

### BROWNING FAMILY FILE

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# OUR MARYLAND HERITAGE

## Book Twelve

# BROWNING FAMILIES

Primarily of  
Montgomery & Frederick Counties  
Maryland

But Including Numerous References to  
the Family found in Other Counties and States

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
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## CHAPTER 5

### Edward Browning, Sr. 1700-1785

Edward Browning was reportedly a son of Francis Browning and Rachel Marriot, and was born about 1700 in old Prince George's County, Maryland, in an area which later became Montgomery County in 1776, and died there April 9, 1785. Some researchers have reported that he was born in Essex County, Virginia (later Caroline County). Records of that county indicate that his father bought land there as early as 1710, when Edward would have been quite young. It is believed that he lived in Pennsylvania between about 1747 and 1758, three of his children being married at Christ Church in Philadelphia in 1748, 1751 and 1757: William, Benjamin and Elizabeth. On October 2, 1758, Edward purchased from William Eller Burton of Frederick County parts of the tracts of land called *Friendship* and *Resurvey on Content*. This is apparently the same Edward Browning who appeared in the 1783 Tax List for Montgomery County as the owner of certain tracts of land called *No Name* and *Red Oak Slip*. By deed dated August 17, 1769 in Frederick County, Edward Browning had obtained the tract called *Red Oak Slip* from John Greenup and his wife Elizabeth, prior to the Greenups leaving the area to relocate in southwestern Virginia. The will of Edward Browning was dated March 9, 1776 and probated April 9, 1785, originally recorded in liber B at folio 208, and re-recorded in liber VMB 1 at folio 173, Montgomery County will records. In his will, he provides that his eldest son, William, was to receive a stated amount of money (not legible in the copy of the will), and the remainder was to be divided between his remaining five sons, all named. The child, Zephaniah, was not mentioned in the will. His wife has been reported as Mary Elizabeth, perhaps Baker, and he had several children, born in Montgomery. It is reported that he was also married to Drusilla Burton (or Barton), and he was Executor of the estate of William Eller Burton in May, 1762. In 1763, he and his wife Drusilla received a tract of land containing 240 acres by bequest from her father,

3. Charles Browning, born c.1753, died c.1821 in Thornton River area of Virginia. Married c.1770 Frances Wright.
4. William Browning, born c.1756
5. James Browning, born c.1758
6. Perry Browning, born c.1760, died c.1828 in Charleston County, South Carolina. Married there Hannah Simmons.
7. Daniel Browning, born c.1762
8. Sarah Browning, born c.1766, died June 1, 1866 in Harrison County, West Virginia.

which they then deeded to two of their sons. He does not appear to have been a farmer but was perhaps a blacksmith. The children of Edward Browning, Sr. from his two marriages were:

1. William Browning, the eldest son, born c.1725, died August 24, 1797, perhaps in Caswell County, North Carolina. Married in January, 1747/48 at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Abigail Kostard and had children:
  - a. Joseph Browning, born c.1752
  - b. John Browning.
  - c. Isaac Browning.
2. Benjamin Browning, born c.1726, died November 17, 1785. Married March 23, 1750/51 to Mary Abbot, born c.1732 and had at least one son:
  - a. Roger Browning, born c.1751, but see Chapter 17
3. Zephaniah Browning, born c.1727, died July 5, 1788. He was reportedly a private in Captain Edward Burgess' Company, Lower District of Frederick (later Montgomery) County Militia during July, 1776. He is also reported as private in the 1st Company, Lower Battalion, Militia, during September, 1777.
4. Nathan Browning, born c.1728, died 1784. The records of Dottie Elliott report this child as Nathaniel, born c.1739 to c.1745, but we believe our report as to his name to be accurate, based on the father's will and other factors. The later birth date may well be correct, when referred to the birth of his children, and birth year of his wife. Married Verlinda Brown, born 1737, died 1814. Her surname has also been reported as Baker, a name that appeared as a given name in their children. They had children, mentioned in the inventory of his estate dated November 26, 1783, and in her will, dated February 23, 1814 and probated April 1, 1814, recorded in liber J at folio 21 (re-recorded in liber VMB 2 at folio 371), all in Montgomery County, Maryland. The will of Verlinda also named her grandchildren: Nathan Cromwell, and John Baker Browning. As part of the settlement of the estate, there was a deed dated February 21, 1822 in Montgomery County, wherein Francis C. Browning of Clark County, Kentucky; Rachel Browning; and Samuel Baker Browning convey to Joshua Purdum prop-

erty formerly belonging to Edward Browning, being parts of *Red Oak Slip, Fancy, and No Name*. Children:

