

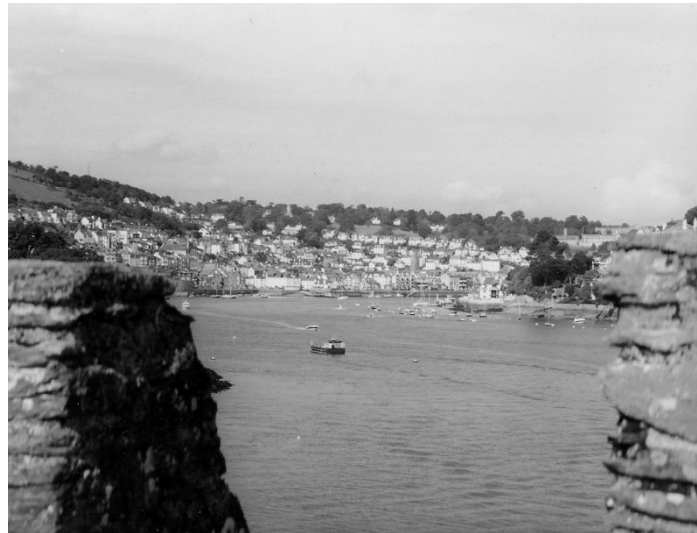
# From Berry Pomeroy to Kittery, Maine, USA

## Branch 22

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### **16<sup>th</sup> Century Settlement of Maine**

In the 1600s many English folk sought greener grass on the eastern seaboard of the emerging states of America. In Maine, the town of Kittery, York County, was settled from about 1623 and incorporated in 1647. Its English settlement is thought to have been founded by Alexander Shapleigh of Kittery Court, Kingswear, Devon, who arrived in 1635 on the ship *Benediction*. Fisheries and plantations were important in the



**Dartmouth, Devon  
Would Michael have left from here?**

Kittery area and many families bought plots of land along the major bays forming the estuary of the Piscataquis river. In 1652 the province became part of the Massachusetts Bay Colony but was later established as Maine proper. The border with New Hampshire is very close and some places important to this story such as Dover, were in New Hampshire. In 1713, Upper Kittery was set off to form Berwick. The modern town of Eliot was settled in about 1632 and named Sturgeon Creek and is considered to be the northern parish of Kittery.

On a map of 1670, some of the early settlements can be distinguished including Kittery itself, Sturgeon Creek, Dover, Bloody Point and also York Town. A modern map shows that place names have not changed significantly since the 1600s. Further south in Maine the town of Biddeford developed, indicating that settlers came from north Devon as well as the south.

### **Michael Brand/Brawn**

Into this settlement came Michael Brand/Bround/Brawne/Brawn from Berry Pomeroy in southern Devon, who is part of Branch 22. Janet introduces him in the book 'Was the Grass Greener?' As she says, most sources estimate his birth year as 1609 although it is not yet clear what this is based on. The Michael Bround baptised at Sidmouth, Devon, on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1605, has been ruled out, as not only does this appear to be a daughter but there is a corresponding burial the following year. In any case, Janet suggests that Michael's father was an escapee from North Devon to the south, which is unusual. In 1641 he is recorded as a signatory to the Protestation Return for Berry Pomeroy.

According to New Hampshire immigration records, he arrived in the US in 1651, which would make him one of the earliest Braund emigrants. In Janet's article she suggests that based on other Braunds in Berry Pomeroy, Michael may have had a brother called John, who also emigrated, and sisters named Emlin and Wilmot. There is certainly a John Brawn in the Kittery area, who may have been there ahead of Michael, and although the records I've seen so far do not illuminate their relationship, they are quite likely to have been brothers. John Brawn is often referred to as John Brawn of York, whereas Michael is sometimes called Michael Brawn of Dover.

It is extraordinary to think that men and women from a small English parish were motivated to make such a journey to an uncharted land. The same question was asked in a book published in 1883 to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the parish of Dover. Here is part of the book's answer:

*"The answer is not a single one. Doubtless, first, there was the spirit of adventure which characterized that age. It characterized England and we are Englishmen. It characterized the western counties of England in a marked degree. Salop, Gloucester, Somerset, Devon, were the counties which had furnished the great Admiral Drake, and Walter Raleigh, and their associates, and these were the counties which furnished the emigration of New Hampshire. There was a restless feeling in England; their thought was of wealthy lands beyond the seas."*

In addition, of course, people were seeking freedoms of various sorts, although it is clear

that unlike some other American settlements, New Hampshire and Maine were not Puritan.

