THE FAMILY OF JOTHAM AND PHEBY
BROWN
OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

THIS FAMILY HISTORY HAS BEEN COMPILED FROM PRIMARY SOURCE
DOCUMENTS IN VA, TN, MO, AR, IL, IA, KS, KY, OK, NE, SD, TX, UT AND WA;
EARLY RESEARCH BY MR. GLENNON C. BROWN; CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS' PENSION FILES; GREENE COUNTY MARRIAGES 1783-1868 BY GOLDENE FILLERS BURGNER; EAST TENNESSEE MARRIAGES BY SISTLER; THE PIONEER, MAY 1990, VOL. 6 NO. 2, PUBLISHED BY THE GREENE COUNTY, TN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY; HISTORIC GREENE COUNTY (TENNESSEE) AND ITS PEOPLE, PUBLISHED BY THE HISTORY BOOK COMMITTEE; POCKET NOTE HISTORY, BY T. ELMER COX; OLD TIMES IN GREENE COUNTY BY HARRY B. ROBERTS; A STEP BACK IN TIME TO LAUREL GAP (BAILEYTON, TN) BY CONNIE B. BRANDON; PLEASANT VALE CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND CEMETERY (1842-2002), BY SHERRY LYNN BRITTON; THE DADDY HAYNES STORY, BY GRACE HAYNES; THE 1887 HISTORY OF GREENE COUNTY, IOWA, AND THE OLD SETTLERS' REUNION BOOK, PUBLISHED BY THE IOWA HISTORICAL SOCIETY; HISTORY OF BUFFALO COUNTY, NEBRASKA, PUBLISHED BY THE NEBRASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY; A STANDARD HISTORY OF KANSAS AND KANSANS, PUBLISHED BY THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY; BABB FAMILIES OF AMERICA, BY JEAN A. SARGENT; THE CRUMLEYS OF FREDERICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE, BY IRMAL CRUMLEY HAUNSCHILD; THE BOOKS, THIS SMALL TOWN OSGOOD (MISSOURI) AND CAMPGROUND CEMETERY, BY RUTH RAWLS FISHER; AND FAMILY INFORMATION FROM THE DESCENDANTS OF SYLVANUS BROWN; DAVID BROWN; JOHN BROWN; JOTHAM BROWN JUNIOR; WILLIAM BROWN; JANE BROWN COOPER; ESTHER BROWN WILLIS; MERCY BROWN BABB; AND MARY BROWN STAPLETON.

I AM MUCH INDEBTED TO RITA SAMPSON OF THE KENTUCKY BRANCH AND TO H. WILLIAM BROWN OF THE TENNESSEE BRANCH FOR THEIR RESEARCH INTO THE JOTHAM BROWN FAMILY DURING THE YEARS THE FAMILY WAS IN VIRGINIA. SPECIAL APPRECIATION IS DUE TO MRS. NELLA SMITH MYERS FOR SHARING HER KNOWLEDGE OF THE BROWN/CRUMLEY BRANCHES.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, RESEARCH, DOCUMENTATION AND PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES:

1. WWW.TNGENWEB.ORG/GREENE
2. “THE JOTHAM BROWN FAMILY”, PRIMARILY FOCUSED ON THE VIRGINIA YEARS (1782-1812), BY H. WILLIAM BROWN: WWW.THEBROWNFAMILYCLAN.ORG
3. “JOTHAM BROWN FAMILY REUNION”, BY CAROLYN BROWN CAPPS WWW.BROWNFAMILYREUNION.COM

