



BRAWNER BULLETIN



QUARTERLY NEWS OF THE BRAWNERS AND THEIR ALLIED FAMILIES

Winter 1997

Brawners in the News

Patricia Brawner, 22, of Reelsboro, NC, pleaded guilty to solicitation and accessory after the fact in the murder of her husband, **Tony Brawner**. Mrs. Brawner was present as her boyfriend stabbed her husband 14 times in the trailer the three shared in Reelsboro. Prosecutors introduced evidence that Brawner failed to seek help for her dying husband despite having access to a car and telephone. Brawner is currently serving a lengthy prison term at the North Carolina Correctional Institute for Women. [*The Pamlico (NC) News*, May 29, 1996; *Thank you to Rob & Sharon Malburg*].

Martha Ellen Brawner Brandenburg, 95, died in Baltimore, Maryland this past June 4. Martha was the last surviving child of **James E. Brawner** (1854-1940) and **Marv Jane Roberts Brawner** of the Northern Virginia Brawners. Martha, the widow of the late Charles Lawrence Brandenburg, is survived by 22 grandchildren, 42 great grandchildren and 7 great-great grandchildren. [*Thank you to James E. Brawner Jr.*]

“OVER MY DEAD BODY!”

You may not find it in your genealogical research, but you can take it to the bank that some Brawners have said “Over my dead body!” to express their resolve (spelled s-t-u-b-b-o-r-n) over this issue or that. But no evidence has ever surfaced that any of the Brawners took this statement literally ... that is, until recently. *Bulletin* subscriber **Thelma E. Kurtz** kindly sent in an article about a unique wedding that took place last century in the show-me state of Missouri, in the town of Converse. According to the April 13, 1888 *Liberty (MO) Advance*: “Last Thursday one fellow townsman, James Clark, was united in marriage to Miss Nannie Brawner, one of the popular young ladies of Converse, under the most peculiar circumstances. Mrs. Brawner, mother of the bride, died Tuesday evening, and, knowing her death would prevent her seeing her daughter married, requested that the marriage occur where she was to be buried.

Accordingly, Thursday, when all arrangements were made for the funeral, the contracting parties took their stand near the coffin while Elder Creel, after a few touching remarks, spoke the words that made them man and wife. The extraordinary surroundings, so different from the usual surrounding at marriage, made a deep impression on all, one not likely to be forgotten by any present, while the strange bridal tour to a funeral was only calculated to deepen the impressions thus made. Both parties are highly connected and are worthy people.”

The literalist bride, **Nancy M. Brawner** (1855-1910), was the daughter of **Jacob Neet Brawner** (1812-1877) and **Eliza Jane Miller Brawner**, over whose remains the couple were married. The *Bulletin* continues to investigate the unsubstantiated rumor that the groom wore a silly smirk on his face throughout the ceremony.



THE ILLINOIS LINE

Pictured in the photograph at the left are **WILLIAM M. BRAWNER** (b. 1840 in Sangamon Co., IL, d. 1914 in Sangamon Co., IL) and **ISABEL WORKS BRAWNER** (b. 1847 in Owen County, KY, d. 1892 in Sangamon Co., IL). This couple was married in 1870 and had two children, **JOHN H. BRAWNER** and **WILLIAM OSCAR BRAWNER**. William M. Brawner is the son of **WILLIAM T. BRAWNER** (b. 1799 in MD) and **ELIZABETH BALL BRAWNER**. William T. migrated from Maryland to Kentucky to Illinois. It is this line that accounts for many of the Brawner descendants in Illinois, including *Bulletin* subscriber **GEORGE FARRIS BRAWNER SR.**, who kindly provided this photograph. This photograph was taken in the 1870s.