To return to the Brawns: using IGI, Ancestry.co.uk and also MaineGenealogy.com I have been trying to piece together the stories of Michael and John and their descendants. Here I will focus mainly on the early part of Michael's story in the US. But the two stories are connected, not least by their marrying into the same families in the area.

The IGI has a Mychaell Brand marrying a Margaret Lange in Totnes, Devon on 7<sup>th</sup> November 1631. Four children with father Michael Brawne are baptised in Berry Pomeroy shortly after: Susan, 28 September 1634, Sibley and Michaell, 11 November 1638, and George on 3 October 1641. The immigration record for New Hampshire shows a Michael Brawn arriving in 1651. Two books then become relevant to Michael's story. In *'Pioneers of Maine & New Hampshire, 1623-1660'* there is an entry as follows:

*"Brande/Brawne, Michael, Pascataquack, bought house of John Davis of Bloody Point 30 June 1651. Resided at Kittery. Was one of those who gave testimony regarding one who spoke threatening words against the commissioners of Massachusetts Bay, Nov 15 1652. In court in 1661. George, who by wife Mary, had son Michael born at Dover 1 June 1679, may be of his family."*

And in *'Old Kittery and her Families'* (Stackpole, 1903) there is an entry for Brawn, which includes:

*"Michael Brawn had a grant in Dover in 1655 and was taxed at Bloody Point 1662-72. Had a son, Michael, born in 1643?"*

So, if this all relates to the same Michael Brawn, it looks as if his son George went to the US with him, and possibly also that his first son Michael died, and that a new son was given the same name in 1643. I have found no references in the US to the daughters Susan and Sibley. In the 1600s and 1700s, most of the US records use Brawn or Brawne. Occasionally, there is a Bran or Brann and later, by the 1800s, this surname is more common, or sometimes both are used as in Brann Brawn.

Why 'Bloody Point'? A roadside historical marker at Newington explains that:

*“Boundary disputes among the early river settlers caused this area to be called Bloody Point. By 1640 Trickey’s Ferry operated between Bloody Point and Hilton’s Point in Dover. In 1712 the meeting-house was erected and the parish set off, named Newington for the English village, whose residents sent the bell for the meeting-house. About 1725 the parsonage was built near the town forest, considered one of the oldest in America.”*

### **George Brawn, son of Michael Brawn**

In the late 1600s, the burgeoning ‘Maine Colony’ undertook a census and in 1674 we find a transcript for George Maine Barren. This may well be George Brawn. (There is no listing for Michael, which may mean that he was deceased by that date). In 1678 George Brawn marries Mary, surname unknown. (Their marriage is listed in a document of New England marriages prior to 1700, page 94). They had five children. By the end of the century Mary dies and George marries again, 1 April 1700, widow Sarah Saunders née Wittum and they have one son. The Brawn entry in ‘Old Kittery & her Families’ includes:

*“George Brawn of Bloody Point, doubtless son of Michael, married (1) Mary \_\_, (2) 1 Apr 1700 widow Sarah Saunders. She was daughter of Peter Wittum and m. William Saunders Dec 1687. In 1702 Brawn exchanged land in Newington with John Hoyt for 50 acres N of Sturgeon Creek. [The extract then lists the children]. Living 1718.”*

George and Mary’s children were:

- George Brawn, born about 1678, a fisherman, married Mary Tiday or Tidy, 9 February 1710/11, in Berwick, Maine and died before 1732. He merits an entry in the Stackpole book :

*“George Brawn Jnr m 9 Feb 1710/11 Mary daughter of Robert and Susan (Libby) Tidy. His widow married 17<sup>th</sup> August 1732 Thomas Penney of Wells. Brawn bought land at Humphrey’s Pond in Berwick in 1718.”* [It then lists their five children, all living in 1752 – see later for their details].

- Michael Brawn born 1 June 1679, Dover, New Hampshire who married Abigail Wittum in Kittery 8 January 1721/22, a niece of Sarah Saunders née Wittum. Her parents were Peter and Annis Wittum. He married secondly Hannah Smith, 21 June 1750.

- Eleanor Brawn, born about 1683, who married Jacob Rhodes (b. 1680), 7 September 1704.
- Elizabeth Brawn, born 1689, married David Thomas, 28 January 1705/06.
- Richard Brawn, born about 1693, married Eunice/Anne Wittum, another niece of Sarah Saunders, either on 18 Sep or 5 Nov 1725, in Kittery.