RESEARCH DOCUMENTATION RELEVANT TO GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE, INCLUDING CENSUS RECORDS, TAX LISTS, MARRIAGE DATES, VITAL STATISTICS, AND BURIAL INFORMATION HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE GREENE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY'S PUBLICATION, THE PIONEER, IN THE MAY 2006 ISSUE AND ON THE BROWN/CRUMLEY BRANCHES IN THE MAY 2007 ISSUE. A COPY OF THIS PUBLICATION IS AVAILABLE FROM THE T. ELMER COX LIBRARY, 229 NORTH MAIN STREET, GREENEVILLE, TENNESSEE 37743. MILITARY PENSION FILES ARE ARCHIVED AT THE T. ELMER COX LIBRARY.
Old Jotham Brown (born c. 1740) never came to Greene County, Tennessee. Perhaps, his wife, Pheby (possibly, nee Johnston), did migrate with her children between 1803-1805, although there is no evidence one way or another. Most of their sons and daughters, however, did settle in northern Greene County in the Cross Anchor area. Many of their descendants still live in or near Greeneville today.

The pre-1780 “history” of this family is uncertain. We do know Jotham and Pheby Brown were in Frederick County, Virginia in 1782 when Jotham and his probable father-in-law, Zopher Johnston “The Elder”, are found in a tax list. It appears that Jotham and Pheby were in Virginia by 1768, when their oldest daughter, Jane, was born. Jane Brown Cooper stated Virginia as her place of birth in the 1850 Greene County Census.

On August 20, 1783, Jotham and Pheby purchased 233 acres of land in Botetourt County, Virginia on Brush Creek, branch of Little River. There, they resided near the Christopher Cooper Senior (1753 – 1830) Family who removed to Greene County about 1803. The Families of Jotham Brown, Christopher Cooper and Zopher Johnston were closely intermarried back in Virginia and in Tennessee, and later in Missouri where many of the families would migrate in the 1850’s.

Jotham and Pheby Brown were most probably of Scottish heritage. The families with whom their children married were Scottish Presbyterians, and it would be likely, so too, were Jotham and Pheby. Two of their sons-in-law, Christopher Cooper and William Stapleton, signed a religious petition in 1785 to establish a Reformed Church of Scotland in Botetourt County, Virginia.

In 1797, Jotham and Pheby Brown began to sell-off their land on Brush Creek. By this date Botetourt County had been divided to form Montgomery County where the deeds of sale were recorded. They were possibly planning to migrate to Tennessee at this time; however, Jotham died sometime between March of 1797 and May 1800. On May 16, 1800, his widow Pheby and Jotham’s eleven heirs sold 104 acres on Terry’s Creek, branch of Little River. This 1800 transaction in Deed Book C, page 326, provides us a roster of their eleven children. Nine of these children migrated to Greene County, Tennessee.

It is not known when Pheby (Johnston??) Brown died. The last record we have of her occurred on 4-14-1802 in Montgomery County, Virginia, when Pheby witnessed the sale of Christopher and Jane Brown Cooper’s land. Christopher and Jane Brown Cooper removed to Greene County, Tennessee where they purchased their land in December 1803. It is probable that Jane’s mother, Pheby Brown, migrated with them. Jane was the oldest daughter, and probably the oldest child; hence, it would be traditional that Pheby Brown had resided with the Coopers after the death of her husband. If indeed Pheby did migrate with her daughter’s family, she is most certainly buried in the Old Cooper Burial Ground on the Cooper farm, presently located on Spider Stines Road near the Cross Anchor area. Pheby Brown was possibly the first person buried in this family cemetery.

The children of Jotham and Pheby Brown are listed by their estimated years of birth. In some cases, we have exact years; in most cases estimates are used based on when the sons first appear in a tax list or when the daughters were married.

