

The Brown Family

By (Mrs.) Rose Aimée Billeaud Bechet

According to family tradition the Browns came to the New World from England to the haven of religious freedom in William Penn's Woods now the state of Pennsylvania. Conclusively the members of the original Brown family in question were Quakers.

The first Brown to come South was Dr. William Elmer Brown of Philadelphia. He was a close relative of the Sparks and Whites of the Quaker settlement of Philadelphia. The "Sparks Shot Tower" where bird shots were first manufactured and put on the market in Philadelphia, is recorded in family notes.

Dr. William Elmer Brown was a graduate from Jefferson College, Philadelphia. He practiced his profession for some time in Tennessee and in 1846 or 1847 he removed to Breaux Bridge, St. Martin Parish where he practiced for many years. Several years prior to his death in 1852, he was a resident of New Orleans.¹

A family tradition upholds an accepted fact that Dr. William Elmer Brown came to the Deep South because the northern climate was contrary to the health of his first wife. A contradictory account states a professional reason in that he was interested in Yellow Fever which was so prevalent in Louisiana at that time. However, his wife died in New Orleans. Then Dr. Brown established his practice of medicine in Breaux Bridge. He had married, in second marriage, Caroline Claudel, native French, formerly of New Orleans, sister of Edward and Louis Claudel. Caroline, an orphan sister, had been reared by a Broussard family in Breaux Bridge.

To the union of Dr. William Elmer Brown and Caroline Claudel were born five children namely: Charles Claudel Brown; Frances Maria Brown, known throughout her life as "Elanche" because she was so fair; George Edward Brown; a fourth child named Samuel who was killed by a run-away horse; and Rosa, the fifth child who died at an early age of Yellow Fever. All three, Dr. William Elmer Brown and the two last members are buried in Breaux Bridge.

In a biographical and historical source, the reader finds the following: Charles Claudel Brown, Carencro, merchant and planter, was born at Breaux Bridge, St. Martin Parish, August 3, 1850. He is the son of Dr. William E. Brown and Caroline Margaret (Claudel) Brown, natives of Pennsylvania and France, respectively. Charles C. Brown is the oldest of a family of five children. He spent his school days at the place of his birth, and when a boy of ten years he became a clerk in a mercantile house. In 1870, in partnership with his brother-in-law, Jules Jeanmard, he embarked in the mercantile business on his own account. In 1875 he removed to Carencro where he has since conducted his business with marked success. Mr. Brown now owns about one thousand acres of land near Carencro, which he cultivates chiefly in cotton. He is also quite a large stock raiser and dealer. While a resident of Breaux Bridge, he was a member of the council, and he served as a member of the (Lafayette) Police Jury and is chairman of the Parish Democratic

¹ Southwest-Biographical and Historical, William Henry Perrin page 206.

executive Committee of Lafayette Parish (1891).....Mr. Brown married in 1874 Miss Andrea Ynojosa of Lafayette Parish. To this union three children have been born: Samuel Pemberton, William Elmer and Sarah White. 2

The biographer was probably not informed of the fact that Andrea Ynojosa Brown was first united in marriage to Osvald Patte. He was a professor of music at St. Charles College, Grand Coteau, Louisiana, then a Jesuit boarding school for boys. Likewise he taught at the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Grand Coteau, a boarding school for girls. Their only daughter Jeanne Louise Patte, a graduate of the said academy married Louis George Stelly. Oswald Patte later became first violinist in the orchestra of the French Opera. After Patte's death Andrea continued to live in New Orleans with her sister, Viviana, who had married August Clement Melchoir, a teacher originally from Alsace-Lorraine.

Family diaries and former Breaux Bridge students maintain as true that later Andrea Ynojosa and her young child, Louise Patte lived in Breaux Bridge where she conducted a private school. Then in second marriage Andrea Ynojosa (Patte) was united to Charles Claudel Brown.

Charles Claudel Brown was well considered in Carencro as well as in Vermillionville as in 1891 there is a record of his being vice-president of the People's State Bank. Then this bank was reorganized as the First National Bank in 1895.....The following persons made up the board of directors: Pierre B. Roy, A. J. Moss, Alcide Judice, Crow Girard, J. G. Parkerson, N. P. Moss, Felix Demanade, John S. Whittington and C. C. Brown. 3

The first offspring of the Brown-Ynojosa union was Samuel Pemberton. He married Mary Mae Scranton. He was at one time cashier of the branch bank of the Bank of Lafayette and Trust Company, and remained associated with the banking business until his retirement. His children are: Nina Caroline who married Frederick Voorhies, Elmer who married Irene Crowley (Kitty) and Beatrice who is a Daughter of Charity of the Order of St. Vincent de Paul. The religious is presently serving as a missionary in India.

All that is known of the second son, William Elmer, is that he died in early youth.

