

## **Can you Spot a Braund a Mile Off?**

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I am continually amazed at the close physical resemblance between members of the family, even those whose common ancestor must have lived several hundred years ago. I have a third cousin once removed (our common ancestor was born in 1811) who could easily be mistaken for my brother.

Physically, the men in particular are often noticeably good-looking, swarthy and stocky. The typical short, wide feet and hands are perhaps less attractive but seem to be definite Braund features. When the Braunds met at Stratfield Saye in 1983, we were among hundreds of people in attendance. We were expecting to meet a Braund there for the first time. As he made his way through the throng, we immediately picked him out as a Braund by his appearance and sure enough, we were right.

Remarkable though physical resemblances are, it is the recurring personality traits that I find most uncanny. Braunds are warmhearted, welcoming people, which is perhaps why we find it easy to live up to our 'friendship and fellowship' motto. As a corollary, we are great talkers. We are also great eaters and can consume enormous meals without putting on weight. We are perfectionists, tending to go about things wholeheartedly but not wanting to participate if we can't do the task properly.

Among several branches of the family there is a distinct lack of daughters. My 4x great grandfather had over sixty descendants by the 1980s, but I was the only girl to be born for over fifty years. The preponderance of boys has not led to a Braund population explosion because many of the men, although tending to longevity, remained unmarried, or if married, childless. My great-grandfather, William Braund, had six sons, five of whom reached maturity. Only two sons married and produced between them three sons. Two generations later I was William's only descendant, to bear the Braund name, although there were descendants of one of his two daughters.

There is also an eccentric streak to be found in many Braunds, my own late uncle included. One of his strangest exploits was when, at the age of fifty-eight, he was required to work in his capacity as a nightwatchman on Christmas Eve when there was no public transport to get him home. He therefore bought himself a pair of roller skates and proceeded to skate across London's Westminster Bridge in

the early hours of Christmas morning. He was most indignant when a police officer enquired whether he had been drinking.

Many Braunds are musical or artistic and a number show sporting prowess, with notable successes at golf in particular. I definitely do not share the ability at sport!