1. Jane Brown, born 1768 VA. Jane’s year of birth is established in her pension application filed in Greene County. Jane married Christopher Cooper (Senior), a Revolutionary War Soldier, on 10-20-1786 in Montgomery County, Virginia. Jane Brown and her husband Christopher Cooper arrived in Greene County about 1803 when they purchased their land. Christopher and Jane Cooper are believed to have had seven children: (1) Catherine; (2) Phebe; (3) Elizabeth; (4) Christopher Junior; (5) Sarah; (6) Lydia; and (7) Jane. Christopher died in 1830. Jane Brown Cooper died between 1856 and 1859. They are buried in a family cemetery on their land. For further information on this family, please refer to the Christopher (Senior) and Jane Brown Cooper Family.
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2. Sylvanus Brown, born c. 1771. Sylvanus first appeared in the Montgomery County, Virginia tax list in 1792, thereby establishing his estimated year of birth in 1771. Sylvanus married Ruth Johnston on 9-9-1794 in Montgomery County, Virginia. Ruth was the daughter of Moses Johnston, a son of Zopher Johnston “the Elder”. They arrived in Greene County about 1805, living on Smith’s Fork, also known as Tillman’s Fork. No Will has been found for Sylvanus Brown; however, their children are believed to be: (1) Moses, who married Sarah Crumley on 7-2-1818; (2) John W., who married Catherine Crumley on 10-12-1826; (3) Jotham S., who married Eliza Bryant on 10-10-1827, then later married Hannah Garner on 6-15-1858; (4) Zopher, who married Betsy McCurry on 8-9-1832; (5) Harvey, who married Eleanor Malone on 7-24-1834; (6) Alfred, who married Polly Ann Eakins on 3-26-1844; (7) William, who married Eliza Kidwell on 9-4-1837; (8) Lydia, who married Aaron Crumley on 8-23-1814; (9) Rachael, who married Isaac Crumley on 9-25-1816; (10) Mary Ann “Polly”, who married Harvey Weston on 9-4-1824; and (11) Margaret, who married Samuel Lane on 12-26-1839. Sylvanus Brown died after 1845 and before 1850. For further information on this family, please refer to the individual articles for Sylvanus Brown and each of his eleven children.

3. David Brown, born c. 1773. David first appeared in the Montgomery County, Virginia tax list in 1794. David married Nancy Ann Craig on 8-6-1795 in Montgomery County. David came to Greene County, Tennessee about 1804/05 where he served in the War of 1812 in the Captain Joseph Hale Company. David Brown married twice and possibly three times. His surviving widow is believed to be Milly Perry Brown, whom he married in Greene County on 2-20-1823. David Brown named ten children in his 1843 Will: (1) William; (2) John; (3) Jotham; (4) David Junior; (5) Joseph; (6) Sylvanus; (7) Polly (Thompson); (8) Phoebe (Tucker); (9) Nancy (Holder); and (10) Marthy Brown. David Brown died between January and July 1843. He is possibly buried at Price Cemetery in the Romeo area of northern Greene County. For further information on this family, please refer to the David Brown Family.

4. John Brown, born on 7-9-1774. John first appeared in the Montgomery County tax list in 1796. The final year he was in Virginia was in 1800. John married Elizabeth Wilson. They migrated to Lincoln County, Kentucky, and were never in Greene County, Tennessee. In May 1802, John witnessed the marriage of his sister, Elizabeth Brown, in Lincoln County, Kentucky. John and Elizabeth Wilson Brown had eleven (identified) children: (1) Stephen; (2) John “Jack”; (3) Jotham; (4) Wilson; (5) Jonas; (6) James; (7) William J.; and daughters, (8) Mary “Polly”; (9) Nancy; (10) Elizabeth; and (11) an unidentified daughter. Several generations of Jothams perpetuated the name of their forefather in the Kentucky branch up to the 1900’s.

