this census she is recorded as ‘Hannah’ but further searches using this first name show no consistency with other data. But searches for Fanny Whitlock do. In the 1850 census there are two Fanny Whitlocks in the area, both born in



William Arthur Braund on the right

England. One is aged 20 and living with a Stoneman family in Orange, Cuyahoga County – this would be the right age. The other is younger at 16 and part of a Whitlock family in Orange. A trawl of the available emigration data shows a Fanny Whitlock (sic), a dressmaker, travelling on the ship *Mercy* to the US, June 6 1848, and a Philip Stoneman is next but one to her name on the ship’s passenger list. Further, the 1841 UK census has a Fanny Whitlock in Langtree, of the right age. So, it appears that two Devon souls met up in Chagrin Falls. Searching some of the history sites for Chagrin Falls, we find William A. Braund recorded as a member of the ‘Chagrin Falls Lodge no 290, IOOF’, (Independent Order of Odd Fellows), 29 June 1855, indicating that he was an established member of the expanding community by this date.² The 1880 census also shows that they employed a servant and that their house was large enough to accommodate three boarders.

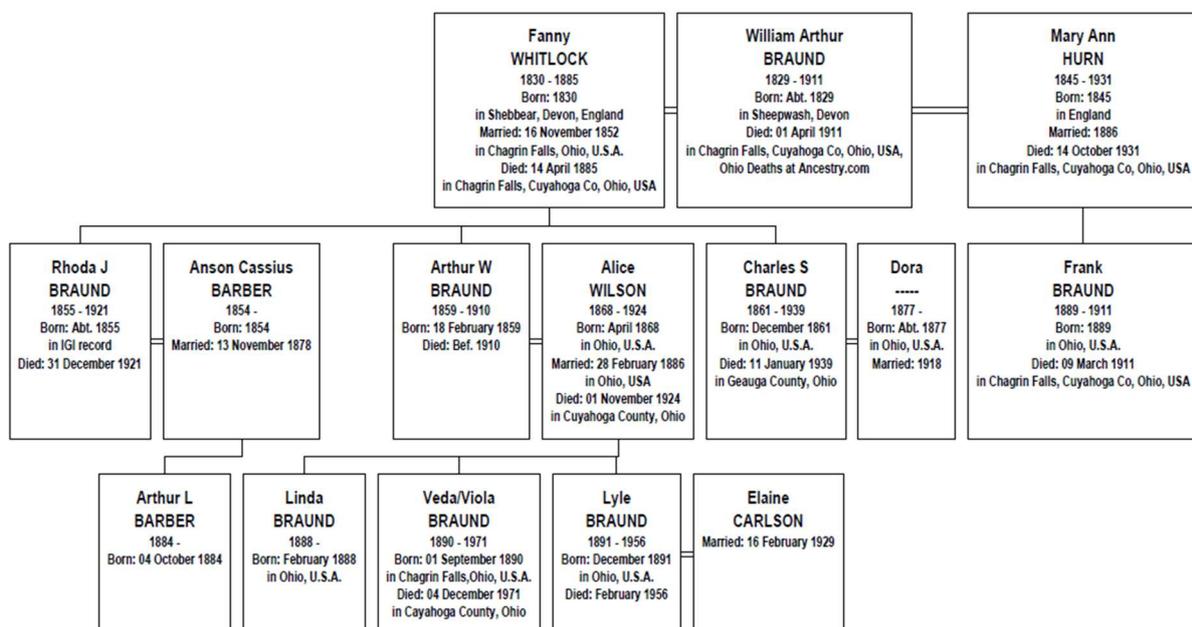
William and Fanny had three children, all born in Chagrin Falls.

¹ Extract from www.cleveland.about.com accessed April 2010.

² www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohcuyah3/chagrinfalls.html.

- Rhoda J Braund was born about 1855 (IGI) and later married Anson Cassius Barber, 13th November 1878 in Cuyahoga. He was a farmer, born 1854. They lived in Chester, Geauga County, appearing in all censi from 1880-1929, and Rhoda died 31st December 1921. They had one son, Arthur L Barber, who was born 4th October 1884.
- Arthur W Braund was born February 18th 1859, and was also a carriage maker. In 1886 he married Alice Willson or Wilson, on February 28th. (Alice was born April 1868). They had three children. For more on this marriage, see later.
- Charles S Braund was born December 1861. He was a carriage painter. He was still at home aged 48 in 1910 but then marries Dora in 1918. In the 1930 census they were in Orrville, Wayne, Ohio. She is then aged 53 so was born in about 1877 and the census also tells us that she was married at 41. I have been unable to trace any children and perhaps because of her age, starting a family was unlikely. Charles died on 11th January 1939.

Descendants of William Arthur BRAUND



Sadly, Fanny died in 1885, April 14th, in Chagrin Falls. The following year, William married again, Mary Ann Hurn (born 1845 in England). She had previously been married to Charles

Wilson and already had six children. In 1889, when she was 44, Frank Braund was born. He becomes a japaner, possibly in the family carriage business.

I mentioned more to follow on the Arthur Braund-Alice Wilson marriage. In the 1910 census, we see William and Mary Ann at home, with sons Charles and Frank. Also present are George and Grace Wilson, 'stepson and stepdaughter', (aged 37/39 and 33). These are two of Mary Ann's six children from her first marriage, as indeed is Alice. So father William and son Arthur married mother Mary Ann and daughter Alice respectively, in the same year. Alice herself is by now (1910) widowed and a quick look back at the 1900 census describes her then as divorced. (In that year her brothers Burt and George are living with her and her children). It is not clear what happened to Arthur as I cannot locate him in the 1900 census although he clearly died sometime before 1910. In that year, Alice is living next door to her father in law and her children are all at home:

- Veda, born September 1890, a cashier. In 1920 she is a stenographer at a bank. She never married and died 4th December 1971.
- Linda, born February 1888. She is at home aged 22 in the 1910 census. I cannot trace her after this date though it is likely that she married as she does not follow the family trait of staying in the parental home.
- Lyle, born December 1891. He is also still at home in 1920, a salesmen for a seed company. In 1930 there is a Lyle K Braund now married to Elaine R living in Lyndhurst, Cuyahoga which may well be him, and also WW1 records for a person of the same name with variable birth dates around December 1891-1893. (A brother in law, William E Carlson is also with them, so Elaine may have been a Carlson). There may well be descendants which a later census may eventually reveal.

William Arthur dies April 1st 1911. Mary Ann is still alive in 1930, aged 85, in Chagrin Falls, with children George and Grace Wilson still living with her. Her son Burt R Wilson is next door with his wife, Rose. Her daughter Alice died November 1st, 1924. Curiously, in 1930, there is another Braund family living seven doors away from Mary Ann – Turney H Braund and his wife Jean. I believe he was related to William Pomeroy Braund of Branch 1 who emigrated in 1857 and lived in Cleveland, Ohio. I believe Mary Ann died the following year as there is a death for Mary Ann Braund in Chagrin Falls for 14th October 1931. I think it is

likely that Frank Braund died just before his father in 1911: there is a death record for a Frank W A Braund in Chagrin Falls for 9th March that year, although this is the first time that middle initials appear. Another Frank Braund (Frank W) was born in the same year but lived in Cleveland Ward 25 Ohio and was still alive in 1920 and married to Daisy – but I think he is probably related to the family of William Pomeroy Braund rather than William Arthur.

Braund descendants from this twig of Branch 3 may well come to light in the US census from 1940 onwards. Certainly there are still Braunds with addresses in Chagrin Falls today, as a quick Google search reveals. Perhaps if you are reading this and have any information to add, you might kindly let us know.

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