

The Children of Susannah and William Brown *People of London Town, Maryland**

Though an intensive study of the children in the Brown household has not been undertaken, enough research has been done to tell us that William and Susannah Brown most likely had 5 children. As they grew up on the Brown household, they would have seen their family's fortunes rise as William undertook the construction of the large brick house that now bears his name. And the children would have also seen their family's fortunes fall in the 1780s when the house was foreclosed upon and they were evicted by the county sheriff.¹ During both the good times and the bad times, it is a good bet that the children helped their parents with the ferry-keeping and tavern-keeping business. The children are listed below in birth order.

Jane Brown – Jane was born on 19 January 1746, in All Hallows Parish (London Town).²

Elizabeth Brown – Elizabeth was born on 21 April 1748, in London Town. She married Pridwell Allen on 7 June 1766. She was buried on 7 March 1772.³

William Brown, Jr. – William was born in London Town in October 1751. William, at the age of 10, “departed for Scotland” on 3 June 1762.⁴ However, by 28 May 1770, he had returned to London Town because both William Brown and William Brown, Junior witnessed Alexander Ferguson’s last will and testament.⁵

Margaret Brown – Margaret was born in London Town on 8 August 1759. She eventually married John Stewart [spelled Steuart in William Brown’s will].⁶

Willee Ann Brown – The only reference to Willee Ann comes from a November 1778 transaction wherein William Ijams sells to Willee Ann “Daughter of William and Susannah Brown in London Town... One Negro Girrel named Delilah...”⁷ This reference indicates that at that time Willee Ann was still a minor because William accepted payment on behalf of his daughter.

The above five children are the only known children of Susannah and William Brown. This raises a question then about the 1776 census wherein the Brown household is recorded as having 5 white children.⁸ Since Jane Brown could still potentially be considered a minor (not yet 21), she could very easily be one of the five. However, the death of Elizabeth Brown in March 1772 means she could not be one of the five. If her husband, Pridwell was part of the household

¹ Maryland State Archives (MSA), *Anne Arundel County Court Land Records (AACCLR)*, July 1781, recorded on 13 September 1781, Liber NH1, Folio 293.

² Donna Valley Russell, *Historic London Town Maryland*, self-published, 2006, page 53.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ F. Edward Wright, *Anne Arundel County Church Records of the 17th and 18th Centuries*.

⁵ MSA, *Prerogative Court Wills*, Liber WD3, Folio 36.

⁶ Russell, 53.

⁷ MSA, *AACCLR*, 2 November 1778, recorded on 11 February 1779, Liber NH1, Folio 28-29.

⁸ Bettie Stirling Carothers, *1776 Census of Maryland*, 1970.

at the time (and he could have been because, via an advertisement in the *Maryland Gazette* in April 1769, Pridwell told the public that he had “rented the house and ferry of Mr. William Brown’s at London Town...”), then an unrecorded child of him and Elizabeth could be one of those five.⁹ The other likely option is that there was a sixth child of William and Susannah Brown whose birth was not recorded and who is only known to us indirectly through this census record.

* As the research into colonial London Town’s inhabitants is an ongoing process, the caveat is offered that additional information may be found at any time and that a correction of information might also occur at any time.

⁹ *Maryland Gazette*, 20 April 1769, page ????