"JEREMIAH & SALLIE'S FAMILY"

Jeremiah "Jerry" Brawner (born 1802) was the son of **Dozier and Jennie Brawner**, who were originally from Pittsylvania County, Virginia. After migrating into Tennessee, the family of Dozier Brawner developed roots in north central Tennessee, including Macon and Smith Counties. Jeremiah married **Sarah "Sallie" Shrum** (b. 1822) of Macon County, and their children (not necessarily in order) are:

1. **Nancy Brawner** (1835-1921), married, first, Ed Shrum, and second, John Garrett.
2. **Malvina Brawner**, married Billie Lovelady.
3. **Bill Brawner**.
4. **Tilda Brawner**, married Steve Dixon.
5. **Elizabeth "Betsy" Brawner**.
6. **John Henry Brawner** (1842-1902), married Matilda Susan Gregory (1846-1922) and had 10 children.
7. **Becky Brawner**, married, first, Hiram Willis, second, Mr. Hightower and, third, Mr. Shrum.
8. **Martha Brawner** (1849-1920), married William Allen Shrum (1847-1928). This couple migrated to Carroll Co., Arkansas, in the Ozark Mountains.
9. **Jeremiah Peyton "Pate" Brawner** (1852-1918), married on September 13, 1883 in Macon Co., TN cousin Rachel M. Brawner (1858-1913) and had 7 children.
10. **James Franklin Brawner** (1853-1929) married Louisa Shrum (1859-1939), and had 14 children.
11. **Sampson Brawner** (1857-1929), married Mary Jane Elizabeth Sisco (1854-1929), and had 6 children.

[Source: The above information is compiled from information submitted by several Tennessee correspondents, including **David E. Brawner**, **George A. Stone** and **Marie Brawner Roberson**, and from "Cal's Columns," August 3, 1950, Macon County (TN) Times].

FUN WITH NUMBERS

The U.S. Census Bureau says "Brawner" is the 6,098th most common surname in this country (out of 88,799), making up a "whopping" .002% of this country's surnames. Over 65% of the people in the country have a more common surname than "Brawner." "Smith," "Johnson" and "Williams," in that order, are the most common. This all goes to show one thing: we need to try harder, folks! [Source: 1990 U.S. Census Bureau Data, at www.census.com].

REUNION NEWS

Bulletin subscriber **Charlotte Brawner Kneupper** advises that her line of Texas Brawners (originally from Georgia) will hold a reunion on the third Saturday in June of this year at Saint Jo, Texas City Park. Anyone who is interested in more information may contact Charlotte at (210) 324-6623 or at 4A Sisterdale-Lindendale Road, Boerne TX 78006.

G.M. BRAWNER, AGAIN

In 1908, the Frankfort, KY town druggists played the area doctors in a baseball game to benefit the King's Daughters' Hospital, which was then located across from the Frankfort Cemetery. Playing for the druggists' squad was none other than 27-year-old **G. Murray Brawner**, who was the Brawner family historian extraordinaire and the subject of an article on page 4 of the Fall 1996 *Bulletin*. [The *State Journal*, October 31, 1971; Thank you to **Jean Brawner Barr**].

THOMAS A. BRAWNER

Dr. Thomas A. Brawner is Professor and Chair of the Department of Biology of Carthage University in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Dr. Brawner's specialty is the study of viral diseases. He earned his B.A. degree at Albion College and his Ph.D at the University of Texas in Austin. At the University of Texas, Dr. Brawner was awarded a National Institutes of Health Pre-doctoral fellowship. He taught for many years in medical school, then entered corporate research of infectious diseases before joining Carthage University in 1989. [Carthage University Web Page: www.carthage.edu:80/faculty/brawner.html].

BRAWNER BULLETIN

P.O. Box 10816

Greensboro, NC 27404-0816

"tbrawn@nr.infi.net"

"Brawner and Allied Family News"

Selected Brawner Marriages

Bride	Groom	Date	Place
Lillian L. Pence	Wallace Woodson Brawner	Oct. 30, 1901	Liberty MO
Leah York	Dozier Brawner Gammon	Sept. 6, 1846	Knox Co. TN
Edna May Clifton	George Henry Brawner	Nov. 9, 1908	Dallas TX
Ann Brawner	Solomon Snow	Dec. 21, 1820	Franklin Co. KY
Mary Eliz. Palmer	James Madison Brawner	Oct. 22, 1863	Quincy IL
Lucretia Parsons	Thornton Brawner	1826	Washington DC

A Cow Named Mary ... and a Singer Sewing Machine

“State of Georgia, Bartow County.