George and Sarah's son was:

- Peter Brawn, born about 1701, who married Elizabeth Museet or Muzet or Musset (born 25 August 1713), 13 December 1729. They have two children.

These families occur regularly in other records of the period. In 1689 a George Brawn is recorded for Petitioners, New Hampshire Territory, New Hampshire and in 1703 the Maine Colony Census records a George Maine Brawn. The following year a George Brawn is given poor relief in Kittery to the tune of 6s 6d (old money!). This could have been either father or son. In 1712 George Brawn of Kittery has estate valued at £3. In 1733, the York Court of Sessions for July identifies Michael Brawn for non attendance at church. The Quaker list for Kittery in 1734 identified Peter Brawn (and also Peter Wittum).

Land Deeds for York County provide important insights and there was much trading of land between the settlers. The acquisition of Humphrey's Pond (30 acres), mentioned above, is recorded as a Land Deed, 10 January 1718/19 and George (junior) bought it from Peter Wittum. (York Deeds, Book IX, vol, 46, Folio 108). A separate Deed dated 3 September 1717 (Book X, Folio 142) shows John Wittum granting one message or tract of land to George Brawn, yeoman – about 8 acres in Kittery.

### ***Brawns in the 1700s***

In terms of the third and fourth generations in Kittery and Berwick, currently we know most about the families of George Brawn the younger, Richard Brawn and Peter Brawn.

George Brawn and Mary Tiday had five children:

- Mary, born 3 July 1713, married Nathaniel Gubtail, born 20<sup>th</sup> May 1713 in Berwick in 1738. (His parents were Nathaniel Gubtail and Mary Isselton). They produced 11

children before Mary died on 16<sup>th</sup> February 1764.

- George , born 8 May 1717
- Sarah , baptised 12 November 1727, who probably married William Childs
- Robert, baptised 12 November 1727
- John, baptised 12 November 1727

Richard Brawn and Eunice Anne Wittum had nine children:

- Ebenezer, born 8<sup>th</sup> September 1727 in York, Maine
- Daniel, born 16<sup>th</sup> January 1728, in York, died possibly in 1790
- Jeremiah, born 14<sup>th</sup> April 1731, in York
- Eunice, born 4<sup>th</sup> August 1734 in Kittery
- Richard, born 18<sup>th</sup> October 1736
- Mary, born 19<sup>th</sup> May 1738, married Daniel Bridges in York, 15<sup>th</sup> August 1761. They had 9 children between 1762 and 1781.
- Solomon, born 24<sup>th</sup> May 1741 in Kittery
- Huldah, born 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1743
- Anna, born 28<sup>th</sup> October 1745

Peter Brawn and Elizabeth Muzet had at least two children:

- Benjamin, born 14<sup>th</sup> February 1730/31
- Lydia, born 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1733, in Kittery. She married Andrew Bennett, (born 1711) ,19 January 1756 in Georgetown, York County and they went on to have at least one child, Andrew, born 1757, died 1839.

Unfortunately, records for Berwick are missing for a crucial period from 1726 to 1756. This is making it difficult to clarify marriage dates and partners for these descendants. However, I do have six male Brawn marriages for the 1770s and also some census data, which I am currently analysing. The US census for this period only records the name of the male head of household and this practice continues until the 1850 census but it is possible to see the age structure of the family. There are also numerous family trees on Ancestry.co.uk that claim links to some of these individuals but they require careful handling as many are contradictory and in some cases wrong when compared with the records I have accessed. In

the next instalment I will discuss what is known about John Brawn and then later return to the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century descendants of both John and Michael.

As part of the study of Brawns in Maine, USA, I have been trying to establish their English ancestry by examining the parish records for the area, focussing on Berry Pomeroy and Totnes, where there are known connections to those who emigrated. A trip to the Devon Record Office in Exeter allowed me to peruse the microfiches of parish registers and examine other material and I also used the IGI [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) to do a survey of parishes in the area using batch numbers.

It is very clear from the registers that there were Brawns or Brawnes in Berry Pomeroy from the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup>. So the variant Brawn is not an American corruption of Brand or Braund but was already in use here in England. The relevant entries in the registers are quite legible (others are not!) and the spelling is very clear and distinguishable from Brown or Browne. Moreover, the name appears to be very closely associated with Berry Pomeroy and does not appear in baptisms, marriages or burials for any of the six neighbouring parishes that I've been able to check using IGI, in the period from late 16<sup>th</sup> century to 1837 or thereabouts.