- a. Elias Browning, born c.1765, the eldest son, died c.1845 in Clark County, Kentucky. He was a blacksmith, and bought from his mother the 100 acres known as *Vexation*, which he sold to Asher Layton. Married March 12, 1788 in Frederick County to Susannah Cullom, born there c.1770, died after 1851 in Harrison, Kentucky, daughter of Francis Cullom and Susannah Northcraft. Elias apparently moved to Clark County, Kentucky, where he had children, including at least:
  - (1) Matilda Browning, born c.1790 in Maryland, or in Kentucky, died after 1840 in Indiana. Married January 11, 1810 in Clark County, Kentucky, to James Kenady, born 1785. Moved to Lawrence County, Indiana, where he died May 18, 1835. At least one child:
    - (a) Elias Patterson Kenady, born July 5, 1811 in Bourbon County, Kentucky, died 1881 in Martin County, Indiana. Married February 15, 1838 to Mary Kelsey, born February 8, 1816 in New York, died October 6, 1899 in Martin, Indiana.
  - (2) Sally Browning, married February 19, 1818 in Clark County, Kentucky, to Thomas Kenady.
  - (3) Susan R. Browning, married December 5, 1820 in Clark County to Basil Mullican.
  - (4) Ann Browning, married December 9, 1828 to Fielden Owen.
  - (5) William M. Browning, married November 11, 1834 in Clark County to Fanny Johnson (or Fanny Hampton). Children born Clark County, Kentucky:
    - (a) Lorenzo D. Browning, born c.1835; married to Lucinda.
    - (b) Francis M. Browning, born c.1838
    - (c) William W. Browning, born c.1841
    - (d) Elias J. Browning, born c.1843
    - (e) Susan E. Browning, born c.1845

- (f) Mary Ann Browning, born c.1848, died 1860
- (g) Henry C. Browning, born c.1854
- (6) Francis Cullom Browning, born June 11, 1798 in Clark County, Kentucky, died March 27, 1854 at Holt, Missouri. Married September 22, 1826 to Nancy Johnston in Clark County; she was born there May 29, 1806. They had children born there:
  - (a) Eda Eliza Browning, born c.1828
  - (b) E. William Browning, born c.1831, married to Elizabeth Galloway.
  - (c) Susan Elizabeth Browning, born c.1833, and married to John L. Scott.
  - (d) Almada Browning, born c.1834, and married to Andrew J. Tolby.
  - (e) Napoleon Browning, born c.1835; married to Margaret Rebecca Wilson, born c.1843.
  - (f) Mary Browning, born c.1837, and married to Thomas Priest.
  - (g) Arvilda Browning, born c.1841, and married David N. Wilson.
  - (h) James Browning, born c.1844. Married Millie B. Clark, born c.1846.
  - (i) Edmond Browning, born c.1847
- (7) Verlinda Browning, born 1812, died 1890; married September 22, 1832 to James Herbert Ogden, born 1805 in Amherst County, Virginia, and died 1857. At least one child:
  - (a) Elias Thomas Ogden, born 1833, died 1899 in Clark County, Kentucky. Married Henrietta Austin, born November 18, 1832 in Macon County, Illinois, died December 20, 1894.
- (8) Nathan Browning, married October 15, 1814 in Clark County to Elizabeth Adams.
- b. Nathan Browning, Jr., born c.1767, died February 17, 1815; who obtained from his mother the tract called *Moneysworth* and a lot in Clarksburg. On January 5, 1811, *Bartgis Republican Gazette* carried notice that Nathan Browning of Nathan would petition for relief

- from debts. The *Frederick-Town Herald* of September 7, 1811 carried a notice that Nathan Browning of Nathan of Montgomery County was an insolvent debtor. On June 11, 1814, the paper reported that a public sale of certain properties of others would be held at Nathan Browning's tavern in Clarksburg. Local newspapers also advertised the sale of the tavern stand in Clarksburg for July 20, 1816, formerly occupied by Nathan Browning, probably this individual, soon after his death. He may also be the same who was married in Anne Arundel County October 29, 1793 to Catherine Greenberry Griffith, born August 6, 1769, daughter of Greenberry Griffith and Ruth Riggs.
- c. Rachel Browning, born c.1771.
  - d. Priscilla Browning, born c.1773, died before 1822.
  - e. Samuel Baker Browning, born 1780, died January 10, 1862. Married January 13, 1807 to Rebecca Shipley of Baltimore, born 1788, died 1865, and had a number of children:
    - (1) John Baker Browning, born October 19, 1807, and died 1882. Married January 17, 1831 to Ann Beall of Samuel, born May 5, 1807. Children:
      - (a) John William Browning, born September 29, 1832, and died November 3, 1909.
      - (b) Elizabeth Browning, born 1834, died 1919
      - (c) Rebecca Browning, born 1835, died 1918
      - (d) Lucetta Browning.
      - (e) Sarah Browning, born 1842, died 1901
      - (f) Samuel Browning, born 1844, died 1899
      - (g) Jane Browning.
      - (h) Lloyd Browning.
    - (2) Lloyd Browning, born March 15, 1810, and died August 29, 1916.
    - (3) Sarah Browning, born January 17, 1812
    - (4) Verlinda Browning, born April 6, 1814, died February 25, 1891. Perhaps the same who was married in Montgomery County, Maryland, June 27, 1833, to Nelson Beall.