To the Ordinary of said County:

The following is the schedule of property of B.G. Brawner, a citizen of said County, who is head of a family consisting of himself, his wife Emma Brawner, and three minor children, to wit: Helen, 13, Dorothy, 11, and Jennie Lee, 5, claimed to be exempt from levy and sale, for the use and benefit of his said wife and family under section 3416 of the Code of Georgia, and following sections:

1 red & black Jersey cow, 2 yrs old named Mary	20.00
1/2 interest in 2 hogs, 1 red 1 black weight 450 lb.	8.00
50 bu. corn in field on Ren Mobre's place	37.50
40 bu. cotton seed	10.00
\$50.00 provisions, to wit: corn, sweet potatoes	50.00
1 cotton planter, 1 plow stock	4.00
Household & kitchen furniture, consisting principally as follows: 3 iron bedsteads & bedding for same 6.00; 1 dresser 5.00; 2 tables 2.00; 2 rockers 2.00; 6 plain chairs 2.00; 1 range cook stove 10.00; table ware & cooking utensils 6.00	33.00
1 Singer sewing machine	15.00
	\$177.50

Personally appeared before me B. G. Brawner, the applicant for exemption above set out who on oath says that the same is a true and correct schedule of his property, which is claimed to be exempt to deponent and family ...

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 11 day of October 1933. ...

Upon consideration of the within schedule filed this day by B. G. Brawner of said County, it is ordered that the same be admitted of Record and that the property therein mentioned by exempt from levy and sale in terms of law.

R.M. Gaines, Ordinary”

[Source: Copy of Original Court Document in Brawner and Allied Families: King, Quarles, Shaw and Others, by **Jack T. Brawner**].

*Note: The exact identity of B.G. Brawner is unknown, though he is undoubtedly in the line of **Joel Brawner** (1798-1866) and **Elizabeth King** (1800-1866), who migrated from Elbert County, Georgia to Bartow County, Georgia. Here, B.G. Brawner is seeking to protect certain of his assets from a creditor, probably either the government or a bank, in Depression-era Georgia.*

Thank You!!

Thank you to all subscribers for their contributions to, and kind letters about, the *Bulletin*. The editor recognizes with gratitude those who have recently made special contributions to the *Bulletin*:

Jean Brawner Barr
David E. Brawner
George F. Brawner, Sr.
Jack T. Brawner
Patricia A. Brawner-Schiro
Ward French
Jocelyn Brawner Gary
Charlotte Brawner Kneupper
Thelma E. Kurtz
Betty Brawner Ludwig
Rob & Sharon Malburg
Ruth Kirk Ramsauer
George A. Stone
Helen M. Sutherland
Alice Van Norman
John Douglas Roberts
Marianne Smyth
Mary Brawner Viter
Norma Brawner Young

The editor encourages and appreciates all submissions of Brawner family information for publication in the *Bulletin*. Photographs would also be appreciated. Please send information to the *Bulletin* at P.O. Box 10816, Greensboro NC 27404-0816.

THANK YOU!!

VALENTINE'S DAY BIRTHS IN THE BRAWNER FAMILY

Rose Davis Brawner (1838-1890), wife of Edgar Brawner (1820-1892), was born February 14, 1838, probably in Charles County, Maryland.

Mary Palmer Brawner (1867-1940), daughter of James Madison Brawner (1836-1875) and Mary Elizabeth Palmer (1839-1924), was born February 14, 1867 in St. Louis, Missouri. This is part of the line that migrated from Virginia to Kentucky and then to Missouri.

Elizabeth Ann Ratzloff Brawner (1902-1982), wife of Virtus Roy Brawner (1898-1970), was born February 14, 1902. She is part of the Oklahoma Brawner family.

Joseph Oliver Brawner, son of David Oliver Brawner II (1860-1941) and Rhoda Jane Stewart (1861-1933), was born on February 14, 1885. He died in infancy. This is part of the line that migrated out of Frederick County, Maryland into Kentucky and later into Missouri and Oklahoma as well as other places. David Oliver Brawner has many descendants today in the state of Oklahoma. Joseph Oliver Brawner is the brother of Virtus Roy Brawner mentioned above.

QUERIES

Seeking information on **Joseph Brawner** of Charles County, MD, who moved to Prince William County, VA in 1803 and died in 1806 leaving only an inventory. [please reply to Bulletin].

Seeking information on **Elizabeth Graham** and **James G. Brawner** of Kentucky. Is the marriage date of Elizabeth Graham and James G. Brawner of 29 October 1872 correct? Is this James G. Galbraith the same as **James Galbraith Brawner** (1846-1918)? Is this Elizabeth Graham the same person as **Elizabeth "Bettie" Bybee**? [please reply to Bulletin].