### ***Brawns***

Using the registers, I have confirmed the baptisms for the children of Michael Brand/Brawn, who left for America in about 1650. All of these entries refer to the father as Michael Brawn or Brawne. Given the general scarcity of Michael as a first name in the registers generally at this time and given that Brands are not much in evidence in the area as a separate surname, especially in the early 1600s, it is very likely that Mychaell Brand and Michael Brawn are one and the same person. He is recorded as Brand when he marries Margaret Lange in Totnes, 7 November 1631.

Their children were all baptised in Berry Pomeroy:

- Susan Brawn , baptised 28<sup>th</sup> September 1634
- Michael Brawn and Sibley Brawn son and daughter, baptised 11<sup>th</sup> November 1638
- George Brawn baptised 3 October 1641

In addition, a John Brawne had children baptised in Berry Pomeroy in a similar timeframe:

- a son Brawne baptised August 2<sup>nd</sup> 1629 (no name, just a '?')
- daughter Jone Brawne baptised 28<sup>th</sup> August 1633

And a Robert Brawn had a daughter Mary baptised 27<sup>th</sup> January 1634.

This might indicate three Brawn brothers in the village, especially as there is also a burial in 1621 for a John Braune, who may have been their father. Another contender might be Hugh Brone who was buried 13 September 1601 in Berry Pomeroy (found in a transcript of 'lost registers'). However, as John Brawne was the first to have children, albeit by a short head, it may be that he was the eldest and therefore named after his father. However, baptisms in Berry Pomeroy for these potential three brothers have not been found although there is a baptism for Emlin Brawn in 1600, a possible sister, and also a marriage for Willmot Brawne to Willyam Squire in 1619, another possible sister. Later, and still in Berry Pomeroy, we find the following baptisms:

- Alce Brawne, 5 October 1662, father Nicholas Brawne
- ? Brawn, 29 October 1699, father Nicholas Brawn
- Elizabeth Brawne, 14 April 1696, father Nicholas Brawne, mother Mary

It would be of particular interest to find the baptisms for both Michael and John Brawn, as knowing their ages would help to clarify some of the American information. I believe that John possibly left first for Maine although I have not found an emigration record for him whereas there is such a record for Michael (1651). In Janet's book, *Was the Grass Greener?*, she suggests that Michael may have been the Michael Bround baptised at Sidmouth on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1605. However, a check of this register on IGI shows a Mycolle Broune born on that date, father Robart Broune, but the child sadly died the following April 5<sup>th</sup>. And it also looks as if this baby was female. I did use IGI batch records to search the records for parishes immediately surrounding Berry Pomeroy and the only other families of potential interest i.e. with baptisms in first decade of 17<sup>th</sup> century, were Brounes in Totnes. For example Robart Broune fathered three children in the right time frame including Humfrie Broune baptised 9



April 1603. The first of his children was Robart baptised 18 March 1586 and there is a marriage on 11 February that year between Robart Broune and Deunes Stone. And Richard Broune was baptised 13 January 1602, father William Broune. But there were no Michaels or Johns.

Interestingly, a Mary Brawn was baptised in Totnes at a slightly later date of 11 July 1678, sadly dying the following day and her father was John Brawn. In 1668 a Jno (John) Braune was baptised in Totnes on 9<sup>th</sup> June, father also Jno Braune. This might have been the John Broune who married Ann Bond there on 27<sup>th</sup> July 1665. There was also one Broune in Berry Pomeroy at this time; Ralple Broune married Christian Pollerde 22 May 1604.

### ***Langs***

Turning to the wife of Michael Brawn, Margaret(t) Lang or Lange. The registers show that she was baptised in Berry Pomeroy 11 September 1607 and several other Langs were baptised in the first two decades of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, in a pattern that suggests one family and with a father Edward Lang recorded in some instances. Sadly, the registers at this time rarely give the mother's name at all and only sometimes provide the father's name.

- Anne 21 October 1603
- Elizabeth 20 March 1607 – this is the same year as Margaret but it could have been a late baptism
- John 3 December 1609
- Honor 5 November 1612
- Elizabeth 26 November 1615
- Jonathan 7 September 1617

In addition, there were four other Lang families producing children up to the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century in Berry Pomeroy, and descendants were still appearing in the early 1800s. These families were headed by John Lang, wife Margarete; Edward Lang, wife Jone; Thomas Lang and wife Dorathy; and Joseph Lang.

