

Family Tree from the William Greene Brown Papers

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Composed of only two folders, the William Greene Brown Papers is a unique collection at the Indiana Historical Society's William H. Smith Memorial Library. The collection is mainly comprised of photographs and tintypes and has relatively few manuscripts. However, a set of correspondence written by William Greene Brown's youngest daughter, Jean Brown Bonifield, to her cousin, Walter L. Smith, provides valuable insight into the Brown family tree.

Brothers William and James Brown first came to Indiana in the early nineteenth century and settled southeast of Pendleton, Madison County. William Greene Brown was born on January 29, 1831, the fourth child of Jane and William Brown. Like his father, William worked as a farmer. In 1851 he married Rosanna Heater, with whom he had five children.¹ With the outbreak of the Civil War, William enlisted with Company B of the Eighty-Ninth Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment.² His company, also known as Sam Henry's Guard, traveled through Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama, and fought in the Battle of Vicksburg.³ After the war, William returned to Indiana, where he worked as both a farmer and a day laborer, eventually settling in Marion County.⁴ He appears to have died by 1888.⁵



William Greene Brown in uniform. (William Greene Brown Papers, SC 0138, Photographs Folder 1, Indiana Historical Society)

This collection also includes Brown's discharge papers and more than twenty-five tintypes and photographs, many of which portray unidentified members of the Brown family. The lineage written by Bonifield, who claimed that she was Brown's last surviving child, has

been transcribed below with the spellings and comments of the original. For ease of reading, it has been outlined by generation.

Notes

1. William Greene Brown Papers, 1850–1976, SC 0138, Indiana Historical Society.
2. W. H. H. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Indiana: Containing Rosters of Enlisted Men of Indiana Regiments 16th to 110th inclusive*, vol. 3 (Indianapolis: Samuel M. Douglass, 1866), 404; available online at Internet Archive, <http://archive.org/details/reportindiana06dougrich>.
3. William R. Holloway, ed., “Eighty-Ninth,” *The Union Army: A History of Military Affairs in the Loyal States, 1861–1865, Records of the Regiments of the Union Army, Cyclopedia of Battles, Memoirs of Commanders and Soldiers*, vol. 3 (Madison, WI: Federal Publishing, 1908), 167; available online at Internet Archive, <http://archive.org/details/unionarmyhistory03madi>.
4. 1860 U.S. census, population schedule, Madison County, Indiana, Fall Creek Township, page 85, dwelling 600, family 600, William Brown; digital image, *Ancestry.com*, citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 277; also 1870 U.S. census, population schedule, Madison County, Indiana, Pendleton, page 14, dwelling 122, family 122, W. G. Brown; digital image, *Ancestry.com*, citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 336; and 1880 U.S. census, population schedule, Marion County, Indiana, Indianapolis, enumeration district 121, page 60, William G. Brown; digital image, *Ancestry.com*, citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 295.
5. Rosanna Brown filed as a widow for her husband William G. Brown’s pension in 1888. See index card for William G. Brown, Eighty-Ninth Indiana Infantry, “U.S. Civil War Pension Index: General Index to Pension Files, 1861–1934” database, *Ancestry.com*; citing NARA microfilm publication T288, roll 57.

William Greene Brown Family Tree



Jane McGreggor Brown and William Brown (William Greene Brown Papers, SC 0138, Photographs Folder 1, Indiana Historical Society)

William BROWN (b. March 15, 1803) m. December 19, 1822 to Jane MCGREGGOR (b. May 10, 1799; d. November 12, 1855)

Children:

1. James BROWN (b. June 16, 1823) married [—] CROSELY

Children:

- i. Conrad called "Coon"
- ii. Will married a Davis
- iii. James married a Shawl (They lived Southeast of Pendelton Indiana)
- iv. Calvin (who was a school teacher)

2. Mary Ann BROWN (b. February 28, 1825; d. January 21, 1849) m. January 13, 1844 to Andrews SHOWERS

Children:

- i. William Henry SHOWERS (b. April 27, 1845; d. August 24, 1846)
- ii. Mary Jane SHOWERS (b. January 11, 1847)

3. Elizabeth Margaret BROWN (b. April 19, 1827) m. May 24, 1846 to William W. WEBB

Children:

- i. James
- ii. Alonzo
- iii. Lenora married SMITH
- iv. Jennie married BAKER
- v. Mattie m. THOMPSON

4. William Greene BROWN (b. January 29, 1831) m. 1851 to Rosanna HEATER (b. September 6, 1832)

Children:

- i. Sarah Elizabeth m. Newton HENSLEY

Children:

Rose (b. June 1, 1877) m. Frank SUMMERS (One son lives in Ohio);
William Hensley (b. October 1881)

- ii. Julia Margaret BROWN m. Henry CRAIG

Children:

Therodo
Otto
Ada

- iii. John William BROWN m. Frances ASHELY (Frances had two daughters and a son by a previous marriage)

- iv. James Wesley BROWN (b. 1866) m. Ann — (They had nine children; moved to Cleveland, OH, where James died at the age of 40)

- v. Jean BROWN (b. May 5, 1870) m. O. W. BONIFIELD

Children:

Alice (b. May 25, 1900)
John Thomas (b. October 24, 1901; d. February 1902)
Miriam (b. February 14, 1903) m. John Maurice Jones, August 28, 1946

5. Sarah Jane BROWN (b. August 13, 1835) m. Martin NORRIS

Children:

- i. William
ii. Jennie
iii. John
iv. James
v. Lenora
vi. Edward