

THE BROWER FAMILY CIRCLE

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This newsletter is published with the hope that with enough interest, someone will send in the necessary information to fill out all the blank spaces in Brower-Brewer-Brouwer lines, clear back to the countries in Europe where we all originated from. At the present time, there are a lot of unanswered questions.

Anyone having Brower lineage may have their lines published here, as long as they send in a release authorizing such publication. All queries are welcomed as well. The cost is being born by the publisher in order to generate interest in the Brower line. Send your lineage to:

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Not everyone has at hand the many county histories published over the years. Even many large libraries do not have them. In some cases, the library has the book, but the time involved and distance to be traveled in order to use the book is prohibitive. In any case, what follows are excerpts from the History of Preble County, Ohio, by H. Z. Williams & Bro., Publishers in 1881.

"Preble In The War of 1812", page 40

Preble county was well represented in the war of 1812, but as the records have been kept very loosely, it is impossible to give the names of all the Preble men who served "a tour of duty." A portion of those given (Captain Sloan's company) were obtained from the adjutant general's office at Columbus, and the companies of James I. Nesbit and Lieutenant Fleming from an old record book in the possession of T. J. Larsh, eqs. Beside the roster given, there were full companies or companies made up in part of Preble men, under the command of John Fleming, Joseph C. Hawkins, David E. Hendricks, Lieutenant Black and Captains Ramsey, Rex and Phillips. The following is from the recollections of Col. George D. Hendricks:

'Captain James I. Nesbit, of New Lexington, built a stackade fort seven miles north of New Paris, and was stationed at that place with a small detachment of Preble drafted men, and upon the siege of Fort Meigs, was ordered to that locality. This left the settlements at Eaton and about New Paris and Richmond, Indiana exposed to Indian depredations from the northwest. The settlers, as a means of safety, built block-houses in many places. One of them was upon the Brookville road south of Robert Miller's residence, then owned by John Hopkins.'

'On Sunday, when many of the settlers had assembled for divine worship, and after the close of a very impressive service, one of the elders proposed to raise a volunteer corps (to be composed of men who were exempt from the draft because of their age), to guard the frontier against the marauding bands of savages who had recently killed one man on Whitewater, and two men at Twin creek.'

'The proposition met with general approval, and about twenty men volunteered. John Goldsmith was first on the list, and then came Silas Dooley, Sr., Moses Dooley, Sr., James Crawford, Ehu Hopkins, William Sellers, Elder George Shidler, John Garter. Rev. George Shidler was elected captain, and Moses Dooley, lieutenant. They garrisoned Fort Nesbit until relieved by Captain Richard Sloan, of Israel township. Lieutenant Black was stationed at Fort Black with one half of Captain Sloan's company.'

Captain Nesbit's Company. List of officers and men called out of the Third regiment of the Fifth brigade of the First division of Ohio militia, agreeable to general orders bearing date the fourteenth of April, 1812, as returned by Samuel Ward, adjutant:

Commissioned Officers

Captain James I. Nesbit
Lieutenant Joseph Lower
Ensign Henry Johnston

Non-Commissioned Officers

First Sergeant Daniel Kensello
Second Sergeant Jesse Mitchell
Third Sergeant Bartley M. Burrows
Fourth Sergeant Isaac Harold
First Corporal Frederick Utt
Second Corporal James Taylor
Third Corporal Peter Shideler

Privates

Henry Banta	Tobias Clapp	William Hendricks
Walter Goodman	Alexander McNutt	Caniel Lease
Phillip Brett	James McDawee	Baltzer Snyder
Elijah Spencer	Adam Reed	Parson Purviance
Alexander Penlon	Jacob Keslon	Levi Gard
William Bishop	Samuel Kercheval	John Dercheval
William Nelson	Charles Smith	Samuel Williams
John McDonald	Charles Demoss	Silas Davis
Jacob Reims	Isaac Harter	Robert Douglass
Daniel Wennoc	John Bell	David Stephens
Abner Dooley	David Brower	Elijah Harshman
Jesse Moore	George Vance	Christian Taylor
Elisha Davis	James Shannon	Daniel Vanwinkle
Jephtha West	Enos Purse	Mitchel Fleming
Thomas W Potterfield	Paul Beard	Samuel Case
Robert Gamble	Stephen Rhea	

Silas Fleming's Company.