Although Margaret Lang married in Totnes there were no other Langs in the town until 1701 according to the registers. A John Lang, who may have been her brother (born in 1609) or a

cousin, was also married in Totnes, to Joane Chard, on 11 December 1656. I have not been able to find a Richard Lange who may have travelled to America in the same party as Michael and Margaret Brawn, as suggested in Janet's article.

### ***Brawns in other records***

Transcripts of the Protestation Returns for Devon record Michael Brawne, 1641, Berry Pomeroy; and Robert Brawne in Bondleigh Parish, North Tawton, mid Devon, for the same year. And Poll Tax records show an Elinor Brawne also Wilson, for Dartmouth, in 1647; and James Brawne in Yarcombe, which is near Honiton, in 1660.

### ***What's in a name?***

The derivation of Brawn from Braund is interesting. It may be relevant that certainly in the early 1600s Brawns in the Totnes area of southern Devon were concentrated in Berry Pomeroy which may indicate a single or small number of escapees from the north of the county. Local pronunciation may also be important in terms of how a name was recorded, at a time when the ability to write was restricted mainly to officials and the clergy. A quick look at T.L. Stodate's transcriptions of tax records for the time may also shed some light. Entries for classic Braund country in the north show almost no Braunds at all but many Brawns. We know however that the parish registers here do record Braunds as such and so there may have been a difference in the way some tax officials recorded the name versus the local clergy. Equally, since the original tax records have not been consulted for this article, this could be an issue associated with transcription.

We won't give up hope of finding a north-south link but it will probably require new information to come to light.

Finally, the name distribution in the parishes is of interest particularly the balance between Brawn(e) and Brand. The latter tends to appear first towards the latter half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, especially in Berry Pomeroy, Totnes and Marldon. In Berry Pomeroy, Brawns are recorded up to 1700 or so and then Brands start to appear 'instead'. In particular, the Nicholas Brawn(e) I found in the registers with children baptised in 1662, 1699 and 1696 is recorded as Nicholas Brand in the IGI, marrying Mary Currel on 16<sup>th</sup> October 1694. (The child

baptised in 1662 therefore had a different mother and it is likely that this reflects Nicholas Brawne, father and son of the same name). Overall, perhaps this amounts to a surname in transition, or simply a difference in interpretation.

### ***Parishes***

Berry Pomeroy: no Braund. Eleven Brawn(e)s. One Broune. and 14 Brand baptisms but these do not appear until 1696, plus 6 Brand marriages. On the IGI, two of the baptisms I identified from the original registers as Brawn, with father Nicholas Brawn, are recorded as Brand, father Nicholas Brand.

Totnes: no Brawn. One Braund but not until 1799. Eight Brounes as discussed above. And six Brands including the Mychaell Brand marriage in 1631 but the others do not appear until later, dated 1685, 1691, 1769, 1783, 1802.

Marldon: no Brawn/Braund/Broune. Two Brand baptisms and 3 Brand marriages in late 1600s and early 1700s.

Stoke Gabriel: no Brawn/Brand/Braund/Broune

Dartington: no Brawn/Brand/Braund/Broune

Paignton: no Brawn/Brand/Broune. One Braund – John, baptised 9 April 1667, father John Braund.

Little Hempston: no Brawn/Brand/Broune but did have some later Braund baptisms that may be of wider interest: Alce Braund, 20 July 1671; Thomas Braund, 2 June 1668, Beniamiane Braund 9 February 1659.

### ***Family Tree from John***

Here is the account of John Brawn, as far as I have been able to deduce it. This has been an interesting genealogical puzzle, with many apparently conflicting pieces of information, so what follows is my best assessment of the available records and historical accounts. I am indebted to Tom Ridler for his help in developing a coherent account based on the evidence.

### ***John Brawn of York***

We know from the parish records in Berry Pomeroy that a John Brawn was having children baptised there in 1629 and 1633, alongside a Michael Brawn who may well have been his brother. I have not found an emigration record for John (unlike Michael who went to New

Hampshire in 1651) but in a book entitled *A History of York, Maine, volume 1* there is reference to a John Brawn as a pioneer of York, Maine, which would put him in America a good ten years before Michael. He is often referred to as 'John Brawn of York' (and Michael as 'Michael Brawn of Dover'). Note also the presence of William Dixon in the following list of early settlers, who is central to this account.