5. Esther Brown, born c. 1775. Esther married John Willis on 1-1-1793 in Montgomery County, Virginia. John Willis died in Virginia in 1818. Esther and her son Sylvanus Willis were the administrator of John’s Estate. Esther’s family was enumerated in the 1820 Montgomery County census. By 1830, it is believed Esther and her children migrated to Greene County, Tennessee. A female age 60-70 is believed to be Esther Brown Willis in the 1830 household of John Willis, age 20-30. Based on Greene County census records and marriages, the sons of Esther Brown Willis included: (1) John, who married Annie Allison in 1827; (2) James B., who had first married in Montgomery County, Virginia; then remarried Frances Nixon in 1828 in Greene County, Tennessee; (3) Sylvanus, who married the widow Mary (“Polly”) Alexander Wyrick in 1831; (4) Jotham, who married Nancy Wilson in 1830. Jotham B. Willis died before 1834 in Greene County when his Estate in the town of Greeneville appears in the 1834 Tax List. (5) a 5th son, who is as yet unidentified. Two marriages are found in the early Greene County marriages for females with the Willis surname. One is Sally Willis, who married Robert Foster Junior in 1830. It is the opinion of this author that Sally Willis was a widow of the deceased fifth son of John and Esther Brown Willis. The second marriage is for Esther Willis, who is believed to be the daughter of John and Esther Brown Willis: (6) Esther, who married James Morrow in 1831. For further information on the Willis Family, please refer to the separate articles on each of the Willis Brothers. For further information on Sally Willis Foster, please refer to the article on Robert Foster Junior.
6. Elizabeth Brown, born c. 1780. Elizabeth married Joshua Wilson in Lincoln County, Kentucky in 1802. They did not come to Greene County. The following children have been identified by the Kentucky branch: (1) Marcy (this daughter’s name was probably “Mercy”); (2) Catharine; (3) Sally; (4) Nancy; and possibly (5) Elizabeth.

7. Mary Brown, born c. 1780. Mary married William Stapleton on 12-8-1803 in Montgomery County, Virginia, bond by Sylvanus Brown. William Stapleton first appears in a Greene County, Tennessee, tax list in the year 1812, Captain Thomas Smith’s District. In that same year, William Stapleton’s 200 acre farm at Churn Camp Creek was sold by Sheriff’s Deed. William’s brother-in-law, Christopher Cooper, was his Surety. It appears that after the sale of William Stapleton’s land, he and his wife removed to nearby Hawkins County where William applied for a Revolutionary War pension. The family later migrated to Lee County, Virginia, where William and Mary Brown Stapleton died. William and Mary Brown Stapleton’s children are identified by Stapleton Family researchers: (1) George; (2) Lewis; (3) Jonathan (possibly Jotham??); (4) Sylvanus; (5) William Jr.; (6) Martha/Massey (who was probably “Mercy”); (7) Cynthia Jane “Gincy”.; (8) Lydia; (9) Elizabeth H; and (10) Sarah. For additional information on this Family, and for the transcription of the Revolutionary War Pension application by Mary Brown Stapleton, you may wish to visit the Stapleton Family website: www.geocities.com/judys-space/vol1/staplton.htm.

8. Jotham Brown Junior, born on 10-2-1783. Jotham Junior first appeared in the Montgomery County, Virginia tax list in 1804. In 1805, Jotham Junior migrated with his brothers to Greene County, Tennessee. On 10-8-1807, Jotham Junior married Margaret “Peggy” Maloney. Jotham Junior and his family lived on a 100-acre farm on Dunam’s Fork and later on a 67-acre farm on the Waters of Lick Creek. By 1840, Jotham Brown Junior owned 227 acres of land in District 12. Jotham Junior served in the War of 1812 in the Captain Robert Maloney Company. Although Jotham Junior Brown died intestate, based on Greene County Tax Lists and Census records, their children are believed to be: (1) Robert; (2) Hugh; (3) John; (4) James; (5) William; (6) Alexander; and (7) Martha. Another possible daughter could be Esther, although Esther is most probably a daughter of Jotham Brown Junior’s brother, William Brown. Peggy Maloney Brown died on 12-2-1858. Jotham Brown Junior died on 7-21-1859. They are buried at the Cross Anchor Cemetery, as are many of their children, grandchildren and later descendants. For further information please refer to the Jotham (Junior) and Margaret Maloney Brown Family.