Will of Thomas Brawner of Jessamine County, Kentucky

In the name Almighty God amen. I, Thomas Brawner, senr. of the County of Jessamine and State of Kentucky, being in ill health but of sound disposing mind and memory and calling to mind the certainty of death being desirous of making a deposition of my estate do hereby publish and declare the following to be my last will and testament (to wit) Item. It is my will and desire that my executors pay out of my estate all my just debts. Secondly it is my will and desire to give my beloved wife Elizabeth Brawner a negro woman by the name of Luiasa also a negro boy by the name of Sam to her and her heirs for ever. Also I give to my wife Elizabeth Brawner one bond on Joseph Chrisman and David Crozier also one bond on Morton Zimmerman. Also one sorrel mare bridal and saddle. Also one set of table spoons and one set of little spoons all of silver. Also bed and bedding and a beaurow. Item. It is my will and desire that my beloved son Jacob N. Brawner take in possession all my farms together with all my stock of all and every description together with my crop of corn, wheat rye and oats for his use and benefit and is to keep in possession until March 1840 in consideration of which he is to furnish the family with all the nessaries of life that is to say with meat and bread, sugar, coffee, tea, milk and butter and all such articals that the family stand in need of as plentyfull as they have heretofore, and if the family should be afflicted with sickness he is to employ a phesitaan and to pay them and at the expiration of March 1840 he is to pay three hundred and seventy three dollars and it is my will and desire that at the date of March 1840 that my land shall be sold at one and two years credit but I leave to my hereafter named Executors what they may think best, and at the same time all my estate of every description is to be sold. Proceeds is to be equally devided between my children and wife (to wit). It is my will and desire that my beloved wife, Elizabeth Brawner, to have an equal share with my children besides what I have given her in the foregoing part of my will. It is my will and desire that all

FAMILY MEMBER DIES IN TEXAS

Thelma Brawner, 79, widow of the late Carl N. Brawner, died on Wednesday, November 27, 1996 in Fort Worth, TX. Mrs. Brawner was born on December 13, 1916 in Tecumseh, OK. After moving to Texas, she became president of PTA City Council. She is survived by two daughters, Carlene Brawner Cafaro and Sandra Lyn Brawner, stepsister Dora Jones and three grandchildren. She was laid to rest at Rose Hill Cemetery in Cleburne, TX. [Ft. Worth Star-Telegram On-line, November 28, 1996].

the estate both real and personal that is to say the proceeds from the sale be equally divided between my children. (Namely) David Brawner, Polly Brawner, George Brawner, Thomas Brawner, Elizabeth Lafoon, John Brawner, and my granddaughter, Kitty Ann Brawner and the said Kitty Ann Brawner is to have the amount of property left in my hand by her father William Brawner to the amount of seventy dollars and a good side saddle in case the said Kitty Ann Brawner should die without lawfull heir separt of my estate is to return to my children again and lastly I constatute and appoint my beloved sons George Brawner and Jacob N. Brawner my Executors to my Last Will Testament. In witness whereof have hereunto set my hand afixt my seal this thirteenth day of October 1835 in the presents of William Young senr., Robert Smith, George Utinger.... [Signed] Thomas Brawner, seal.”

[Source: Will Book E, Page 215, Office of the County Clerk, Jessamine County, KY; Thank you to **Thelma E. Kurtz**].

Note: The Will was probated in December 1835.

Note: The Will is presented with all misspellings and grammatical errors.

*Note: This is **Thomas Brawner** (c. 1765-1833), native of Frederick County, Maryland and probably the grandson of **Edward Brawner** (d. 1760 in Frederick Co., MD) and **Elizabeth Wheeler**. Thomas' spouse was **Martha Elizabeth Neet** (1778-1859). Martha, too, was a native of Frederick County, Maryland, where she married Thomas in 1798. Thomas and Martha then migrated west to Fayette County, Kentucky. Later, on the way to Missouri, Thomas became ill and died in Jessamine County, Kentucky. Elizabeth died in Clinton County, Missouri. The Frederick County, Maryland Brawners migrated from Charles County, Maryland.*