89 years old
Sarah White Brown who married Albin Charles Bechet is the third offspring of the Brown-Ynojosa union. She has led a very active life managing her farms and giving to the Catholic Church of her talent in voice and organ playing. For her outstanding work for the Church and her charities among the Negroes, Sarah Brown Bechet was awarded the Papal Medal in 1949. She is now 89 years old. The children of Albin Charles Bechet and Sarah White Brown are: Mildred Louise married to Xavier Mouton, Paul Andre married to Rose Aimee Billeaud, Anita Marie married to Alphe Conques, and Marie Nina married to George Martin.

The graves of the following Browns or Brown-associated found in St. Peter's Cemetery in Carencro are: Caroline Claudel Brown (1828-1906); Charles Claudel Brown (1850-1908); Andrea Ynojosa Brown (1842-1920); Louis George Stelly (1860-1909); Jeanne Louise Patte Stelly (1864-1941); May Scranton

²Ibid, page 206

³ The Attakapas Country, Harry L. Griffin; page 109

Brown (1877-1942); Samuel Pemberton Brown (1876-1943).

The only daughter of Dr. William Elmer Brown and Caroline Claudel was Frances Maria Brown, better known as "Blanche". She married Jules Jeanmard of Breaux Bridge. The issues of this union were nine children, six sons and three daughters.⁴ Their children were Joseph Raoul married to Elizabeth Beauvais; Rosa married to Cyrus Guidry; Charles Julius married to Cornelia Webre; Joseph Francis (Frank) married to Lucille Perres; Rita married to Alexandre Pellerin; George Edward married to Florence Marie Comeaux; Jules Benjamin Jeanmard, First Bishop of the Diocese of Lafayette; Anna Marie, single; and Dr. Henry Aristide married to Josie Courtney.

The following is of interest from a historical standpoint: "The Jeanmard's family tree had its roots in the historic soil of Old France; then was transplanted to St. Martinville. On the maternal side of the family the Bishop's grandmother was a Claudel of Old France. In conversation with Ambassador Claudel, Bishop Jeanmard and the visiting dignitary discovered that they were collateral relatives springing from the same district." ⁵

The greater majority of the Jeanmards are buried in St. John's Cemetery directly in the back of the Cathedral. Bishop Jeanmard was buried in the Cathedral.

The third offspring of the union of Caroline Claudel and Dr. William Elmer Brown was second son, George Edward. He was endearingly known among the members of the Brown family as "Uncle Ned." The biographer refers to him as "the junior member of the firm of Brown Brothers, is a native of St. Martin Parish, Louisiana. He was educated at Breaux Bridge and early in his life married Miss Genevieve Millaudon, a native of Paris, France. She was a highly accomplished lady. She died in 1890, having become the mother of one son, Thomas Weston." ⁶

Uncle Ned was remarried to a sister or a cousin of his first wife namely, Miss Marie Millaudon. Thomas Weston Brown, principal of the Broussard, Louisiana Public School married Miss Emma Flory. Thomas Weston Jr., a post-humous son, graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, married Noella Guidry of Carencro. To this union are two sons, namely, David and Ian.

The Weston Browns reside in Medford, New York, where Weston Brown is employed as an engineer in a consulting capacity. Both Thomas Weston Brown Sr. (1882-1912) and Emma Flory Brown (1887-1968) are buried in St. Peter's Cemetery in Carencro.

A list of known descendents of Dr. William Elmer Brown and Caroline Claudel follows in the next pages.

⁴ Southwest-Biographical and Historical, Wm. Henry Perrin, p. 337

⁵ "Brief Sketch of Louisiana's Native Bishop," Tribune December 20, 1928.

⁶ Southwest-Biographical and Historical, William Henry Perrin; page 207.

Descendents of

Children of

Dr. William Elmer Brown and Caroline Claudel

I. Charles Claudel Brown and Andrea Ynojosa

1. Samuel Pemberton and Mary May Scranton

Nina Caroline and Frederick Voorhies

B. September 9, 1899

Frederick Jr. married Sarah Green
(Captain in U.S. Air Force, Korean War)
Samuel Edward and Laura Louise

Charles Scranton married Sara Gonsoulin

Charles Scranton, Jr., Elizabeth Carol,
Mary Ellen, Kimberley, Catherine, and
Margaret.

Elmer and Irene Crowley "Kitty"

B. March 5, 1901

William "Bill" (adopted)

Beatrice--B. October 15, 1904--Became a Daughter of Charity
of St. Vincent de Paul. The religious is presently serving
as a Missionary in India.