"CHAPTER X. THE PIONEERS OF YORK, 1630-1640

Settlers of the First Decade- George Newman, Henry Lynn, Rowland Young, Ralph Blaisdell, George Puddington, John Brawne, Roger Garde, Arthur Bragdon, William Dixon, John Heard, John Baker, Henry Simpson, Leonard Hunter, John Barrett, John Alcock, Stephen Crawford, Thomas Footman, Thomas Brooks alias Basil Parker, Sampson Angier, Thomas Gorges, Richard Cornish, Nicholas Squire, John Squire and John Smith."

***York Town***

This area in Maine, approximately ten miles north of Kittery, was first called Agamenticus, meaning 'beyond-the-hill-little-cove,' the Abenaki Indian name for the York River. A permanent English colony was established there by 1623. In 1638, settlers changed the name to Bristol, from which many had emigrated. A safe harbour was available at the mouth of the river and the early settlers established themselves on the eastern bank, near the sea. A fertile valley stretched along the navigable river for six or seven miles. Later, Sir Ferdinando Gorges, Lord Proprietor of Maine under the Plymouth patent, named the capital of his province Gorgeana and in 1642, by charter of King Charles 1st, it became the first incorporated borough in America. Following Gorges' death, the Massachusetts Bay Company assumed power and in 1652, York was incorporated as a town from a portion of Gorgeana, making it the second oldest town in Maine after Kittery. There was much exchange of land between the settlers and very luckily these transactions were recorded legally and in some detail. For the period 1642 – 1737 they are available in 18 volumes of York Deeds, which can be downloaded from [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org).

### ***Brawn-Dixon Linkages***

The Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire (searchable at [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)) indicates that John Brawn owned land in York at Alcock's Neck, by 1641. He married Ann(e) Dixon, daughter of William, in about 1640, in York. (See New England Marriages prior to 1700, also at Ancestry). If this is the John Brawn from Berry Pomeroy then either his first wife died or he simply left her behind. The fate of the two children baptised in England is also unknown at this stage. It is worth saying a little about the Dixon family here because of their importance to later events. William Dixon was living in York in 1648 and was a cooper. He and his wife Joane (possibly Pierson) had at least four children: Ann(e), Dorothy, James and Susannah. Dorothy (1631- 1694) went on to marry William Moore (1623 -1692) in about 1651. They had nine children including Thomas and John Moore or More.

The Brawn-Dixon link was evidently a close one because William Dixon makes a bequest to John Brawn in his will of 1665 (William died in 1666). In the first instance he leaves his entire estate to his wife Joane but after her death he leaves one third of his land and his house to his son James, a third of his land, goods and cattle to John Brawn and the other third to Henry Millbury's children. (Maine Court Records 1661-1693 at Maine Genealogy.com). His son James Dixon, in a deed dated 9th January 1666, also gave his 'brother John Brawn' whole right and title of his father's will 'if I do not return from sea'. And, 'He is to pay £5 out of this gift to my cosson Dorothy Moore if I do not return'. (A curious term to use for a sister but it looks as if she was probably William's stepdaughter).

John and Anne Brawn had at least two children, according to the Genealogical Dictionary: Richard, and John who was born between 1640 and 1645. Little is known about Richard or his wife Mary although in 1666 she escaped whipping for stealing by being with child. The Dictionary records: 'Neither heard of after'. Their known children were Susannah, who was probably born about 1663 (and who was in court in 1683) and John 'junior', in court in February 1684 for slander. He may have been born about 1666.

Richard's brother John Brawn apparently remained on his father's land in York and did not marry. It was probably him (or possibly his father) who became a 'selectman' of York for the

year 1695/96 – a town administrator. He made a will, October 8<sup>th</sup> 1703, probated 29 May 1704, in which he left one third of his estate to ‘my Cousin John More....for his son John until he shall come of age’ and two thirds to my Cousin Thomas More... for his son William ....after he shall be of full age..’. He also gave ‘my boy John Barrill ...four sheep viz two besides the two he hath already among my sheep’. (Maine Wills, 1640-1760 (Portland, Me., 1887), page 140, at Maine Genealogy.com).

### ***Brawn-Langley***

John Brawn, son of Richard, married Hannah or Anna Langley in 1694/95 (New England marriages prior to 1700, although some accounts have it as early as 1684) and they lived for a short time at Kittery Point (according to Stackpole). I think it is this John Brawn who is generally referred to as ‘junior’ in records of the period. Hannah or Anna was probably the daughter of Thomas Langley who settled in about 1662, next to Bray, (Stackpole, page 46). Thomas was a merchantman from Barbados, dealing in sugar.