BROWNING FAMILY

Edward Browning ( -1788) Son:  
 Nathan Browning ( -1784) married Verlinda \_\_\_\_\_ (1737-1814) Son:  
 Samuel Baker Browning (1780-1860) m. 1807 to Rachel Shipley (1788-1865) Son:  
 John Baker Browning (1807-1882) m. 1830-1 to Ann Beall Son:  
 John William Browning (1832-1909)

1. Edward Browning died in 1788. His wife was Elizabeth, perhaps Elizabeth Baker. Their children were: William, Edward, Jonathan, Benjamin, Nathan and Jeremiah. Probably there were some girls also.

Will of EDWARD BROWNING, Montg. Co. Liber B. folio 208  
 dtd. Mar. 9, 1777 pr. Apr. 9, 1788  
 Wife: 1/6 part  
 Eldest son: William Browning - 1 shilling  
 Sons: Edward, Jonathan, Benjamin, Nathan, Jeremiah

2. Nathan Browning married Virinda \_\_\_\_\_. He died before Nov. 26, 1783. She died between Feb. 23, and Apr. 1, 1814. Their children were: Elias, Nathan (b. 1771 d. Feb. 17, 1815 age 44 yrs.), Rachel, Priscilla, Samuel (see below)

Inventory of the estate of NATHAN BROWNING, Montg. Co. Liber B folio 174-6  
 Nov. 26, 1783  
 Virinda and Elias Browning, administrators of Nathan Browning, dec'd  
 Account of the estate of NATHAN BROWNING, Montg. Co. Liber B folio 400  
 shows that heirs are widow, Verlinda and 7 children  
 Deed Montg. Co. ELIAS BROWNING to Asher Layton Liber D folio 270  
 dtd. Sept. 29, 1789  
 Elias Browning, eldest son and heir of Nathan Browning, dec'd sells 100  
 acres of "Vexation". Verlinda Browning relinquishes right of dower.

3. Samuel Browning, born in 1780, married on Jan. 13, 1807 to Rebecca Shipley of Balto., Md. (1788-1865). He died in 1860. Their children were:

A. John Baker	(see below)		
B. Lloyd	b. Mar. 15, 1810	d. Aug. 29, 1916	
C. Sarah	b. Jan. 17, 1812		
D. Virinda	b. Apr. 6, 1814	d. Feb. 25, 1891	
E. Nathan	b. May 20, 1816	d. Feb. 17, 1881	
F. Elias	b. Apr. 16, 1818	m. Sept 16, 1835 to Rachel _____	
	d. Dec. 1877		
G. Margaret	b. July 21, 1820	m. _____	to Jacob Golden
	d. June 8, 1900		
H. Samuel, Jr.	b. Jan. 18, 1823	d. June 18, 1849	
I. George	b. Oct. 10, 1825	m. _____	to Elizabeth Golden
	d. Oct. 13, 1893		
J. Elizabeth	b. Feb. 16, 1827		

4. John Baker Browning was born Oct. 19, 1807. On Jan 17, 1831, he married Ann Beall, dau. of Samuel Beall. She was born May 5, 1807. Their children were:

A. John William	b. Sept. 29, 1832	d. Nov. 3, 1909
B. Elizabeth	b. _____	d. 1919
C. Rebecca	b. _____	d. 1918
D. Lucetta	b. _____	d. _____
E. Sarah	b. 1842	d. 1901
F. Samuel	b. 1844	d. 1899
G. Jane	b. _____	d.y.
H. Lloyd	b. _____	d. _____

BROWNING FAMILY

Will of VERLINDA BROWNING (wife of Nathan Browning)  
Montg. Co. Liber I folio 21,22  
dtd. Feb. 23, 1824 pr. Apr. 1, 1814

Sell all land and divide proceeds equally between

Elias Browning  
Nathan Browning  
Rachel Browning  
Priscilla Browning  
Nathan Crummel