“THE LATE HENRY BRAWNER

The estimable gentleman whose name heads this article, and whose decease was very imperfectly, and in one particular erroneously, noticed in your paper of August 14, has left, first, an amiable wife and five orphan children to deplore their irreparable bereavement, and, next, a large circle of other relatives and connexions (*sic*), as well as personal, and we may add, political friends, who cannot fail to feel, deeply to feel and deplore the loss they too have sustained. Nor has the whole community in which he resided been less bereaved than those already mentioned. *Never breathed the breath of life a more generous and disinterested friend, or a more affectionate husband, son, or brother, or a better relative or connexion (sic) in every degree. ...*

HENRY BRAWNER was born in Charles county, Md., on the 8th of March 1791; completed the customary scholastic course at Charlotte Hall Academy, (an old and venerable institution in St. Mary's county, Maryland, in which have been educated many of the most distinguished gentlemen of the State, and even of Virginia,) and, before completing his 17th year, was appointed by the trustees of Durham Academy an assistant teacher in that then flourishing institution of his native county. In 1812 or 1813, he entered, as a student of law, the office of Judge DORSEY, then a distinguished practitioner in his profession; and at the spring term of Charles county court, in 1815, was admitted to that Bar, then crowded by experienced and talented gentlemen. The excellent character, acknowledged legal attainments, and bland, conciliatory manners of the young lawyer, united to strict attention and great assiduity in business, speedily introduced him to a large share of the same, and made him the general favorite of the Bar, Bench and People. His election, two years after his appearance at the Bar, to the Legislature of his native State over highly respectable and popular competitors, clearly illustrates how strong was the hold he had thus early gained on the favor and affections of his neighbors and fellow-citizens. He was re-elected in 1818. After this he resolved to devote himself exclusively to his professional duties, in the exercise of which wealth and reputation were fast accumulating upon him, when the general voice of his friends and fellow-countrymen seemed to demand that he should become a candidate for the Electoral College to elect a State Senate. He was chosen by a triumphant vote. In 1824, when parties were forming on the then pending Presidential election, he was chosen by the friends of the honorable JOHN QUINCY ADAMS as their candidate for the office of Elector of President and Vice-President; and to him, more than to any other individual, is to be attributed the vote which Mr. ADAMS received in that electoral district. In 1828, when the result was again considered extremely doubtful, he yielded once more to the solicitations of his friends to become a candidate for the same office, and was again elected by an increased vote. In 1829, when the whole country seemed to bow to the supremacy of party discipline and party virulence, the National Republicans of Maryland resolved to make a vigorous effort to prevent their noble little State from yielding to the torrent which was deluging the land, and it was deemed indispensably necessary by his political friends that he should be a candidate for the Legislature.

To this general call he reluctantly yielded. It was done at the sacrifice of immense private interest. His great personal popularity gave him a most triumphant majority. He was re-elected in 1830 and 1831 to the same station. This, perhaps, forms the brightest page in his political history. The archives of the State are a lasting monument of the usefulness of his labors and the memories of his contemporaries, without distinction of party, will bear testimony to the high estimation in which he was held as a gentleman and a legislator. During this period of his service, the sad and affecting tragedy of Southampton was enacted, casting a gloom and producing a deep and anxious foreboding over the whole slaveholding country. When the Legislature convened, every member of it felt the necessity of some decisive action; and there was no chilling disappointment. To HENRY BRAWNER, more than to any other individual, as all will acknowledge, are we indebted for the wise, beneficent, and splendid scheme of State colonization which has been so signally successful. Our own prudent and energetic legislation has rendered impotent, so far as we are concerned, abolition fanaticism, and preserved our State, “calm as a summer's morning” on the slave question, whilst others infinitely less exposed have been convulsed to their very centre. In 1832, he received the appointment of Register of Wills for his native county, the acceptance of which, although a lucrative and highly important office, was esteemed by his friends too great a sacrifice. Being averse, however, to the turmoil incident to political life, and ever anxious to retire to the bosom of his family and relatives, the wishes and counsel of his friends were, for a time, unavailing.

