

John Braund a.k.a. Brawn 1807-1881

Milton Damerel, Devon to Reach Township, Ontario, Canada

Branch 12

Clare and Beth Brawn

Back in 1981, when we first became interested in genealogy, Clare asked his father, Roy, what he knew about his paternal relatives and was told to speak to Aunt Effa (one of Roy's older sisters). Effa wrote out some notes for us about the family including the following about John, her grandfather: John died January 21st 1886, aged 74 years 2 months 15 days and was buried at Prince Albert, Ontario. She understood he was about 5 ft. 10 or 11 in. He was married three times before coming to Canada. The first child, a son William, by his first wife Elizabeth Tremere, remained in England but a daughter Betsy, from his second marriage to Elizabeth Mouncey, came to Canada with the family. His third wife, Mary Hallett was the mother of the subsequent children. Effa gave their date of arrival in Canada as 1854, but in the 1901 census of Canada, John's daughter Liddie gave her date of birth as 1856 in England. Effa gave us some Notice of Death cards for Mary Hallett, Betsy Brawn wife of Henry Horning, Richard Brawn, Sarah Brawn widow of the late Simon Coombe. Years later, checking the 1851 Census for Devon we found a John Braund, agricultural labourer, with a wife Mary and children Betsy, Sarah, Grace and Richard, all listed at Noplace, Holsworthy, Milton Damerel. The ages seemed to agree with the death notice cards and we contacted the Braund Society to confirm this. The Society agreed that we were indeed members of the Braund family, assigning us to Branch 12. At the Braund Reunion in 2003 we met fellow member Ida Birch who later discovered that "Noplace" was a modest two family cottage at Horrells Ford and



John Braund aka Brawn

had been torn down. She was able to find a drawing of the original house for us. Parish records for the church at Milton Damerel gave a christening date of November 22nd 1807 for John Brawn, the son of John and Sarah.

More research led us to the Port Perry Library and its newspaper index where we found an obituary for John Brawn stating he had died at his residence in Borelia, January 27th 1881 leaving a widow and large young family that was "scarcely equal to the task of combating attacks of poverty". Searching the 1861 and 1871 census for Reach Township, Ontario County we found no trace of the family using Brawn, Braund or Brown. The 1881 census for Reach Township under Brown gave us Mary, a widow living with sons John, James, Frederick, Thomas and a daughter Mary. This would appear to be the family we were looking for. Daughter Betsy had married Henry Horning and was living in the Muskoka District by 1876. Betsy and Henry died in Muskoka leaving one daughter. Betsy's half brother Richard and his wife Annie (Cryderman) Brawn lived and farmed close by. By 1900 Richard and Annie had re-located to Carnduff, Saskatchewan and farmed in the Thunder Creek District. They had five children. Daughter Sarah married Simon Coombe a widower with five children. They had one son. The family was farming in Brock Township, Ontario North in 1881. Daughter Lydia or Liddie married Robert Butson a widower with 5 children. They had nine children and farmed in Reach Township.

After emigrating to Canada John and Mary Brawn had five more children. John Edward, probably the first of John and Mary's children to be born in Canada, married Sarah Jane May. He rented land for a short time and in the early 1900s bought a farm located in East Whitby Township, Ontario. They had a family of nine children. James Wesley married Annie Goodall and had seven children before he and Annie moved to the Carnduff, Saskatchewan area with their family to homestead in 1901. Here they had three more children. The eighth child Frederick, married and had two daughters but more research is needed on this branch. Thomas married Annie Gilroy and had six children. After farming for a time in Ontario he moved his family to Carnduff, Saskatchewan in 1913 and they had one more child. He was employed for many years selling coal and wood. The youngest child, Mary Grace, married Edward M. Buckler and had a family of five children. The Buckler's farmed at Thorah and Marah Townships, Ontario.

John and Mary left England like so many others, to come to a new land and a new beginning. Life was probably extremely difficult for them and their young family, isolated from friends and family, with little in the way of reward for hard work but their children survived and prospered.

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