9. Mercy Brown, born c. 1784. “Massa” Brown married William Babb on 11-5-1807, bond by Sylvanus Brown. Her name was transcribed as “Mirey” in the 1800 land deed in Virginia. Her birth name was Mercy as stated by her son Valentine S. Babb in the 1887 Pioneer’s History of Greene County, Iowa. Mercy and William Babb lived in nearby Hawkins County, Tennessee, where William was a cabinet maker and a Justice of the Peace. They had eight children identified by Babb Family researchers: (1) Elizabeth, born on 9-1-1810, who married James Weston. In 1851, James and Elizabeth Babb Weston led a wagon train to Barry County, Missouri. (2) Phillip, born c. 1812, who lived in Lee County, Virginia; (3) “Easter” (Esther), born c. 1814, who married Issac Weston. They were in Hancock County, Tennessee in 1860. Easter died before 1870. (4) Phoebe, born on 11-6-1817, who married James Wallace; (5) Valentine Servier, born on 7-9-1820, who married Lydia Crumley, a granddaughter of Sylvanus Brown, brother to Mercy. They settled in Greene County, Iowa. (6) Abner, born c. 1823, who married Elizabeth Roller. They were in Barry County, Missouri by 1860. (7) William Kelly, born c. 1826, who married Hannah Crumley, a granddaughter of Sylvanus Brown, brother to Mercy. They settled in Greene County, Iowa. (8) Samuel, born on 4-10-1829, who married Elizabeth Roberts. They were in Hancock County, Tennessee by 1870. Samuel’s mother Mercy Brown Babb, age 86, resided in his household. By 1880, Samuel and his family lived in Barry County, Missouri. Persons who have interest in this Family may wish to read the book, The Babb Family of America, archived at the T. Elmer Cox Library in Greeneville, Tennessee. For information on the Babb sons who married into the Crumley Family, please refer to the separate article on The Family of Sylvanus and Ruth Johnston Brown.
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(Continued)

10. William Brown, born c. 1789. William was the youngest son. He first appeared on the Greene County tax list in 1810. On 8-27-1811, William married Martha Blair. He is in the 1812 tax list owning a 150 acre farm on the Waters of Lick Creek. It is believed that William and his wife Martha both met untimely deaths. Only one son has been identified, and he is:

10 (1) William M. Brown, born on 5-5-1821, who according to early Brown researcher, Glennon Brown, was raised from about the age of ten, by his Uncle Sylvanus Brown. William M. Brown married Nancy Jane Ireland on 9-5-1843, bond by John M. Gass. William M. and Nancy Jane migrated to Gentry County, Missouri about 1845. By 1880, the family resided in Harrison County, Missouri. William M. Brown died on 6-20-1888 in Lee Valley near Sartoria, Nebraska. In 1900, William’s widow, Nancy Jane Ireland Brown, was residing in Buffalo County, Nebraska with her son, Samuel. Nancy Jane Brown stated she had ten children, of whom only six were living in 1900. Their children are identified based on various census records and descendants’ information: (i) possibly Ruth Ann Brown who was born in Tennessee and died in childhood before the families’ migration to Missouri; (ii) Samuel Harvey Brown, born April 1847 in Missouri; (iii) Mary Emeline Brown, born c. 1849; (iv) Martha Eleanor Brown, born c. 1852; (v) Alfred Dennis Brown, born c. 1855 who married Nellie Jones; (vi) William Sylvanus Brown, born 4-10-1858, who married Emma Foster (1862-1884) in Harrison County, Missouri. William Sylvanus and Emma were probably third cousins. Emma Foster was the daughter of John Jackson Foster (a son of Robert and Mercy Johns(t)on Foster) and Mary Jane Maloney Foster (a daughter of Hugh and Susanna Conway Maloney). William Sylvanus and Emma Brown had one son Samuel “Sam” Oscar Brown before Emma’s tragic death at the age of 21. Emma’s young son, Sam, was raised by his paternal grandparents. It is said that after the death of his wife, William Sylvanus Brown “took up bank robbing with the Ford Gang”. He remarried to Jessie M. Jones and died on 4-26-1941. (vii) Margaret Jane Brown, born c. 1860; (viii) Sarah Elizabeth Brown, born 1-29-1863 who married G. W. Wilson; (ix) Thomas Sherman Brown, born c. 1866; and (x) Charles Emory Brown, born 11-29-1869. Nancy Jane Ireland Brown died on 6-11-1916 in Nebraska.