In 1836, when it was supposed that the grand scheme of internal improvements, and other recent legislative enactments, had rendered the Whig party unpopular in many counties of the State, and a new Senate was to be elected, the political character of which might depend on a single vote in the Electoral College, which proved to be the fact, the entire Whig party of his county called on Mr. BRAWNER once more to be a candidate for the office of State Senatorial Elector, when so much depended on their success. The result justified the anticipation. The parties in the College were 21 to 19. He was one among the ever-memorable and to be honored 21, who, by their firmness, prudence, and wisdom, saved the State from anarchy, and perhaps from bloodshed. This last memorable act ended his political career, honorably to himself and usefully to his country.

In concluding this imperfect notice, prompted no less by an intimate knowledge of the merits of the deceased than by friendship and affection, I shall add, that the best evidence of the deserved popularity and the usefulness of the deceased, is embraced in the foregoing statements. Nine times, in periods of high political excitement, and when the result of political conflicts was doubtful, was HENRY BRAWNER a candidate before those among whom he had been born, reared, and lived forty-seven years, and who had the best opportunity to understand his character; and not only was he never defeated in his life, but almost universally came to the goal far ahead of the others, and on one occasion he did so when not only a highly brilliant, able, and popular opponent was in the field, but also a distinguished

(Continued on page 8)

Mother, Judge and Rider Van Norman

Lauren Van Norman, the daughter of *Bulletin* subscribers **Raymond Van Norman** and **Alice Smith Van Norman** and the great granddaughter of **Abraham Smith** (1845-1925) and **Rebecca Brawner Smith** (1849-1932), does it all. She is the first woman judge on the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court. She was appointed to that position by Nebraska Governor Ben Nelson on July 1993 and took office on August 3, 1993. Judge Van Norman addresses issues of whether a former employee is entitled to unemployment benefits. She says, "I think my job is to apply the law to the facts and be as fair as possible." In addition to being a judge, Judge Van Norman is a mother. During her limited spare time, she follows her passion of horses, even going so far as to buy a 4-year-old quarter horse. Says the judge: "It's a very consuming hobby. A very good distraction and stress reducer."

Judge Van Norman was born and raised in Minden, Nebraska. She graduated from University of Nebraska in 1974 with a degree in social work. After working for three years as a social worker, she chose to enter law school. After law school, she entered private practice, doing juvenile, criminal and domestic cases. She later practiced law for almost eight years with the Nebraska Department of Labor. Congratulations, Lauren, on all of your accomplishments! [*Lincoln (NE) Journal-Star, August 15, 1993*].

DID YOU KNOW?

There is a road in Corpus Christi, Texas called *Brawner Parkway*.

ANTIOCH CHURCH RECORDS

The Antioch Christian Church, formed in June 1855, is located in Franklin County, KY. Among its earlier members were **Edward Brawner**, the 251st member, who was admitted 19 September 1874 by "confession"; and **Almeta Brawner**, the 385th member, who was admitted 16 August 1880 by "commendation." Edward was later dropped from membership by reason of being "excluded" and Almeta was "dismissed by letter." The specific reasons for the exclusion and dismissal, respectively, are unclear. [*Source: Bluegrass Roots, Summer 1996, by the Kentucky Genealogical Society, pp. 54, 56*].

D.A.R. MEMBERSHIP

In 1957, **Elizabeth Brister Barclay** (b. 1906) of Russellville, Kentucky, obtained membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution. Her membership application sets forth some valuable genealogical information on her Brawner line. The lineage upon which Mrs. Barclay obtained membership is as follows:

1. **Frank M. Brister**, born on 26 September 1873 in Logan Co., KY, died 29 September 1941; his wife, **Ruby Reynolds**, born 8 September 1877 in Logan Co., KY, died 3 March 1920 in Logan Co., KY. They were married 28 February 1898.

2. **Reuben Reynolds**, born 4 October 1843 in Warren Co., KY, died 9 November 1918 in Logan Co., KY; his wife, **Margaret Wood**, born 6 June 1850 at Fayette Co., KY, died 5 June 1892 in Logan Co., KY. They were married 14 March 1869.

3. **James P. Wood**, born 19 August 1804 in Maryland, died 21 January 1880 in Logan Co., KY; his wife, **Celina H. [Unknown]**, born 16 September 1817 in Indiana, died on 26 January 1863 in Logan Co., KY. They were married about 1835.

4. **Henry Wood**, born 1779 in Maryland, died by drowning in Big Sandy River (on eastern border of Kentucky) on 14 April 1822; his wife, **Nancy Ann Brawner**, born March 1782 in Maryland, died 9 June 1851 in Fayette Co., KY. They were married 7 November 1803.