I can find no evidence of children from this marriage. However, the couple do appear in records of the time. In 1695, 27<sup>th</sup> October, John Brawn of Kittery and Anna Brawn deed 0.5 acre in Kittery to William Pepperell (York Deeds, 6, Folio 138). On April 7<sup>th</sup> 1696 John is in court charged with absence from church on a Sunday. In 1698, 18<sup>th</sup> July, John (‘of Piscataqua, county of York’) and Anna again sell land to William Pepperell, half an acre in Kittery, ‘all their piece of upland at Piscataqua’, including a house and orchards, with the sea on the south side and bounded by William Pepperell on north, east and west sides. (York Deeds, Book 4, Folio 130). They both sign the deed with their mark. Sadly, John Brawn ‘junior’ dies in 1705. He is caught in an Indian raid at Kittery (Spruce Creek). The proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society (volume 140) describe it in the following extract:

Thus, it seems that the line from John Brawn dies out quite quickly in America.

Furthermore, in the early part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the More brothers sell on some of their inheritance. On November 8<sup>th</sup> 1721, they deed 16 and a half acres to Nathaniel Donnell ‘part of a 40 acre town grant to John Brawne, in York’. (York Deeds, Book 10, Folio 221). Thus it is from Michael Brawn through his children George and Richard in particular that we have Brawn descendants in Maine today.

Today's Brawn descendants in Maine probably all stem from Michael Brand/Brawn. However, the remaining challenge is to map out the 18th and 19th century US Brawn families in more detail. This is proving tricky due to some acknowledged gaps in the records but I shall try and explain what we can deduce, focussing mainly on those Brawns who lived in the town of Berwick, Maine. Again, my main sources are Ancestry.co.uk and MaineGenealogy.com.

We know that Michael had four grandsons through his son George Brand/Brawn, namely Michael, Peter, Richard, and George. Little is known about Michael (b. 1679) except that he married Abigail Wittum (b. 1702) and it is possible that they had no children. Peter had at least one son, Benjamin, born 14th February 1730/31. There is little trace of Benjamin except for an entry in the History of Windham (a town in Maine established in about 1735). The church book has an entry for 18th March 1753: 'Benjamin Brawn an adult person and baptised the same day'.

So that leaves the sons of George and Richard. Richard and his wife Eunice Anne Wittum had five sons (in a family of nine), born mostly in York, a coastal settlement that was about 14 miles from Berwick.

- Ebenezer b. 1725/1727 in York, Maine
- Daniel b. 1728, in York, possibly died in 1790
- Jeremiah b. 1731, in York
- Richard b.1736, possibly married Sarah Ramsdell in 1761
- Solomon b. 1741in Kittery

George and his wife Mary Tidy had three sons (in a family of five), born slightly earlier than Richard's, probably in Berwick:

- George, born 8th May 1717
- Robert, baptised 12th November 1727
- John, also baptised 12th November 1727

A daughter Mary was born first on 3 July 1713 and another daughter Sarah was also baptised with the two sons in 1727. So I would hazard that the children baptised in 1727 were born, say 2 years apart, 1719, 1721, 1722. If we argue that the sons married at around aged 25, then we would expect to see marriages for George, Robert

and John in about 1742 – 1746, or somewhere in that decade. Unfortunately, as I reported before, there is a gap in the church records for Berwick for 1726 – 1756.

### ***Berwick 1770 - 1790***

However, by the 1770s, we know that the following marriages take place in Berwick:

- George Brawn junior to Dorcas Walker 6th April 1775
- George Bran (sic) of Kittery to Mary Weymouth of Berwick, 11th December 1777 (2nd Berwick church)
- George Brawn to Mary Weighman, 10th October 1777, Kittery (although I wonder if this is actually the same marriage above of Bran to Weymouth).
- John Brawn, ye 3rd, to Anna Weymouth, both of Berwick, May 19th 1774 (2nd Berwick church)
- John Brawn junior to Mary Heirl, 17th December 1772
- Micheal (sic) Brawn, jnr, to Betty Weymouth, 16th December 1784 (2nd Berwick church)
- Robert Brawn to Elizabeth Dow, 19th May 1776

Although it is possible to access a list of Maine births and christenings for 1739-1900, for whatever reason it does not show any Brawn births – as would be expected from these marriages – for the late 1770s or 1780s. So, the next ‘fix’ we can get on Brawns at this time is in the 1790 US Federal Census (which is incomplete but luckily includes Maine). It reveals 14 returns for Brawn in the census as a whole. Three of these, outside Maine, prove to be Brown on inspection of the original documents on-line. That leaves 11 Brawn families in Maine at this time. Six are in Berwick, York County, one (Robert Brawn) in Wells, York County and the remaining four are in Lincoln County (Joseph Brawn in Vassalborough; John Brawn in Winslow; Charles Brawn also in Winslow; and Jeremiah Brawn in Sandy River plantation).