A descendant of William and Martha Blair Brown via their grandson William Sylvanus Brown, is Dr. H. William Brown, one of our most dedicated family researchers of the Jotham and Pheby Brown Family. Affectionately known as “W7”-- the seventh lineal descendant with the name William Brown -- he is participating in our Brown DNA Project. W7 also maintains a terrific family website covering the Virginia years of our Jotham Brown Family.

William and Martha Blair Brown probably had a daughter, who is:

10 (2) Esther Brown, born on 7-7-1818. Presuming Esther was a daughter of William and Martha Blair Brown, it is not known who raised Esther after the death of both parents. William’s brother Sylvanus Brown is believed to have raised his nephew, William M. Brown. A young woman of the appropriate age is in the 1830 and 1840 household of William Brown’s brother, Jotham Brown Junior. This young woman, may be Esther Brown, a niece of Jotham Brown Junior. Esther Brown married John M. Gass on 1-11-1844, bond and marriage by Christopher Cooper Junior. In 1843, John M. Gass was the marriage bondsman for William M. Brown, a known son of William and Martha Blair Brown. John M. Gass was much older than Esther, and he had first married in 1820 to Sally Weems with whom he had four children. John M. Gass died before March 1846 when his Estate Inventory was taken. The Greene County Court awarded Esther Brown Gass one year’s widows support “for the family”. Providing substantive support that Esther was indeed a daughter of William and Martha Blair Brown is that their known son, William M. Brown and his father-in-law, Samuel Ireland, purchased items from the Estate Sale “for the family’s use”. Esther Brown Gass remarried on 12-10-1849 to John B. Hawkins. In the 1850 census, John B. and Esther Hawkins had no children in their 1850 household. John and Esther Brown Gass Hawkins lived in the Newsmansville and Locust Grove areas. John was a farmer and a Justice of the Peace. Their
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(Continued)

children are identified from the census records: (1) Mary “Polly” A. Hawkins, born c. 1851 who was unmarried and lived in her father’s 1870 household and had presumably married before 1880; (2) Pheba J. Hawkins, born c. 1853, who was unmarried and living in her father’s household in 1870 and had presumably married before 1880; (3) Charles Alfred Hawkins, born 6-5-1856. Charles first married Stella Weems (1863-1889). Charles and Stella had two children: Willie C. Hawkins, born 3-31-1889 and died 7-16-1889; and Dr. John Grover Hawkins, born 1888; died 4-7-1973, a long time country doctor in the Sulphur Springs Community. After Stella’s death (probably of childbirth complications), Charles remarried to his cousin Phoebe Jane Brown (1856-1922), a daughter of James H. Brown (a son of Moses Brown and a grandson of Sylvanus Brown). Charles and Phoebe Jane Brown Hawkins had one son who died in childhood: Clarence Hawkins (1891-1898). Charles A. Hawkins died on 8-16-1919. Phoebe Jane Brown Hawkins died in 1922. Charles Hawkins, both of his wives and his children are buried at Cross Anchor Cemetery. (4) William Harvey Hawkins, born 1861. William was a doctor in Greeneville. He died on 8-18-1919 and is buried in Oak Grove Cemetery in Greeneville. William’s widow Roberta K. Hawkins and their three daughters were enumerated in the 1920 census. Their children were: Grace Hawkins, born c. 1895; Esther E. Hawkins, born c. 1897; and Mabel Hawkins, born c. 1899. William’s widow is not buried at Oak Grove Cemetery.