5. **Henry Brawner Sr.**, born on or before 1755 in Maryland, died in Charles Co., MD in 1821 or 1822. Henry's first wife is listed as unknown, and his second wife is listed as Esther [Unknown]. Henry had five children: **John Scott Brawner**; **James Brawner**; **Henry Brawner Jr.**; **Nancy Ann Brawner** (mentioned above); **Sarah Brawner** (m. James Nelson); and **Catherine Brawner** (m. Henry Hatch Dent).

Mrs. Barclay lists "my ancestor's services in assisting in the establishment of American Independence during the War of the Revolution" as "Henry Brawner took the Patriot's Oath of Allegiance in Charles County, Maryland in 1778," citing Vol. 5, page 78 of *Unpublished Records of Maryland (Hodges)*.

Note: Henry Brawner Sr. is the same Henry Brawner whose will is featured on page 6 of the Fall 1996 Bulletin. Henry's first wife was a Miss Scott and his second wife was Esther Dunnington.

A Tribute to the Memory of

CAPTAIN W.G. BRAWNER

Who Was Killed in Battle June 11, 1863

Another of Virginia's sons
Upon the alter lain,
Another of her gallant ones
For home and country slain.

"Killed in the charge!" - our hearts beat quick,
His noble name to hear;
There is a doubt - yet we grow sick,
With apprehensive fear.

"Fell in the charge!" - alas, 'tis true;
A soldier from his side
Brings news of "glorious victory,"
But that his "CAPTAIN DIED!"

Fell, leading on a gallant band,
Against the invading foe;
HIS voice was first to give command,
HIS hand to deal a blow!

Ah, many a heart will mourn for him,
The friend of other days,
And many a lip will render him
The mead of well-earned praise.

We weep for him, the brave and true
As ever fell in fight!
As ever blade in battle drew,
For Home and for the Right!

The names are many, "wounded," "killed,"
Oft meet the ear and eye,
But none within the saddened heart
Calls forth a deeper sigh.

An only brother, only son,
So generous, noble, free,
Has fallen in the glorious cause
Of "Right and Liberty!"

Oh, twine a garland for his name,
Let it immortal be!
And write it on the scroll of fame -
HE DIED OUR HOMES TO FREE!

[Note: This poem was written about William G. Brawner, Captain of Company H, Prince William Partisan Rangers, 15th Virginia Cavalry, who was killed during a charge at Seneca Mill, MD on June 11, 1863. The poem is believed to have been authored by Caroline Brawner French, William's sister, at Clear Spring, Prince William Co., VA on June 22, 1863. Thank you to Ward French for sending this poem along to us.]

BRONNERS OF FRANKENMUTH

Frankenmuth is a small town between Saginaw and Flint, Michigan, founded in about 1845. Today many of the homes, shops, offices and churches reflect the skilled construction work of the family of **Johannes Bronner**.

Johannes Bronner was born May 29, 1857 in Pfaffenhofen, Germany, the son of **Johannes Goerg Bronner** and **Friederike Degler Bronner** and the grandson of **Johann Leonhard Bronner**, a master shoemaker, and **Christine Margarete**, a Swiss native. Johannes was baptized in the Lutheran Church. Johannes developed experience in Germany in the construction trade. In 1882 he boarded a ship for the United States, settling in the town of Frankenmuth. The town was then upgrading its structures, and Johannes was kept busy with masonry and construction during springs, summers and falls and cutting lumber in the woods during the winters. He received 75 cents a day for his work.

On July 21, 1889, Johannes married **Maria Barbara Rohn** in Saginaw. They had seven children: Emma, Richard, Herman, Johannes, Maria, William and Agnes. Daughter Maria died at the age of six months old. Emma was a florist and homemaker. Richard, Herman and William joined their father in the construction business. Johannes Jr. was a farmer and brewery worker in Frankenmuth. Agnes was a farmer and homemaker.

Johannes and the three sons who joined him in business developed recognized specialties in plastering effects, sophisticated stone cutting and custom brick laying.

Johannes died on June 29, 1934. His wife, Maria Barbara, died almost 4 years later, on February 7, 1938.

