

Industry & Perseverance

A History
of



DAVID BROWN
(1750 – 1836)



and
FAMILY

INDUSTRY & PERSEVERANCE -

A History
of



**DAVID BROWN
(1750 – 1836)**



&
FAMILY

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A History of DAVID BROWN (1750 – 1836) & FAMILY



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INDUSTRY & PERSEVERANCE

PREFACE

This account of David Brown (1750-1836) and his descendants and their connections, gives an insight into the expansion of free European settlement of Australia. David junior (c1783-1857) and his wife, Elizabeth McMahon (1799-1837), and their descendants, feature prominently in this history. Elizabeth's mother, Catherine Mooney (c1778-1857) and the children that she raised from her marriages with Terence McMahon (c1767- 1801) and Patrick Humphries (1767- 1846), are an integral part of this history. Likewise, David senior's son-in-law, James Chisholm (1772–1837), and his family, form a significant part of the Brown story.

I have tried to show the state of the Colony of New South Wales in c1800 as they found it, and developments and conditions in the colony as it affected the 'Brown' family in the 19th century.

This work grew out of 'Perspectives', which I last produced in 2001. In 'Perspectives' each character was dealt with separately, and there was considerable overlap of information. 'Industry & Perseverance' attempts to weave together the individual stories of the various characters presented in Perspectives. I have included a great amount of new information relevant to the Brown's story that I have come by since 2001.

Industry & Perseverance is a mosaic of available evidence. It is largely presented as a chronology. Wherever possible, appropriate contemporary comments from letters, newspapers, and journals have been used. There is little in the way of historical argument. Here and there, there is some deliberation about how the facts may be interpreted.

Most of what has been compiled so far has been based on Births, Deaths & Marriages (BDM) registration, land transactions, census, occasional newspaper items, archival records, various academic and family histories, and family legend. The Brown family legend as recorded by Blanche Jenkins in 1946 has generally proven to be a good pointer to what happened but is often wrong in detail. Unfortunately, there is little in the way of personal correspondence and diaries encountered so far to give depth to our understanding of these people. However, the evidence gathered suggests the Browns, and those connected to them, were busy and energetic people who made the most of their connections and entitlements in the colony.

The origins of David Brown are a mystery. Family legend has proved to be a tantalising challenge to all those who have attempted to research David and his family. Finding anything of substance that corroborate or disprove the hints of Jacobite connections and lost lands in Scotland has proved elusive.

The history of the family is very much a history of major events in the development of settlement from Sydney to the Hawkesbury River and then to the Hunter River and beyond. The Browns are particularly associated with the Cattai region and Jerry's Plains. Jerry's Plains, during the period 1841 – 1850, fortunately had an active correspondent to the Maitland Mercury and its predecessor the Hunter River Gazette¹, who provided a useful contemporary insight into the concerns of a small rural

¹ The Maitland Mercury, the newspaper's correspondent was also its agent for subscriptions and orders for advertising and printing. The agent for the newspaper was often the postmaster. The agent and correspondent for The Hunter River District News was Joseph J. Harper, brother to Charles Harper (1813-1868). Charles is described in 'National Library of Australia News', July 2003, as Australia's first poet and philosopher, Joseph J. Harper who had 'removed from Jerry's Plains' by 20 March 1850 was the papers agent for most if not all of ten years prior.

community - Quotes from that correspondent are usually self-sufficient. Unfortunately, during the 1850s, Jerry's Plains ceased to be well represented in the Maitland Mercury, and so I have drawn more on relevant material from the correspondent of nearby Singleton.

The significance of the development of the colony up to the Hunter and then the push to the northwest and north from there has been very much under appreciated. This appears to be due to the fact that most of this was achieved, under difficult circumstances, through the efforts of ordinary folk rather than 'establishment' people.

The tendency towards having large families of the nineteenth century meant that there were a lot of birth events to recount. The chronological inclusion of such detail in some instances disrupted or confused the telling of other events. To minimise that effect, for the most part, births are indented in italics as an aside, and preceded by a "#", unless they are linked with additional information. Births are also summarised with the deaths of their parents.

In doing this project I have often tried to visualise the people and their circumstances. I have become increasingly aware of the poor dental health of the white population in Australia in the nineteenth century. Medical science as we experience it, still had a long way to go, there was no such thing as a quick fix with antibiotics. Dentistry was little more than pulling teeth. Excavation of a pioneer graveyard by the University of Adelaide at St Mary's, South Australia in 2002, provided a significant pointer to this state of affairs. It is apparent that a very high proportion of people had lost most of their teeth by their early forties. Laughter and open mouth smiles of adults were likely to have revealed sparsely scattered, broken, and blackened teeth. One can understand why soups, stews, and porridge might have been popular fare with nineteenth century folk. This image, and the debilitating effect on general health of a tooth abscess, the foul odour of that particular situation, and general poor dental maintenance, all add another dimension to a picture of what were difficult and challenging times.

