

**A HISTORY OF THE
MICHAEL BROWN FAMILY
OF ROWAN COUNTY,
NORTH CAROLINA**

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A History of the Michael Brown Family of Rowan County, North Carolina by Richard L. Brown

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RICHARD L. BROWN

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NORTH CAROLINA**



REV. RICHARD L. BROWN

A HISTORY
OF THE
MICHAEL BROWN FAMILY
OF
ROWAN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

TRACING ITS LINE OF POSTERITY FROM THE
ORIGINAL MICHAEL BROWN TO THE PRESENT
GENERATION AND GIVING SOMETHING OF
THE TIMES ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS
AGO TOGETHER WITH MANY HISTORIC FACTS
OF LOCAL AND NATIONAL INTEREST

By
The Reverend RICHARD L. BROWN



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MICHAEL BROWN FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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Rev. R. L. Brown

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TO THE DESCENDENTS OF THE
SAINTED MICHAEL BROWN
IN THIS DAY AND
GENERATION
THIS BOOK IS AFFECTIONATELY
DEDICATED

PREFACE

This history may be considered accidental or of a spontaneous character. On one occasion Rev. N. D. Body and the writer were in conversation relative to the "Old Stone House." The former suggested that the Browns should keep the house in their possession as a sacred relic. Out of this interview grew the idea of organizing a Michael Brown Family Association which later was effected, having as its main object the bringing together annually the descendants of Michael Brown and their friends in a social way, caring for the old family graveyard and if possible purchasing the Old Stone House which had by this time passed into the hands of those outside of the Brown family.

It occurred to us that a history of the original Michael Braun (Brown) and his posterity would prove of interest not only to the immediate Brown family, but also to their many friends. We set ourselves to the task but it was soon discovered, to our great sorrow, that much of this family tree, one of the oldest and largest in the State, had been lost because not taken up sooner. Notwithstanding this great loss there is still an astonishing cluster of branches which have sprung from the original trunk. We have endeavored to

trace these family limbs as far as possible and thus give the descendents of our illustrious ancestor something of their line of descent, also noted something of the times, customs of the people and conditions of the country in those days.

It is to be remembered that many things in this book were on the verge of oblivion. Much of the material was gathered from personal interviews with some of our oldest kindred and citizens, some of whom will not live much longer; the writer could not reproduce it, some was gleaned from scattered records, hence, many things in connection with the history of the Old Stone House family will be preserved only through this publication. It picks up and throws light on many things which we believe will be relished by both the old and young of our day and of the generations to come.

The Jews are able to trace their line of descent for thousands of years. For instance, Christ was a descendent of David, and David a descendent of Abraham, etc. Thus our Bible history would be much impaired if this lineage could not be traced.

A history of our ancestors is sometimes worth something to the young in selecting a consort or life-companion. Sometimes the sins and habits of the parents are visited upon the children unto the third or fourth generation, and he or she who

is seeking a partner for life should know something about these facts. Rev. Dr. Samuel Johnson said to his prospective wife previous to their marriage that he very much desired to marry her but there were three obstacles in the way. First, he was very humble in origin; second, he had no money; and third, he had an uncle who had been hanged. To this she replied that, first, she was not governed by his parentage; second, she had no money herself; and third, although she had no relatives who had been hanged, she had twenty who deserved to be. They married and lived a happy life for many years.

This book is an attempt to connect the present with the past in the hope that from this time forth descendents of Michael Brown, of the Old Stone House, will not only cherish the best in their family's history and traditions but will also hold sacred the old family graveyard containing the ashes of their original ancestors, see to its upkeep, and if possible purchase and preserve the "Stone House," still standing, one of North Carolina's landmarks, antedating Revolutionary times; also that they will keep ample records of the line of descent from now on and with their own lives emulate the virtues of their forefathers and rightly use the rich heritage which has been handed down to them from generation to generation.

It is to be regretted that so little is known of