If you go to Frankenmuth today, you will see the skillful plastering, stone and brick mason work of Johannes and his sons in structures throughout the Frankenmuth area. On your visit to Frankenmuth, you might also want to drive down Christmas Lane. There you will see "Bronner's Christmas Wonderland," the world's largest Christmas store. The Wonderland has over 200,000 square feet under roof on a 17-acre landscaped property, and over 2,000,000 visitors annually. The Wonderland, it turns out, was originated and is managed by **Wallace J. Bronner**, the proud grandson of immigrant Johannes Bronner. *[Thank you to Betty Brawner Ludwig for obtaining this information and sending it to the Bulletin].*

SARAH BRAWNER HUBER PASSES AWAY

Sarah Brawner Huber, aged 90, died on October 3, 1943 in her home at 110 West Third Street in Washington, Iowa. Sarah is the daughter of **Alexander Brawner** (1824-1905) and **Mary Ann Morrison** (1826-1860). Sarah, sometimes called "Sadie," was a native and lifelong resident of Washington County, Iowa. On October 15, 1872, Sarah married Pennsylvania native **Frank Huber** (1847-1921) in Washington County. The couple had eight children: **Cyrus Oscar** (1874-1960); **Olive Myrtle** (1875-1965); **Harry Elmer** (1880-1971); **Otha Elwin** (1883-1975); **Ira Everett** (1886-1945); **Grace Prudence** (1889-1973); **Mary Edna** (1893-1988) and **Roy Erwin** (1897-1982). Known for her independent nature, Sarah was actively involved in the activities of the Methodist Church as well as her community. She did much knitting, quilting and cooking for her children and grandchildren, and even knitted 100 pairs of socks for the American soldiers during World War I.

Seven months before her death, Sarah fell and broke her hip, precipitating a decline in health that culminated in her demise. In addition to her eight children, she was survived by 21 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

[Source: **Mary Brawner Viter's** Brawner Family History, 1830-1995, including an October 4, 1943 obituary from the Washington (IA) Evening Journal and the written recollections of Sarah's granddaughter, **Linda Huber Birney**]. A photo of Sarah and her sisters appears in the Spring 1996 Bulletin.

(Continued from page 5)

on one occasion he did so when not only a highly brilliant, able, and popular opponent was in the field, but also a distinguished political friend.

Nothing but my fear of troubling you too much will prevent me from speaking at large of the private and social virtues of the deceased — his even and unruffled temper — his unconquerable courage.... His *generosity*, too, and deference for the claims of his friends; always active and enterprising to acquire wealth, distinction, and influence, but to lay them all at the feet of some friend or friends, relative or relatives, and retire himself, when the highway of ambition was open before him, contented, happy, and smiling, to his own hospitable fireside — there still the same fond and affectionate individual already described, and the most liberal and bountiful giver to all the poor." [National Intelligencer, 21 August 1838 (author not identified); italics in original; Thank you to *Marianne Smyth*].

Note: The Henry Brawners of Charles County continue to befuddle us, but this one is probably the son of the Henry Brawner (c. 1755-1822) whose Will appears on page 6 of the Fall 1996 Bulletin. Henry Jr. (March 8, 1791-August 9, 1838) married Maria Campbell Yates (died 1847). Four of his children (5 are mentioned in the above biography) are Mary F. Brawner; Eliza C. Brawner, John James Campbell Brawner and C. Dorsey Brawner. Henry headed a legislative committee in the Maryland House of Delegates known as the Brawner Committee which addressed issues related to slavery and free blacks. Henry supported making Maryland a white, free-labor state and colonizing blacks in other states or Africa. He referred to slavery as "an admitted and awful evil, injurious, infected, destructive, the blighting cause of the stain upon Maryland's otherwise bright escutcheon." Road to Disunity, Secessionists at Bay 1776-1854, by William W. Freehling (Oxford University Press 1990). The "tragedy of Southampton" mentioned above refers to the 1831 slave insurrection led by Nat Turner in Southampton County, Virginia. The Brawner Committee responded to this insurrection, in part, by supporting passage of a bill further restricting the liberties of Maryland's free blacks. The Maryland General Assembly at this time also undertook measures to try to colonize blacks, which Henry supported. Henry is the most likely Brawner to appear in any history of Maryland.

Brawner Bulletin

P.O. Box 10816
Greensboro, NC 27404-0816



"The Brawner Family Newsletter"