The census at this time lists the head of household and the following totals, but gives no other information. Ages would have been good!

- Number of free white males under 16
- Number of free white males 16 and over



- Number of free white females
- Number of all other free persons
- Number of slaves
- Household total

If George, Robert and John Brawn were born in the period 1717-1722 then they would be well into their late sixties or seventies by 1790. Thus any households in the census *without children remaining at home* could well be them; and other households are likely to be those of their offspring. We also know that Brawns stay in Berwick well into the 19th century making it likely that their sons had remained there in 1790.

The six Berwick Brawn families are recorded on two different sheets of the census return:

- On one sheet there are two George Brawns adjacent on the list and therefore presumably living next door to each other.
- And a little way away are two John Brawns, one of whom is living next to 2 Hearl families.
- In the second sheet, a George Brawn is listed next to a Micael (sic) Brawn.

So, the marriages listed above do, potentially, account for each of the heads of household in Berwick in 1790, if we assume that one of the George Brawn households is an older couple. Also, as far as I can tell, there are *no other* Brawn marriages in Berwick 1750–1772, indicating that the particular generations discussed here are indeed the most likely candidates for the families described in 1790.

Does the composition of each household provide any clues? The adjacent George Brawns have very different households: one contains just two people, a female and a male aged over 16 – this could be an older couple whose children have departed, although equally it could comprise a newly married couple. The other George contains 7 people including two males under 16, one male over 16 (George himself) and four females. This pair of Georges could well be father and son living next door to each other.

The two John Brawn households are not adjacent. One contains seven people in the same distribution as George above and the other has four people, two males over 16 and two females. What is interesting about this household is that it is next to two Hearl families (one is Mary Hearl, with three females; the next is John Hearl with seven members, two males under sixteen, one over sixteen, and three females), noting the Brawn-Heirl marriage in 1772. The other John Brawn household has four members, two males over 16 and two females.

The third George Brawn has eight in his household, four sons under sixteen, himself and three females. Michael next door has five, two sons under 16, himself and two females. The ages of the sons, i.e. younger than 16, is consistent with some of the marriage dates listed above.

### ***Berwick 1800***

In the 1800 federal census 18 Brawn families are recorded, eleven of which are in Maine and four of these in Berwick. George Brawn adjacent to Michael Brawn now has 9 children, including five under 10 years of age and we learn that the two adults are both over 45 years of age. Michael (or Michil) has 8 children, also with five under 10 years, and the 2 adults are aged 26-44. A second George Brawn has six children, only one under 10 years and both adults over 45. He lives relatively near John Brawn who has seven children and both adults over 45. The third George Brawn is no longer there.

After this date, it becomes increasingly difficult to trace individual families, without resolving the relationships in the period 1750-1800. In 1810, there are still Brawn families in Maine but they are also spreading across the eastern seaboard states, totalling some 70 households in all. By 1850, when all names in a household begin to be recorded there are some 570 US Brawns. In Berwick, we find a George Brawn, farmer, aged 64, which means that he was likely to have been one of the children listed in the 1790 census. He is married to Polly, aged 51 and has five children, aged 7-21. Many other Brawns in Maine are also farmers including Reuben and his sons at Foxcroft. Interestingly, a snippet from an article at [New England Ancestors.org](http://NewEnglandAncestors.org), describing events around 1840, hints at an ancestral farm:

“William’s [Brock] sister Polly was married to George Brawn or Brown (spelled both ways) of South Berwick, and both are buried at the Old Brawn Farm there.”

***Today***

By 1900 there are well over 3,700 Brawns although by then the name has become highly variable in its spelling, including Brann. Interestingly though, a year 2000 assessment by GEN-US shows Maine as still having one of the highest concentrations of Brawns in the US as a whole. It will probably need a trip to Maine itself to verify what I’ve suggested here and to further the Brawn story in the 18th and 19th centuries – unless anyone in the US can help to untangle the web!

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