Commissioned Officers

Lieutenant Silas Fleming
Ensign Isaac Sutton

Non-Commissioned Officers

Sergeant George Davis
Sergeant James Maxwell
Corporal William Bunch
Corporal Lemuel Pottenger

Privates

James Somers	John Somers	Israel Hewit
John Hudlon	William Trollinger	Charles Johnston
Moses Evans	Thomas Smith	Hezekiah Powell
Thomas Chidre	William Swisher	George Kelley
Daniel Nolling	Christain Halderman	Samuel Caster
Jacob Kingler	William Hold	Abraham Hapner
Levi Purviance	Michael Crowl	Robert McCormack
John Bridge	Stephen Macey	Jephtha York
Abraham Irvin	John Douglas	Richard Williams
John Leadwell	John Bishop	John Allen
Thomas Lewellen	Phillip Lewellen	

Upon the outbreak of the war of 1812, Governor Meigs called out the First division of Ohio militia, the response from which, and from other volunteers, was prompt and decided. Several companies in this command were from Preble county, wholly or in part. We present below as many of their rolls as we have been able to procure from the office of the adjutant general of the State and from private sources. The only roll of Preble county men found in the very meagre records of the State office relating to the war of 1812 is that of Captain Sloane's company of Ohio militia, attached to the _____ (?)battalion, Third regiment, Fifth brigade, First division of Ohio, ordered into the service of the United States for the protection of their frontiers, October 8, 1812, and stationed at Fort Nesbit, under command of Major General Adams. The expiration of pay upon these rolls is noted at January 7, 1813, four months after the term of enlistment began.

(Page 275) Lanier Township. Christian Halderman, son Abraham and sons-in-law Jacob Shewman and John Kaylor and their families from Botetourt County, Virginia in 1805. Christian's wife was Elizabeth Brower, the daughter of John Brower of Chester County, Pa. Son John came out the following year, accompanied by Samuel Teal and family who located on Aukerman Road.

(Page 282) German Bapt Church 1805-06. The Teals, Aukermans, and Haldermans.

(Page 183) Gasper Township. Christian Saylor born of Swiss parents on 5 June 1785, at the age of twelve (12) his father died and the family removed to Franklin County, Virginia. In 1806, Christian and his brother John to Ohio, settled in Lanier Township. In 1811, Christian married Mary Teal, who was born in Frederick County, Maryland, on 11 Sep 1789 (the daughter of Samuel Teal). The Teals came to Franklin County, Virginia when Mary was a child, and in 1805 to Ohio.

Preble County History (page 279). John Fisher, Jr., emigrated to this township (Lanier) from Virginia in the fall of 1817 and settled on a farm owned by his son, Eli. He was born in Rockbridge County, Virginia on 23 Feb 1770 and died at the homestead in this township 25 Jan 1844.

His wife, Catherine Humbert, survived him about twenty (20) years and was 84 at the time of her death. They had twelve (12) children: Elizabeth, wife of Abram Halderman; Jacob H., he married Lavinia Holsman. (At the time the history was written of Preble County, they were living in Lanier Township) Mrs Jacob Dillman; Mrs Henry Rubsam; Eli, who married Phebe Kesler in Eaton; David, of West Alexandria, he married Margaret Sample; Susanna Fritzer (?); Joseph (?), he married _____ (?) Harter. (NOTE, compare this Fisher family with that of Joseph Fisher of Miami County, Indiana History).

(Page 248) Abraham Brower was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, in 1792, and he married Sarah Loy in 1817, who was born in 1798. In 1859, he married his second wife, Mrs Elizabeth Whitesell, who was born in 1807, and now resides near New Paris. There were nine children, seven boys and two girls.

