

# THE BROWN FAMILY

Marjory Browne married John Piggott in Chester County, Pennsylvania in 1679. This is a brief family history of the Browns as far back as I have details up through the generation that includes Marjory Browne.

Early spelling of the name includes the 'e' at the end, but it was dropped soon after the family came to America.

The Browns were English and lived in Wellington, Northampton prior to immigrating to Pennsylvania.

## RICHARD BROWNE

The earliest member of the family that I have information on is one Richard Browne born in the early 1620s in Northampton, England. I find a note that his father was **JOHN BROWNE**, but I have nothing on John.

Richard Browne's wife was named Mary, but again I have nothing as to her maiden name. He was a prosperous businessman before becoming a Quaker. He then became a Minister.

Richard and Mary had five sons and three daughters born in the 1645 to 1660 time frame so he was probably married to Mary in the early 1640s, again probably in Northampton.

These are the children of Richard and Mary Browne: **DANIEL, JOSEPH, JOANNA, ELIZABETH, JOHN, JAMES** and twins **JEREMIAH** and **MARJORY BROWNE**.

Richard died September 28, 1662 and is buried in Wellingsborough, Northampton in England.

Two of his sons, **JAMES** born May 27, 1656 and **WILLIAM** born March 27, 1658, traveled to America together.

William was married some four times. First to a Dorothy in England, then to Ann Mercer in 1684, then to Catherine Williams and lastly to Mary Mathews. He died on June 23, 1745.

The other brother, James, is our lineage.

## JAMES BROWNE

James Brown(e) was born in Northampton, England on May 27, 1658. As a young man, he and his brother William came to America.

The first Quaker settlement in America was in what is now Salem County, New Jersey. William Penn and others purchased lands from John Fenwick and settled and established a Quaker meeting house in 1677. William Clayton (see the **CLAYTON FAMILY HISTORY** next), was one of the original member that came on board the ship Kent in 1677. The Browne brothers must

have come shortly thereafter and settled in what was then called the Burlington Monthly Meeting, part of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Friends.

I have a feeling that the Brownes arrived via the port of Wilmington, then a part of Pennsylvania. He then moved just north to the area of Marcus Hook on the west bank of the Delaware. He was living here in 1679. The family of William Clayton had moved there as well. At the Monthly Meeting in Burlington we find notice of his marriage. The following is from the Historical Society of Philadelphia:

*"James Brown of Markers Hook and Honor Clayton of Burlington were married at the Burlington Meeting 8th 6th Month 1679."*

This marriage on August 8, 1679 probably took place at Marcus Hook and then was recorded in the church minutes at the next meeting. Honor is a daughter of William Clayton and Prudence Lanckford. She was born January 18, 1662 in Sussex, England. See the CLAYTON FAMILY HISTORY that follows. William Clayton and his family had moved to Marcus Hook in 1678.

James Brown as well as his brother William were Ministers in the Quaker Church as had been their father. The family remained in the Marcus Hook Area and when the Concord Meeting was established there, became charter members.

James Brown bought 200 acres in Chichester township of Chester County on the forks of Naaman's Creek and called the farm *Poddington* after his family's home in England. He remained on this land until about 1700.

In 1701, William Penn granted 37 lots of 490 acres each and allowed a new area, Nottingham, to be established. William and James Browne, Edward Beeson, John Beals and other of our relatives were original settlers there. In 1705, a meeting hall was established at the home of William Browne and it became a part of the Concord Monthly Meeting until 1715 when it became part of the Newark Monthly Meeting.

When the famous *Mason-Dixon Line* was established in 1765-1767, the Brown property lay just inside the Maryland border in what is now Cecil County, Maryland.

James Brown died in Nottingham on June 2, 1716 and is buried there. Honor Clayton Brown died later.

They had seven children, the following is what I know of them.

**JAMES BROWN JR.** was born January 17, 1681 at Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania.

**WILLIAM BROWN** was born January 13, 1682. He married Esther Yeardley out of the faith and was disowned. He died in 1716.

**CLAYTON BROWN** was born August 1, 1685. Nothing more is known, he may have died young.

**JEREMIAH BROWN** was born in 1689. He died on March 7, 1767 at age eighty, so hence the birth year. Jeremiah took over the family homestead after his father died. He was married in 1710 to Mary (Royal) Cole, a widow. He later married Mary Winter on May 20, 1749.

**MARJORY BROWN** was born in 1691 in Chester County. She married John Piggott on January 18, 1713. Their lives are contained in the PIGGOTT FAMILY HISTORY, which preceded this history.

**DANIEL BROWN** married Elizabeth Kirk in 1717.

**MARY BROWN** married John Butterworth on February 9, 1731.