2. Sarah White Brown and Albin Charles Bechet

Mildred Louise and Francis Xavier Mouton

Francis Frederick and Jeanne Pinet

B. October 3, 1923

Christopher Robert Mouton B. August 6, 1955

Marc Frederick Mouton B. September 14, 1960

Andrew Burton Mouton B. December 14, 1961

Very Reverend Monsignor Charles Burton

B. June 5, 1926--Auditor in the Nunciature in Buenos
Aires, Argentina.

Sister Marie Sarah Carolyn

B. July 7, 1928--Religious of the Sacred Heart now
teaching in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Mildred Louise and Richard John Cross

B. February 28, 1933

John Charles Cross B. June 30, 1960

Carolyn Louise Cross B. October 9, 1961

Paul Arthur Cross B. June 29, 1964

Paul Andre Bechet and Rose Aimee Billeaud

Lucile Billeaud Bechet and Captain James Louis Eason

B. March 5, 1932

U.S. Air Force (deceased)

David Charles Eason B. July 26, 1957

Paul Lee Eason B. January 20, 1959

Lucile Billeaud Bechet (remarried) and Kevin Joseph Maroney
B. March 5, 1932

Sarah Brown Maroney B. March 31, 1970

Claudette Andree and Estorge Charles
B. March 24, 1936

Andree Marie B. December 23, 1959
Catherine Rose B. January 25, 1961
Jeannine Suzanne B. January 17, 1963
Michelle Elizabeth B. February 8, 1969

Anita Marie Bechet and Alphe Conques
Virginia Anita
B. February 15, 1944

Marie Nina Bechet and Louis E. Pirkle
James Kent Pirkle and Linda Burmock
B. January 25, 1936

Jane Brown Pirkle
B. December 19, 1937

Marie Nina Bechet (remarried) and George Martin

II. Blanche Maria Brown and Jules Jeanmard

1. Joseph Raoul and Elizabeth Beauvais
Lionel Joseph Beauvais and Katherine Simmons
Lionel J. Beauvais Jr. married Mary Marguerite Gibson
Mathew Anthony, Loring Andrew, Jean Beauvais,
Mary Katherine, Emily Blanche.

Ernest and Jeanne Mouton
Ernest Francis married Cecile LeBlanc
Jeanne Marie, Michelle Anne, Jacqueline

Mary Elizabeth married William M. Lowry
Mella Jeanne, Mary Elizabeth, Louis, Claire Louise
and David Joseph

Jerome Mouton Jeanmard (single)

Joseph Raoul Jr. (single)

2. Rosa and Cyrus Guidry
Azelima

Clifford

Francis

George

Marietta

Renee

Jules

3. Charles Julius and Cornelia Webre

Lucien Albin and Henrietta Chenevert

Charles A. married Mary Alice Boudreaux

George Arthur, Rebecca Ann, Michael Jude,
Charlotte Marie, Carl Anthony

James Richard married Vivian Romaine

James Jr. and Michelle

Jeanne Marie and Herman Leo Kelly

Herman Leo Jr. married Thelma Fontenot

Patrick Charles

Mary Clare Charlotte and Jerrel Leffel Baggett

Mary Jeannette, James Michael, John Mark,
Jewell Margaret

4. Joseph Frank and Lucille Perres

Marie Louise (single)

Right Reverend Monsignor Jules A.

Jeanmard, Pastor of St. Anthony's Catholic Church

Eunice, Louisiana

Lucille and George Traub

Frank George, Louise Marie

Blanche and Warren Nathan Bettis

Dolores, Wallace Nathan, Jr.

Anna and Jerome A. Thibeaux

Jerome A. Jr., Martin, William, Mina, Christopher

5. Rita and Alexandre Pellerin

Blanche

(twins)

Jules

married Camille Provost

Frederic married Mildred Fontenot

Henry married Rosetta Bowman

Therese married Emile Barras

Camille married Leyman Martin

6. George Edward and Florence Marie Comeaux
George Edward married Beatrice Jean Plumb
Carol Ann married Huge Anthony Pratt III

Patricia and Moira

Edwin Joseph Jeanmard married Elise Duley

Adrien Elmer married Corinne Ann Fox
Linda Ann married Chester Smith
Brian Patrick Smith

Frank Edward married Sherryl Soileau
Paul Adrien Jeanmard

Dorothy Claire, Robert Curtis, Mary Kay and Jules Adrien.

William Russell married Solide Deshotels
William Charles and Jules David

Genevieve Marie married Henry Welch
Florence Genevieve, Penelope Ann, Alice Marie.

Jeanne Claire married Judge Albert Tate II
Albert III, Emma Adelaide, George Jeanmard, Michael
Ferdinand, Charles Edwin.
7. Jules Benjamin Jeanmard--First Bishop of the Diocese of Lafayette.
8. Anna Marie Jeanmard (single)
9. Dr. Henry Aristide Jeanmard D.D.S. married Josie Courtney
(no children)

III. George Edward and Genevieve Millaudon

1. Thomas Weston and Emma Flory
Thomas Weston Jr. married Noella Guidry
David and Ian

George Edward (remarried) and Marie Millaudon