JACOB BROWER Jacob L. Brower, son of Abraham Brower, married Miss Susanna Surface* in 1843, who died in 1877. Six children were born to them, and four who are still living are at home.

*Elizabeth

(Page 274) The first permanent settler in what is now Lanier township was, without doubt, Jacob Parker. There is much that was romantic in the early life of this pioneer which we can only briefly touch upon here. He was born October 10, 1777, in Morristown, New Jersey. At thirteen years of age he was left an orphan, without a home or means of support. When about fifteen, he fled to the far west to escape from a hard and cruel master to whom he had been bound out to learn a trade. He listed as a soldier, and subsequently served under General Wayne in the campaign which followed against the Indians. During the march to Fort Greenville, he was one of a squad of men detailed by General Wayne to capture a deserter from the ranks. They started in pursuit, and the first night camped on the west side of Twin creek, southeast of where West Alexandria now stands. It was this circumstance that determined his future settlement. Struck with the beauties of the Twin creek bottoms in their native state, young Parker resolved that he would make at some future day, this rich valley his home. After his discharge from the army, and before the lands came into market, he visited Twin creek and as early as 1798, built him a cabin on the spot where he had camped a few years before. When the lands were offered for sale, he entered together with Martin Ruple the east half of east section three, Parker taking the north quarter on which his cabin stood. This is now the Motter farm. Parker first settled near Middletown (now Butler county), Ohio. His first wife died there, and in 1803, he married Miss Mary Loy, and the same year moved into his cabin on Twin creek, where he spent the remainder of his life. He died February 1848 and was buried in the cemetery in West Alexandria, a part of the ground for which he donated. His children by his second marriage, most of whom grew up in this community were: Peter, Christian, Isaac, Moses, George, Barbara, Jacob, Nancy and Joshua. (Four of this family are living) Christian, near Fort Wayne; George in Missouri; Barbara (Brower) in Humboldt, NB; and Nancy, in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

(Page 118) Town of Eaton, which is also the county seat of Preble County, had a tavern owned by a man named Alexander Mitchell about the year 1823. In the year 1829-30, the BROWER brothers were the entertainers there.

(Page 120) Eaton, Ohio 21 May 1836. The Eaton Independent Fire Engine company was this day called together about three o'clock this afternoon by the alarm of fire. The company forthwith repaired to the engine house with all possible dispatch conveyed the engine to the property now occupied by Messrs. Browers, at a tavern stand on Barron Street, when the fire was found to be in the kitchen of said tavern stand, whereupon the company, under the direction of the captain, proceeded with all possible exertion and dispatch to quell the ravages of the devouring element. When, after a few minutes of the most severe and incessant labor, the company was enabled to shout "victory", having completely exhausted all vestiges of fire.

(Page 208) George Brower was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, on December 22, 1810. His educational advantages were limited to the subscription schools of pioneer days, and he attended those, but very little after his father's death. His father died when our subject was but eleven years of age, and although he left his family a comfortable home, it was necessary for the children to be industrious, which term in those it was signified to work hard. When about seventeen, our subject cleared for Henry Brower six acres of land and received for the work one dollar per acre. The six dollars were paid in silver, which seemed a large sum, and with the money he purchased a cassinet coat, which is remembered as an important event in his life. He continued to remain at home, but worked out at whatever offered itself. From 1836 to 1837, he conducted successfully with his brother, John, the Eagle Hotel at Eaton. On April 20th of the latter year, he was married to Christina Swihart, daughter of Adam Swihart, of Gasper township, she was born 1 July 1814. For one year he resided on a small farm belonging to his mother, and in the spring of 1838 moved on to the old William Campbell place. The following autumn, he moved on to the homestead, and soon after began purchasing the interests of the other owners, eventually acquiring the entire ownership of the farm. Mr. Brower has since bought and sold a number of times, but has constantly increased his prosperity, and is now recognized as one of the leading agriculturists of the county. He was formerly a Whig, but since the formation of the Republican party, has been a staunch adherent of that organization. He has never aspired to office, but the experience acquired in an active and busy life has qualified him for any office that he would accept. In the fall of 1866, he was elected county commissioner, and served three years. His wife died on February 28, 1866, and February 29th the following year, he married to Mrs. Harriet Baker, esq., an attorney of Greenville, Ohio. Mrs Brower's maiden name was Gain, born in Baltimore county, Maryland, on March 24, 1815. Mr. Brower is the father of nine children by his first marriage, as follows:

