

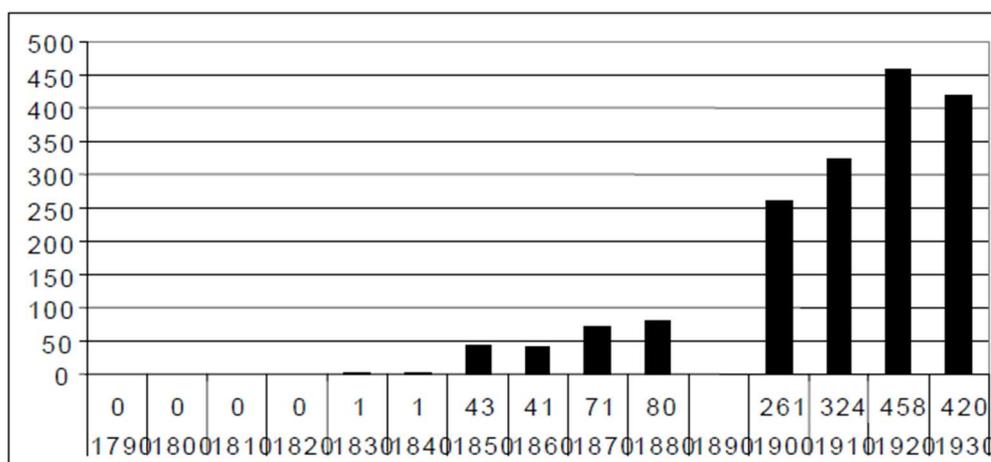
Braunds in the USA

an overview of settlement

Lynne Ridler-Wall

For this article, I am trying to paint a picture of Braund settlement across the USA up to the early 20th century. To do this I've used the US Census collection at Ancestry.com, noting that the early censuses varied in their coverage with regard to States. I've worked mainly from the transcripts of the census, due to the relatively large numbers of people involved but occasionally I have checked the original where my suspicion was aroused. The other thing to note is that I've only looked at Braund proper, not name variations. And there may be some European Braunds in the overall total. However, I don't think they affect the overall picture too much as their numbers are relatively small compared with Braunds who emigrated from the UK.

I've looked at both Braund and Brawn, as these are the two versions of the family name. Brawns paint a different picture because they were the earliest in the family to settle in the US, in Maine, from about 1640. Braunds only begin to appear from about 1840 and this article focuses on their story. I've analysed settlement by State in each census and tried to cross reference the settlement patterns with some of the immigration records and US Braund family histories.



Braund Numbers by Year 1790 - 1930

1850 - 1880

Starting with the 1850 census, there is a concentration of Braunds in Pennsylvania, with a few others in Maryland, Wisconsin and New York. The majority had been born in the USA, in Pennsylvania, with a handful born in England and a handful elsewhere. This fits with the information we know about William Braund (Branch 5, born 1783) of West Putford, Devon, who emigrated in 1831, with his sons William (aged 10) and John (aged 8). He travelled on the ship *Apolla* and settled in Asylum, Bradford County, where he established himself as a farmer. Indeed William is the one genuine Braund in the 1840 census according to my interpretation of the document. For further information on William and his family, see pages 73-75 of the Braund Society's book *Was the Grass Greener?*.

By 1860, the majority of Braunds are still in Pennsylvania but there is an increasing number in Wisconsin. They are all in Racine County and are likely to stem from John Braund (born 1809) who left Devon (Broadwoodwidge) in about 1840 and also William Braund (born 1817) who left England in 1846, also from Broadwoodwidge (both branch 1). In 1860, we find John and his wife Susannah, farming in Caledonia, Racine and William and his wife Elizabeth in nearby Raymond, Racine, also farming.

In addition we know that George Hanns Braund (1813-1906, from the same village) arrived in Juneau County in 1851, with his wife Mary Ann.



**George Hanns and Mary Ann
Braund**

There was little change in the pattern in 1880; overall US Braund numbers doubled (to 80) with Pennsylvania and Ohio dominating the picture together with a focus also in Wisconsin and a few other States appearing including Michigan. These four States are close geographically so migration between them was entirely likely. Also, in 1864 we know that George Lewis Braund (Branch 1, born 1836) emigrated from Somerset to Jackson County,

Michigan, where he married his teenage sweetheart Mary Ann Cole Robins. Her family had emigrated the year before at George's family's expense because both families were opposed to the relationship. Their story is covered on pages 14-15 of *Was the Grass Greener?* There are a number of Braunds in Jackson County by 1900 and others in Calhoun County, Michigan.

1890 -1930

The 1890 census survives as a fragment only so has not been included in this analysis.

By 1900 there are 261 Braunds recorded in the US. Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Ohio and now a fourth State, Michigan, account for seventy percent of these. In 1888 Henry Braund (born 1849, Holsworthy, Branch 1) emigrated to Du Bois, Pennsylvania with his oldest son, followed in the same year by his wife Mary Ann and the other children. His brother Marwood (born 1839) followed in 1889 with his wife and six of their children. Henry's sister Mary Ann and her husband James Hockin also went to Pennsylvania.



