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BROWN, William Voules and family

PRG 373  
Series list

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#### NOTES ON WILLIAM VOULES BROWN AND HIS FAMILY.

William Voules Brown was born at Southwark, Surrey on 26 September 1809, the son of Thomas Brown, a sawyer, and Elizabeth (either Mrs Voules or nee Voules). William's mother's background is a mystery but she is believed to have come from a well-to-do family in Bristol, to have run away with Thomas Brown against the wishes of her family and to have died before 1817. William's father died soon after 1817. Young William grew up at Southwark and had strong links with St. Olave's Church and parish - he may have been a ward of the parish.

He married Harriet Perkins on 9 December 1834 at St. Pancras New Church - they were both living in St Pancras parish at the time. Harriet was born at Ascott under Wychwood, Oxfordshire on 12 August 1812, the daughter of John Perkins, a cordwainer, and Susannah nee Humphries. In 1835 William was working as a footman and they lived at Draper's Place, St. Pancras.

In 1836 William, Harriet and their young son William sailed to South Australia in the ship *Coromandel*. They were at Kangaroo Island on 28 December 1836, the day the new colony was proclaimed, and landed at Holdfast Bay on 12 January 1837. They camped for a short time near the Old Gum Tree at Glenelg (a leaf of the tree is amongst the family papers), then moved to Adelaide, where they lived in a dugout cave on the banks of the River Torrens. They next moved to a wattle hut in *Coromandel Row*. William bought two town acres in the first sale of town acres in March 1837 and the family lived on the Carrington Street block.

Their young son William died and was buried on 15 April 1837. A daughter was born on 6 June 1837 and was named Adelaide because she was one of the first children born on town lands. Adelaide died on 23 January 1838. Mrs Hindmarsh (wife of the Governor) gave Mrs Brown milk from the Hindmarsh's cow (which had come to South Australia in the *Buffalo*) to help feed the two Brown children. A piece of this cow's hide is held by a family member and there is a letter in the family papers which gives the story of 'the cow hide'. Another male child, thought to have been called William Voules, was born during 1838 but was either stillborn or died soon after birth - there is no official record of his birth or death. In 1838 the family moved to the Old Port, where William kept a small store. He also had a dairy at Alberton.

In 1842 the family moved to Baker's Gully near Clarendon, where they had a mixed farm until 1850, winning many prizes for their cattle and gradually purchasing more land. The ruins of their second house can still be seen on Section 811, Hundred of Kuitpo.

In early 1850 the family moved to Brighton and William became a farmer and landlord of the Thatched Cottage (later renamed Thatched House, Thatched House Tavern and Brighton Hotel), on the corner of Brighton and Sturt Roads. He gradually built up substantial land holdings in the Brighton and New Brighton areas. A very early map of the New Brighton area is amongst the family papers. In about 1881 William built 'Voules Terrace', a row of four single storey cottages on his land in Brighton Road. The architects' plans for 'Voules Terrace' are amongst the family papers.

William was very involved with the establishment of St. Jude's Church at Brighton, and also established the cemetery behind St. Jude's Church, which he owned and managed. He was a Brighton Councillor and an office bearer of the local Masonic Lodge. William and Harriet lived at Brighton until they died, William in 1893 and Harriet in 1897.

Seven of William and Harriet's ten children survived into adulthood:

1) William Voules Brown (1839 - 1920), who married first Mary Edith Jennings and second Emma Treble. William had sixteen children, only seven of whom survived into adulthood. His occupations included coach driver, labourer, miner, publican and farmer; he was also a Port Germein Councillor. He was one of the first settlers in the Green's Plains area and later lived at Kulpara, Virginia, Moonta, Adelaide and Port Germein, all in South Australia. He had a life-long interest in horse racing and helped to found the first race course on the North Yorke Peninsula, between Kadina and Wallaroo. He called his house at Watson Ave., Rose Park 'Voules Cottage'.

2) Victor Voules Brown (1841 - 1910), who married first Julia Solomon and second Eliza Sarah Tuckwell. Victor had eighteen children, fourteen of whom survived into adulthood. His occupations included farmer, miner, sailor, publican, merchant, auctioneer, shipping agent and mining entrepreneur. He was also a Councillor, Chairman and Clerk of Palmerston District Council. He was a keen racing man and was president of the Northern Territory Racing Club from its inception in 1882 until his death. He lived at Palmerston, Northern Territory (later called Darwin) from 1876 until his death in 1910 and played an important role in the local community. In his later years he was given the nick name of 'Daddy Brown'. His Darwin business became known as 'Brown's Mart'.

3) Elizabeth Susannah Brown (1845 - 1926), who married James Harvey and had five children, all of whom survived into adulthood. Elizabeth lived at Salisbury, South Australia from her marriage in 1867 until she died in 1926. James was a farmer, Clerk of Yatala North District Council for 42 years and was very active in the local community. They were both staunch parishioners of St. John's Church at Salisbury.

4) John Alexander Voules Brown (1852 - 1945), who married Eleanor Johnson and had five children, all of whom survived into adulthood. His occupations included farmer, miner, carter, bridge builder, Town Clerk of Brighton, building supervisor, Clerk of Palmerston District Council, storekeeper, merchant, publican, agent, orchardist and Member of the South Australian Parliament. He was a member of the council of the South Australian School of Mines for 27 years. He lived at Brighton, South Australia, Palmerston (later called Darwin) and various mining settlements in the Northern Territory, Derby, Cue, Lawlers and Wiluna in Western Australia and died at Brighton. He built two houses at Brighton, 'Wiluna' and 'Wenlock', both of which still stand.