William H.	b. 30 May 1838 (living in Darke county)
Annaias	b. 16 Feb 1840 d. 09 Nov 1845
Benjamin F	b. 22 Mar 1844 (living in Wabash county, Indiana)
Joseph S	b. 01 Feb 1846 (residing in Darke County)

D.L. b. 01 Sep 1848 d. 14 Feb 1850 (died an infant in Washington Township)
 Susan E b. 02 Nov 1852 (wife of Jesse B. Rollman, of Washington Township)
 Mary Ellen b. 10 Mar 1857 (wife of Walter Surface, of Sonora)

(Page 178) Gasper Township. Among the early settlers were the BROWER families.

(Page 200) Present Officers of Gratis Township. The present officers of Gratis Township are:

Noah Brower, Trustee
 F.L. Raikes, Trustee
 Daniel Gifford, Trustee
 G.W.M. Brockwalter, Clerk
 J.M. Matthews, Treasurer
 J.G. Thomas, Assessor
 Lewis McKay, Assessor
 H.C. Michael, Constable
 James Robinson, Constable
 A. Stiver, Justice of the Peace
 Nathan Hornaday, Justice of the Peace
 P.S. Brower, Supervisor
 W.S. Vickers, Supervisor
 E.R. Taylor, Supervisor
 C. Platt, Supervisor
 S. Eckhardt, Supervisor
 James Robinson, Supervisor
 S. Stonebraker, Supervisor
 M. Stubbs, Supervisor
 George Hauger, Supervisor

No records of the early elections of the township can be obtained. They have either been lost or else are laid away in some corner among the papers of some early pioneer, as there is no recollection of them now. The first election was probably held at the residence of that settler whose house was easiest to access to all. There is no town house in the township. The elections are held at the office of the township clerk in Winchester.

(Page 245) David Brower David Brower emigrated from Virginia to Ohio about 1800, and settled in Washington Township in 1811, and afterwards removed to Jackson township, on the farm in section fourteen, now owned by Adam Reid. His wife was Mary Unger., of Virginia. He erected a cabin on his land, and immediately proceeded to clear and improve his farm. They had six children, three of whom are living: David and his sister, Elizabeth (the wife of Benjamin Hornbaker) live in Van Buren County, Iowa; Chris Brower, now living in Eaton (owns land in section thirty-six). Of Chris Brower's eleven children, six are living; Serena (wife of H.M. Kylander); Judith (wife of James R. Bennett); Susan A. (wife of Joshua Williamson - all live in Indiana. Their third child, Milton, is in Ill.,

and Melissa (wife of Westly Maddox) resides in Van Buren County, Iowa. Theodore (who married Alice Edson) lives on the farm of his father, who moved to Eaton a few years ago.

(Page 278) Anna Heckman Anna was the wife of Henry Brower, and Helen the wife of Abraham Wimmer; Catharine is now the widow of Joseph C. Harter and resides in Indiana; Barbara became the wife of John Werhley; Isaac, who has ever since occupied the old farm where his father settled in 1811, was born 9 Jan 1803. He married in 1825 to Mary Young, who was born in Maryland in 1807. Mr and Mrs Heckman have had ten children, nine of whom are still living.

(Page 279) Sarah Sorber married Mr. Brower of Crawfordville, Indiana.