Henry and Mary Ann Braund and family

There are also Braunds in at least 12 other States including Tennessee, Iowa, Kansas, Arkansas, Oregon, Colorado, New York, Indiana and Washington DC. We know from Janet's list in *Was the Grass Greener?* of documented emigrations to some of these States e.g. Kansas (Christopher Braund of branch 1, born 1840 in Holsworthy and his son, William Henry Braund, born 1867, Brighton, who emigrated in 1872. Others are probably either 'internal transfers' or, in a few cases, new emigrants from Europe. But it may be worth looking at the Braunds in the 'other States' in more detail in 1900 to see if there is any new information amongst them.

Numbers continued to grow until 420 Braunds were recorded in 1930, with the following distribution:

Wisconsin 99

Pennsylvania 76

Ohio 60

Michigan 49

New York 34

Texas 16

Iowa 14

14 Others 72

Moving east to New York, Cortlandt, Westchester, we find a Braund head of household which looks like Hans or Harry and indeed is recorded as a male, widowed. However, I am sure this is in fact Ann Braund, widow, aged 54, born in England in 1846. According to the census she arrived in 1874 with Alice (now aged 31) and William (now aged 30). Three further children, Fred, 25, Albert, 18 and George 16 were born in New York. Fred and Albert are both engineers. In 1910, Ann Braund aged 64 is living in Guttenberg, Hudson, New Jersey with all of her five children still at home. The four sons are all engineers. By 1920 they are more difficult to find although Albert, now aged 38 has married Emma aged 29 and they have a son Albert aged 5 and are living in Essex, New Jersey. It is difficult to be definitive about marriages for the other sons as the Braund name begins to diverge significantly by 1920.

The three emigrants were to be found in the US immigration records – they sailed on the Calabria, 28 July 1873. They were written in the manifest as 'Brannt' and transcribed as such – I wonder how many others are 'hidden' in this way?! This arrival date means that they should appear in the 1880 US census but unfortunately, I could not find them. Searching for them in the UK, the 1871 UK census has Alice and her brother William living in St Cleer, Cornwall, with their mother Ann Braund, aged 25, described as head of the house and a note that 'husband is travelling in America'. The parish of St Cleer is in eastern Cornwall about two miles north of Liskeard. A search for marriages here revealed a James

Braund marrying an Ann Rogers in October 1866, which might well be our US family. Ann was the daughter of William Rogers and Ann Stone who married 21 April 1836 in Common Moor, in the parish of St Cleer, which was a copper mining community. It would be interesting to know James' occupation and what led him to travel to the US, ahead of his family. It is likely that there are Braund descendants from this family.

William H Braund of Washington DC—branch 1

In Washington DC, William H Braund, a book canvasser, is living with his wife Mary L Braund. William is 72, born in England, and Mary is 64, born in Virginia. They were married in 1872. William emigrated in 1860 (but see later). They are living with their daughter, Mrs Nellie Charlton, son in law Walter and grandson, Millard. He is still with them in 1910 but now gives his immigration date as 1850.

In the 1880 US census the family is in Philadelphia with Mary's age given as 32 i.e. 18 years younger than William, not 8 as in the 1900 census. There are five children: Frank, 18, Anne, 16, George, 14, James, 12, Susan, 7 and Nellie aged 5. The two youngest children are Mary's but the others are from an earlier wife. The 1870 census shows William in Washington DC married this time to Agnes. The children are Alice R, 13, William (William Frank), 9, Anna, 7, George, 5, Jas (James), 2 and Mary, one month. The 1860 census tells us that both William and Agnes, aged 31 and 23 respectively, were born in England, and that Alice aged 2, was born in New York (1858). William Henry, a bookseller of New York, first married his first cousin once removed, Ann Braund, on 19 November 1856, in Clawton, Devon. This suggests that he came back to the UK to marry her if he had emigrated in 1850. Ann was the daughter of Arscott and Elizabeth Braund nee May, baptised 8 April 1828 in Black Torrington, Devon. We know this because there was a marriage announcement to this effect in the North Devon Journal. It is possible that Alice, born about 1858, was in fact Ann's daughter (Ann perhaps died in childbirth). A check of my ever-growing list of Braund US immigrants then showed a William H Braund and Mrs Braund travelling to New York on 15th August 1857 on the ship Leopold. Their dates of birth are 1818 and 1817 respectively and they give their nationality as American, which suggests this was not their first trip. These are almost certainly William and Ann.

By 1860 we know that William has married Agnes but where this happened is not clear. Agnes is alive in 1870 and has a one month old baby, Mary, at the time of that year's census. However by 1872 William has married Mary. One curious point is that in the 1880 census the family is in Philadelphia rather than DC and William and Frank both work in a woollen mill – rather a change from bookselling! William Henry Braund was the son of William Hockin Braund and Rachel Braund nee Hearn who were living in Berry, Devon at the time of his birth in 1828. He was baptised 3 April 1829 in Shebbear. His father was a clerk in holy orders and in 1841 they were living in Martock, Somerset. In 1851 William was a merchants' clerk in Woodchurch, Cheshire. At some point after this – and certainly by 1859/60 - he emigrated.

What is the distribution today? The site GENS at <http://www.gens-us.net/> provides an indication (although I don't know how reliable it is). But it shows the highest concentration in Wisconsin, followed by Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania, the original Braund settlement States. They are joined by Florida and California and then followed by New York, Georgia and Washington.

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