These four people were the founders of the four branches of the W V Brown family. William and Harriet had three other children who survived into adulthood but did not marry:

5) Alfred Voules Brown (1843 - 1886), who lived at Brighton, South Australia, Gympie, Queensland and at various places in the Northern Territory. He went to the Northern Territory in the early 1870s and lived there until he was accidentally killed in 1886. He was a farmer, carpenter, miner, storekeeper and publican.

6) Lucretia Sarah Brown (1847 - 1942), who lived at Brighton, South Australia from 1850 until she died in 1942. She was a teacher, organist, choir mistress, Sunday school teacher, cared for a number of children and her parents and was a staunch parishioner of St. Jude's Church at Brighton.

7) Harriet Louisa Brown (1849 - 1932), who lived at Brighton, South Australia from 1850 until she died in 1932. She was a teacher, Sunday school teacher, cared for a number of children and her parents and was a staunch parishioner of St. Jude's Church at Brighton.

The family papers include a considerable amount of material relating to the following family members:

Emanuel Victor Voules Brown (1866 - 1950), who lived for most of his life in the Northern Territory and carried on his father's auctioneer and agency business at 'Brown's Mart' in Darwin. The family papers include documents about 'Brown's Mart'.

BROWN, William Voules and family PRG 373

Alfred Joseph Voules Brown (1868 - 1955), who was a customs officer, trepanger and trader on the Cobourg Peninsula, in north western Arnhem Land from 1899 to 1942. He spent many years with Iwaidja Aborigines. Some of his correspondence is included in the family papers.

Harriet Brown (1869 - 1954), who married first, Captain Philip Hughes Jones and second, James Hempton Walker. From 1894 to 1899 she sailed with her husband Captain Jones on his ship City of York. City of York was wrecked off Rottneest Island, Western Australia in 1899. Some of Harriet's correspondence is included in the family papers, also documents about the wreck of the City of York.

Victor Voules Brown (1885 - 1963), who fought with the 48th infantry battalion in World War 1 and was a farmer at Borrika, South Australia. The letters he wrote to his family while serving in England and France are amongst the family papers.

Amelia Harriet Brown (1882 - 1972), who lived at Brighton, South Australia all her life, trained as a nurse and cared for various members of her family. In 1912 she travelled around Britain and the Continent with her mother and sisters. The family papers include her diary and photograph albums, also items relating to her nursing training.

John Alexander Voules Brown (1879 - 1962), who inherited his father's interest in St. Jude's Cemetery. He worked for the Manchester Unity Independent Union of Oddfellows from 1897 to 1951. Some of his letters are included in the family papers.

In 1988 there are seven generations of the W V Brown family, counting William and Harriet as the first generation, and there are just over 600 family members. Of the four branches of the family, the Victor Voules Brown branch is the largest and the John Alexander Voules Brown branch the smallest. Over the years the family has spread far and wide, with family members now -living in every Australian state and territory, as well as in Canada, New Zealand, America and Germany. There are still many family members living in South Australia.

In 1986 family member Jenny Rich wrote a history of the W V Brown family: Gum leaf and cow hide: William Voules Brown, South Australian pioneer, and his family 1809 -1986. A copy of both the first printing and reprint with corrections are amongst the family papers. Gum leaf and cow hide received the 1986 South Australian Family History Award for the best history of a South Australian family published in 1986. In 1986 family member Bob Wood compiled a family tree of the W V Brown family and Kustas Tiivas computerised Bob's records. A copy of this family tree is amongst the family papers.

Both the family tree and family history book featured at a family reunion which was held at St. Jude's Church at Brighton, South Australia on September 26 - 28, 1986. One hundred and fifty family members and about fifty visitors attended the reunion. A complete record of the family reunion is amongst the family papers.

Kate Brown donated the first lot of family papers to the then South Australian Archives in 197?. Since then a substantial amount of material has been added by other family members, mainly as a spin off from the family history project and family gathering. The original method of arrangement proved to be unsuitable and family members Jenny Rich and Kate Brown, together with Roger Andre of the Mortlock Library, have developed the following arrangement for the family papers.

As in the family history book Gum leaf and cow hide, the year of birth has been placed after a person's name to differentiate family members with the same name. For example, Victor Voules Brown (1841), Victor Voules Brown (1885) and Victor Voules Brown (1910).

Each of the four branches of the family has a separate Series number:  
William Voules Brown (1839) branch = Series 7  
Victor Voules Brown (1841) branch = Series 8  
Elizabeth Susannah Brown/James Harvey branch = Series 10  
John Alexander Voules Brown (1852) branch = Series 13

Within these four Series, papers have been subdivided a) to z), with a subdivision for each third generation family member, together with his or her descendants. This basic structure has been created to cover the whole family, even where no material is yet to hand. This will allow future material to be slotted in easily. This method of arrangement also allows material relating to each third generation family member and his descendants to be grouped together, similar to the arrangement in Gum leaf and cow hide. Within each subdivision, material is given a running number. For example, papers of and relating to John Bridgland, a grandson of Emanuel Victor Voules Brown and great grandson of Victor Voules Brown (1841) appears within Series 8 subdivision c).

Written by Jenny Rich 5/4/1988.