(Page 282) Church History As early as 1805 or 1806 a few devout men and women, members of the German Baptist or Dunker Denomination, gathered regularly every four weeks at the cabin of Samuel Teal, on Aukerman creek, for the purpose of religious worship. These were the first religious meetings ever held in what is now Lanier Township. The little band first consisted of the Teals, Aukermans, and Haldermans, and from this small beginning has grown a large and prosperous society. The Teal dwelling continued to be the meeting place for a number of years, after which services were held from house to house throughout the neighborhood. The first meeting house erected was the Brower church, near widow Eikenberry's, which is no longer used for church purposes. It was built in about 1845-46. Abraham Brower was among the earliest members of the church. John Hart, Sr. and Peter Eikenberry were the earliest preachers of the society, the former living in Twin township and the latter in Lanier. The Sugar Hill Church east of West Central Church, formerly called Wheatville Church, in the southwest part of the town, in 1866. Meetings were commenced in this neighborhood seventy years ago, and have been kept up regularly ever since. Since Elders Hart and Eikenberry, the following have officiated as preachers, viz:

Jacob Flora
Joseph Eikenberry
Daniel Miller
Henry Bare
Nathan Heywood
Josiah Eikenberry
John Stouer
Jesse Royer

Present Bishops (or Elders)

Nathan Heywood
Henry Bare
Jesse Royer

Present Deacons

Jacob Brubaker James Swihart David Albaugh
Samual Miller Henry Young

Among the oldest members of the church are Abraham Halderman, Henry Eikenberry and Isaac Heckman.

(Page 311) Meat Markets in Camden in 1830. Meat Markets, W.A. Danner, William Brower, Oscar Pocock.

(Page 139) Churches in Washington Township. The earliest church of which we have any information was one located in the Shidler neighborhood, in 1823, by the Christian denomination, but made a free church, because assistance was solicited and received from people of all faiths and people of none. An interesting relic of this church has been preserved, and we are present it. It is a subscription paper circulated to secure the completion of the church edifice, and reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned subscribers, obligate to pay David V. Stephens the sum annexed to our names, in wheat, rye, corn, and pork, if paid by the tenth of January next; or in good sugar, to be paid after sugar making, at the cash price, delivered in Eaton; or in good whiskey, to be paid by the first of Feb next, at cash price, delivered at the place above mentioned, in payment to aid said Stephens for a job of joiner work done by him, amounting to twenty-five dollars, in a meeting house on a certain lot of land obtained from George Shidler and Thomas Woolvertoh. Said house to be free for all Christians to worship GOD in - December 3, 1822."

David Brower - two dollars and thirty-four cents

(Page 313) History of Preble County, Ohio The Camden Lodge No. 159 (Masons) was organized May 1843 by John Brower.

(Page 164) Daniel Brower was born in Virginia in 1803, and emigrated to Ohio in 1815. He married Sarah Shively, who was born in Stark County, Ohio in 1811, and died in 1877. Four of their nine children are living, two in Dixon Township and two in Indiana. Jacob Brower, the father of Daniel, was born in Virginia in 1772, and settled in Lanier Township in 1815, where he died in 1832. His wife was a native of Maryland, and she died in 1876. The old folks were the parents of eleven children.

One daughter of Jacob Brower was named Lydia, she married Abraham Overholser. She was born in 1813.

(Page 192) John Brower John Brower was born in Pennsylvania, from which State he moved to Lanier township. During his life he was a member of the German Baptist Church, of which he was for thirty years an elder. Noah Brower, a grandson of the above, is one of eight children. His father was a resident of Dayton for fourteen years previous to his death. He owned a farm of three hundred and twenty acres. Noah Brower married Caroline Neff and has one child. He was at one time engaged in the saw-mill business. He is at present a trustee of the township. His farm contains forty acres.

