

HISTORY OF THE BRANN FAMILY

During the early reign of Queen Elizabeth, England was still in a state of turmoil from religious wars. The Puritan church as well as the church of England had fallen into a state of decay. A wave of crime and moral laxation had swept over the country. The aristocratic families scoffed at religion while a great many even became atheists.

Out of this environment came John Wesley the father of Methodism. He emphasized the spiritual side of man and advised them to follow the teachings of their own conscience. England needed just this religion at this particular time in her history. Hundreds of people accepted the faith but since the Anglican church was the established church, persecution followed the converts to Methodism.

This is probably the reason John and Catherine Brann joined a group of other methodists and sailed from London, England some time before the revolutionary war. They landed in Virginia where they established their home and took upon themselves the hardships of pioneer life in the colonies. John Brann was a revolutionary soldier but his two sons, Richard and Mathew were still too small to join him.

Mathew married Polly Garnet and Richard married Jane Riek before they left Virginia to come to the vicinity of Columbus Ohio. The trip was made over the land in a two horse covered wagon. Richard became a harness and saddle maker. Richard and Jane had four children, John, William, Leo and Elizabeth.

Wm. Brann married Charity Grant. The Grants came from Scotland in 1735 and landed at Atlantic City, New Jersey. Since this family belonged to the Methodist faith, they too probably left the old country because of religious persecution. Even in those days America was considered a land of opportunity. Some time later the family moved to Ohio where she met her future husband. We can give a fair description of Charity as a girl. She was small, never weighed a hundred pounds, fond of sports, especially horse racing when she could ride in the race and altho a loyal methodist enjoyed dancing so much that she had a special pair of slippers for this recreation. William and Charity made their home in Hamilton Ohio for a time. He was well educated for that day and owned a fair sized library. They ran a shoe store where they bought, sold and made shoes.

The entire Brann family decided to try their fortunes in Indiana. Mathew and his family came first and entered a farm near Fillmore in Putnam County. Jane and Richard followed about a year later. They entered this state in May of 1843. As they passed through Indianapolis they saw a fer

*Martha Stewart wrote this & gave to
Helen Linsinger, her granddaughter.*

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cabins there but the people told them to go on beyond White River or they would all take the chills and fever. They made this trip over the National road which at that time was corduroy. The first night in Putnam County was spent at a tavern west of Stilesville. Richard stopped near his brother Mathew at Fillmore. He entered three eighty acre tracts for his three boys. The daughter Elizabeth had died before they left Ohio. The boys soon followed their father. These families cut logs and helped build the Methodist Church at Mt. Carmel. All the family was buried in the cemetery near this log church. Lizza a daughter of William and ^{Charity} Jane died at the age of twenty and she too was laid to rest there.

William Brann took sick in 1856 and at the age of forty-six died of a disease then unknown by the doctors in America. He left his widow, Charity with four daughters and a son. The oldest Sarah and Silas were married. This left Mattie, eleven, Lottie, eight, and Dote, three, at home. Only a capable and ambitious woman could have kept this home together under the circumstances.

Sarah Brann married William Duckworth, but he lived only eleven months and she later married Cyrus Stanley. They lived near Coatesville where he farmed. To this union three children were born, Etta, Ena and Ott, all of whom are now living.

Silas Brann attended DePauw University at Greencastle for a time, but never completed the course. He married Martha Shrewsberry. They had three children, Mary, Ella and Albert. Silas and his family moved to Kansas where he followed the trade of his father, shoe making.

(Martha)
Mattie married Levi Stewart, a farmer. They spent their entire life in Coatesville and lived to see their golden wedding day. They had only one child, Elvin.

Lottie married Enoch Woody, a merchant in Martinsville. Lottie was the first one to leave the Methodist faith. She joined the Presbyterian church with her husband. They had four children, Walter, Mary, Maud and Mable. Only one child, Mary is still living.

Dote Brann married Ben Nance who worked in E. R. Ellis' tile factory at Coatesville for many years. Their family consisted of four children, John, Woody, Grace and Theodocia. The mother died at the age of thirty and grandmother Nance raised the children.

Only one ^{grand} child of Jane and Richard Brann is living today. Mrs. Mattie Stewart who celebrated her eighty third birthday last February.

With one exception the family has remained faithful to the religion of their forefathers' Methodism for three generations.

Over Story

*Waldo Brown
10-80*