Grandson: John Baker Browning

Samuel Browning - horse, colt and  $\frac{1}{2}$  doz. Winsor chairs  
Ex.: Son, Samuel Baker Browning

Will of EDWARD BROWNING (son of Edward Browning, Sr.)  
Montg. Co. Liber D folio 440  
dtd. Dec. 28, 1800 pr. Jan. 21, 1801

Wife: Rebecca Browning - all estate, real & personal except  
land on Bennett's Creek

Dau.: Lucretia Mitchell and husband Walter Mitchell - "Snowden's  
Manor", where testator now lives and a  
small piece called "B\_\_\_\_\_ Folly" and  
slave Letty

Son: Edward Browning - all land on Bennett's Creek

Grandson: Edward Browning - 5 s

Grandson: Josias Browning - 5 s

Dau.: Keziah Casey - 5 s

Grandson Thomas Case, son of Sarah & James Case - 5 s.

Dau.: Delilah Brashears - 5 s

Ann Mitchel - 5 s

Elizabeth Fulks - 5 s

Jeremiah Browning - 5 s

Ex.: Walter Mitchell

Will of JONATHAN BROWNING  
Montg. Co. Liber M folio 430  
dtd. July 9, 1831 pr. Dec. 9, 1834

Wife: Polly Browning

Sons: Archibald Browning, Jonathan Browning

Estate of BENJAMIN BROWNING, late of Frederick Co.  
Frederick Co. Liber GM 1 folio 286 dtd. Aug. 20, 1788  
Final account of Jeremiah Browning, ex. of Benjamin Browning,  
late of Frederick Co. shows payment to Edward Browning, Sr. and  
Elias Browning.

Montg. Co. Deeds Liber W folio 561 dtd. Sept. 21, 1822  
Samuel B. Browning, Francis C. Browning and Rachel Browning to  
Joshua Purdom for \$94. "Red Oak Slip" and Resurvey of same,  $\frac{1}{5}$   
part of "Fancy" and  $\frac{1}{5}$  part of "No Name" on Bennett's Creek, former-  
ly property of Edward Browning, but now claimed by heirs of Edward  
Browning of which Elias Browning of Clark Co., Ky. claims  $\frac{1}{3}$  of  
 $\frac{1}{5}$  part

Montg. Co. Deeds Liber W. folio 260 dtd Feb. 5, 1822 Rec. Oct. 18,  
Elias Browning of Clark Co., Ky., having part interest in the 1822  
estate of his dec'd mother and estate of dec'd brother Nathan  
Browning and dec'd sister Priscilla & his grandfather Browning  
appoints his son Francis C. Browning of Clark Co., Ky. agent and  
attorney

BROWNING FAMILY

WILLS AND ADMINISTRATIONS  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Liber B folio 377  
Browning, Zephaniah inventory, July 5, 1728

Liber C folio 77  
Account of Jonathan Browning of Edward Browning, Sr., dated June 13, 1781  
Names: Elias Browning, administrator of Zephaniah Browning, William  
Robertson, John N. Nicholson

Liber V folio 400  
Final Account of William Baker, adm. of John Baker  
Names: Evan Bowman, Aaron Bowman, Levi Baker, Rachel Thompson, Nov. 9, 1838  
Estate divided among: Rachel Thompson, John Baker, William Baker, Reuben  
Baker, Benjamin Baker, Zachariah Baker, Levi Baker,  
Elias Baker, Ann Bowman and Mary Bowman

Liber E folio 137  
Jonathan Browning will dated April 21, 1801 probated August 13, 1805  
Wife, Elizabeth  
Sons: Nathan, Jesse, Mescheck, Samuel  
Daughters: Elizabeth Purdom, Priscilla Purdom  
Ex.: Sons, Nathan, Jesse and Mesheck Browning

Liber E folio 360  
Browning, Jonathan, inventory, Feb. 11, 1806. This inventory indicates  
that Jonathan's son, Nathan died soon after his father

Liber #1 folio 21  
Browning, Verlinda, will dated Feb. 23, 1814 probated April 1, 1814  
Children: Elias, Nathan, Rachel, Precila, Nathan Crummel and John  
Baker Browning, grandsons

Note: Samuel Browning, son of Verlinda, born 1780 died 1860 married in  
1807 in Montgomery Co., Md. to Rebecca born about 1788 and died 1865

Abstracts from the newspaper, Frederick Town Herald

- 10 Aug. 1804 - Elizabeth Browning died in Clarksburg, wife of Jonathan,  
age 72.  
6 Aug. 1804 - Jonathan Browning died at age 75 after a "short but  
severe illness."