Notable are some of the women of this history such as Ann Shepherd, Elizabeth McMahon, and Catherine Mooney. They stand out as strong independent characters.

The amount that was achieved in such a short time is also of significance. The extent to which people got around with very slow and limited transportation and communications system is remarkable.

Readers are welcome to notify me of any information, sources and corrections that might add to or improve the understanding of the lives and times dealt with in this work.

John Griffiths

DAVID BROWN'S LIST OF DESCENDENTS - Three GENERATIONS

1-**David BROWN** (1750 - 21 Oct 1836)
m c1780 Mary Brown (1762? - 1799?)

2-James BROWN (c1783 - c1813)

2-Mary BROWN (1785 - 6 Dec 1817)
m 26 Jan 1806 **James CHISHOLM** (24 Jan 1772-31 Mar 1837)
3-James (5 Nov 1806 - 24 Jun 1888); and ? *female?*

2-**David BROWN II** (c1787?-11 Jan 1857)
m 28 Jun 1815 **Elizabeth Mary (Elizah) MCMAHON** (27 Mar 1799 - 21 Nov 1837)

3-Thomas (29 Jun 1817 -7 Jun 1848);-James (3 Aug 1819-24 Apr 1878);
John (13 Dec 1821-23 Apr 1896); Mary (24 Dec 1823-17 Aug 1910);
Catherine (22 May 1826-11 May 1905); David III (3 Nov 1828-13 Feb 1886); George (12 Jul 1831-23 Dec 1880); Alexander (14 Oct 1834-23 Nov 1899); Francis (1836-1838?)

m 16 May 1848 Harriet D'ARCY (1813 – 11 Nov 1855)
3-Alfred (1848-15 Nov 1862); Robert Bruce (5 Apr 1850-30 May 1920); William Wallace (5 Apr 1850-1855); Henry (22 Dec 1853-2 Feb 1860)

m 22 Sep1856 Eliza LEWIS (1820 -)

2 - ? BROWN (female?)

2- ? BROWN (female?)

2-Thomas BROWN (c1795-27 May 1836)
m 30 Nov 1824 Mary Ann Bridget O'NEIL (c1798 - 1839?)
3-Sarah (30 Oct 1825-17 Mar 1905); Charlotte M (14 Jul 1827- c1828);
Johanna Francis Amelia (1828-25 Jan 1877); Mary Rosanne (16 Jul 1830-9 April 1916);
Joseph Aloysius (2 May 1832-Buried 27 Nov 1833); William Bernard (1833-
before 1836), Andrew Alfred BROWN (23 Nov 1834 –before 1836)

MACMAHON & HUMPHRIES' DESCENDENTS - Three GENERATIONS

1- Catherine MOONEY (1778?-1857)

m c1796 Terence MCMAHON (1767?- 21 Oct 1801)

2 - Francis MCMAHON (1797?-18??)

m ?)

3-?

2-Elizabeth Mary (Elizah) MCMAHON (27 Mar 1799 - 21 Nov 1837)

m 28 Jun 1815 David BROWN junior (c1783 - 11 Jan 1857)

3-Thomas (29 Jun 1817-7 Jun 1848); James (3 Aug 1819-24 Apr 1878); John (13 Dec 1821-23 Apr 1896); Mary (24 Dec 1823-19 Aug 1910); Catherine (22 May 1826-11 May 1905); David III (3 Nov 1828-13 Feb 1886); George (12 Jul 1831-5 Jul 1906); Alexander (14 Oct 1834-23 Nov 1899); Francis (1837-1839?)

2 -John MCMAHON (1 Feb 1801 -28 Nov 1850)

M 26 April 1821 Elizabeth Walker (1802 -1875)

3- George Henry (21 Feb 1822 - 5 Mar 1822); Mary Ann (5 Jan 1823 – 27 Dec 1824); John Henry (25 Dec 1824 – 1877); Richard B (25 Decr 1826 – 26 Dec 1826); **Elizabeth Catherine** (17 May 1828 -);² Maria Ann (11 Oct 1830 -); Thomas **Owen** (3 November 1833; Ann (13 Jun 1836 -), Mary **Morley** (22 Jan 1839 -), Ellen (14 Augt 1840 -),Mary (30 Apr 1843 -)

m 28 Feb 1802 Patrick HUMPHRIES (1767 – 26 Aug 1846)

2- Michael HUMPHRIES, (1803-1860)

m 26 Oct 1829 Sarah HENCE (15 May 1814 - ?)