(Page 197) German Baptists in Gratis township were organized about the year 1820. The district embraces part of Lanier township. It extends north to the Dry on pike, east to Johnsville, south to near the southern line of the township, and west to the Indiana State line. The denomination possesses two church buildings in this township. The oldest of these stands west of Winchester. It is known as the Brubaker Church, and was built in 1858, during the eldership of John Brower. Their finest building is a large brick structure in the northern part of section one. It was built in 1874, during the eldership of Mr Abraham Younce, their present elder. The building, known as the Twin Valley church, was built at a cost of over nine thousand dollars. Their present membership is about one-hundred and eighty. The Revs. Messrs Francis Cotterman, Jacob Loman and David Flory are there now and are the present ministers.

(Page 274) John Aukerman settled on the creek which has since borne his name, on what is now the Focht place, in the fall of 1804. He remained here only a couple of years, and in 1806 sold out to Samuel Teal and moved to Washington Township, locating on the farm near Eaton.

(Page 276) Samuel Teal, a native of Maryland, and afterward a resident of Virginia, came to Ohio in the fall of 1806, with John Halderman and family. He settled at the mouth of Aukerman creek, buying out John Aukerman. He was one of the first Dunkards in the county. He died on the place where he settled in 1819, about 57 years of age. There are only two children now living of Samuel Teal; the aged widow of Christian Saylor (in Gasper township), and Joseph N. Teal (in Noble County, Indiana).

(Page 280) George T Potterf married Susan Ozias, and occupied the old BROWER place, south of West Alexandria.

(Page 277) Peter Eikenberry to Lanier Township from Virginia in 1804 and died there in 1827. Came with his son, his wife (Henry's wife) and five (5) children. Henry was born in Penna., in 1772 and died in 1828. Went to Virginia and was married there to Mary Landes (Landis). They had (7) seven children: Elizabeth, Samuel, Henry, Peter, Isaac, David, and Benjamin. NOTE: Elizabeth, Samuel and Peter died young. David died in 1830. Henry was born in 1800 in Virginia and married Polly Holdaman. Isaac was born in 1804 and married Sally Neff, the daughter of John Neff. The Benjamin listed resided in Iowa. Peter was born in Preble County, Ohio and married Eliza Morningstar who was born in Maryland in 1806. The marriage took place 11 Aug 18__ (?). John Hart was the minister. Peter died in 1862. At the time of his death, his widow and son Peter were living on the home place. David married Hannah Cloyd in 1828. He died in 1880.

A John Aikelberger, dec'd. Harrison Township. Inventory of goods and chattels made on 21 Apr 1820. Appraisors: John Wantz, Daniel, Leas and John Lock. Mentions widow. Public auction held 20 May 1820. Purchasers listed: David Aikelberger, Michael Eikelberger, John Eikelberger, Henry Harmon, and Jacob Fugel.

A will of Henry Landis dated 11 Nov 1818, mentions Mary Ikenberry and Elizabeth, Ann Eikenberry as daughters. He mentions "my children and Elizabeth Moss's children".

In the History of Preble County, Ohio, Lanier Township. David Fouts to Preble County from North Carolina in 1806, settled on Banta's Fork in Sec 5, resided there until his death in; 1848 (aged 88). His father, Frederick Fouts came from Germany and settled in North Carolina. A coppersmith and a great grand son Harvey Waynire of far West Alexandria has a spoon mold, said to be his handiwork, and to be 150 years old (1881). David had seven (7) children:

Michael
John
Catharine
Elizabeth
Sarah
Jonas
David

(All the above children are dead except David, who lives in Wayne County, Indiana).

Catharine married George Miller

Elizabeth married George Whitesell

Sarah married Andrew Waynire, lived and died in Lanier Township on part of the old Fouts homestead and had seven (7) children:

Mrs Rosannah Siler lived near Eaton
Mrs Huldah Sherkey lived in Twin Township
Mrs Catharine Quinn lived in Washington Township
Mrs Elizabeth Lesh (Aaron Lesh b. 1832) lived on part of old home place
Harvey lived in West Alexandria
John lived in Indiana
Mrs Sarah Kinser lived in Montgomery County, Ohio