3-Michael (1830 -); Catherine (1831-); Elizabeth (1835 -), Patrick (1844-)³

2- Thomas HUMPHRIES, (1805 -1881)

m 11 Aug 1829 Mary SPEARS (1813 - ?)

3- Patrick (1836 -); Ann (1837 -); Patt (1843 -); Teresa (1845 -); Francis (1846 -); John (1847-)

2- Catherine HUMPHRIES, (1807-1838)

m 24 Apr 1824 John HOPKINS

3-John (1830-); George F (1833-); William (1836 -); Daniel (1838 -)

2- George HUMPHRIES, (1810-1863);

m 1833 Jane GREENTREE

3–Jane 1835 -; Catherine M 7 Apr 1836; Elizabeth 1839 - ; Ann B 16 Sep1840 - 18 Nov 1846⁴ Frances 1843- ; Mary 8 Oct 1844 - 10 Dec 1846; George 21 Dec 1846 - 21 Jun 1895; Michael 21 Dec 1846 - 21 Dec 1846; Teresa 2 Dec 1853 - ; David 12 Oct 1855 - ;Thomas 21 Mar 1857; *Mary A 1858 - Bridget,011 Jun 1860 -*

2- Ann HUMPHRIES, 1812 - 1890;

m 1830 William Samson PICKETT (30 Jun 1804 -)

3- Henry (1831-); Susannah (1833 -); Catherine (1844 -); Paul (1851 -); George D (1853 -);

2 - David HUMPHRIES (1815-1885)

m 13 Jun 1842 Jane Mary DALEY

3- George, (14 Sep 1844 -); Frances Elizabeth (28 Jun 1846 - infancy); David, (24 Nov 1848 -); Agnes(1849-)?; Jane Mary (8 Apr1854 -); Catherine Mary (17 Mar 1856 -); Emma (28 May 1858-); John Patrick (22 Aug 1860 -)..

² Possibly named in honour of John's sister Elizabeth, and his Mother Catherine.

³ BDM v18441447 134 refers Patrick Humphers baptised at St Mary's, Sydney.

⁴ BDM V1840 612 61 0 and V1840 613 61 0 refers

INDUSTRY & PERSISTENCE

Subjects:

• Aborigines	• Convicts	• Jerry's Plains	• Pyrmont
• Australian Agricultural Company (AAC)	• Drought	• Kissing Point	• River Transport
• Bank of NSW	• Earl Cornwallis	• Land Grants	• Rum Rebellion
• Balmain	• Erskine St,	• Liverpool Plains	• St Andrews
• Brisbane Water	• 'Favorite' brig.	• Maitland	• Scotland
• Brown Family	• Financial Crisis	• Massacre	• Sealing
• Buffalo, HMS	• First World War	• Millie Run	• Shepherds
• Bulga Track	• Floods	• Military Service	• Ship Building
• Bushrangers	• France	• Minerva	• Singleton
• Camden	• Gold Rush	• Minto	• South Head
• Cattai	• Goulburn	• Muswellbrook	• Squatters
• Cattle Runs	• Great Depression	• Newcastle	• Sydney Town
• Cedar Getting	• Great Northern Road	• New England	• Thunderbolt
• Chisholm Family	• Great North Road	• New South Wales Corps	• Vinegar Hill
• Cockle Bay	• Hawkesbury,	• Pearl Fishing	• Waterloo Creek
• Colonial Carpenters	• Hunter Valley	• Pitt Town	• Watson's Bay
• Commuting	• Ireland	• Pioneer Women	• Wicklow Rebellion 1798
	• Ironbark	• Port Jackson	• Windsor
			• Wiseman's Ferry

PIONEERS

They came of bold and roving stock that would not fixed abide;
They were the sons of field and flock since e'er they learnt to ride,
We may not hope to see such men in these degenerate years
As those explorers of the bush-the brave old pioneers.

'Twas they who rode the trackless bush in heat and storm and drought;
'Twas they who heard the master-word that called them farther out;
'Twas they who followed up the trail the mountain cattle made,
And pressed across the mighty range where now their bones are laid.

But now the times are dull and slow, the brave old days are dead
When hardy bushmen started out, and forced their way ahead
By tangled scrub and forest grim towards the unknown west,
And spied at last the promised land from off the range's crest.

O ye that sleep in lonely graves by distant ridge and plain,
We drink to you in silence now as Christmas comes again,
To you who fought the wilderness through rough unsettled years-
The founders of our nation's life, the brave old pioneers.

A B PATERSON