Esther Brown Gass Hawkins died on 2-1-1866. She is buried in the Morrison Cemetery, also known as the Sulphur Springs Cemetery. Esther’s husband, John B. Hawkins remarried on 5-30-1867 to Sarah Peters McCollum, the widow of James McCollum Junior. John and his second wife did not have children. It is not known when John B. Hawkins died or where he is buried. Although there is no direct proof that Esther Brown Gass Hawkins was a daughter of William and Martha Blair Brown, to this author the secondary “evidence” is sufficiently compelling to believe she is.

In the book Pocket Note History by Mr. T. Elmer Cox, on page 109 is a photograph taken in 1966 of the Hawkins Log Cabin on White House Road. The cabin measured 20 feet by 16 feet. This log cabin may have been the home of John B. and Esther Brown Hawkins because this location is in the Cross Anchor area.

11. Lydia Brown, born c. 1790. Lydia married William Crumley on 10-1-1807, bond by William Crumley Junior, James Gibson, David Brown and Jotham Brown. Lydia may have died before 1817, when Betsey Johnston, Lydia’s cousin, married William Crumley Senior on 10-20-1817, bond by William Crumley Senior and Jotham Brown Senior. William Crumley is not found in the 1830 Greene County census. It is believed he removed to Lee County, Virginia, where he died. Persons who are interested in the Crumley Family will want to obtain the book on The Crumley Family to be published in 2008 by Nella Smith Myers. A “preview” of Nella’s work on the Brown/Crumley lines has been published in The Pioneer, May 2007, Volume 23 Number 1. A prior work on the Crumley Family by Irmal Crumley Haunschild is archived at the T. Elmer Cox Library in Greeneville, Tennessee.

Not all of Old Jotham and Pheby (Johnston??) Brown’s Greene County, Tennessee, descendants have been identified. One branch in particular is Nancy Brown, born c. 1812 and her daughter, Mary Brown, born c. 1835. At the time of the 1850 census, Nancy and Mary Brown lived by or with the Jotham Brown Junior Family. No husband was in the household. Nancy and Mary Brown’s relationship to Jotham Brown Junior is not known; however, there is most certainly some relationship. Nancy Brown was no longer in the 1860 census enumeration. Mary Brown, born c. 1835, certainly appears to be Mary Ann Brown born on 8-12-1836, who married James Dixon (1834-1888) on 8-28-1852 with bond by William Brown and marriage by John E. Kidwell, Justice of the Peace. James and Mary Ann Brown Dixon had twelve children in their 1880 household. Mary Ann Brown Dixon died seven years later on 9-29-1887. James Dixon died on 11-11-1888, leaving a large number of orphaned children. As to which branch of our extended Brown Family that the orphaned children of James and Mary Ann Brown Dixon belonged, we will probably never know.
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However, they are clearly descendants, and their information is included here. The orphaned children of James and Mary Ann Brown Dixon were: (1) Margaret J. Dixon, born c. 1854; (2) William Dixon, born c. 1861; (3) Alice Dixon, born c. 1863; (4) Robert Dixon, born c. 1864; (5) Annie Dixon, born c. 1866; (6) James Dixon, born c. 1868; (7) George Dixon, born c. 1869; (8) Benjamin Dixon, born c. 1871; (9) Flora Dixon, born c. 1872; (10) Walter Dixon, born c. 1874; and twins (11) Charlie Dixon, born c. 1879 and (12) Boston V. Cent Dixon, born c. 1879. Mary Ann Brown Dixon and her husband James Dixon are buried at Cross Anchor Cemetery.

As time went on, the sons and later grandsons of Old Jotham and Pheby Brown became “segregated” into distinct family groupings. This is particularly discernable from the annual Greene County tax lists after 1850. While there are always some exceptions, the David Brown branch was clustered in the Romeo area (District 11) of Greene County, closer to the Hawkins County line. Some of David’s grandchildren crossed the county line and lived in Hawkins County. The Jotham Brown Junior branch pretty much remained in the Cross Anchor area (District 12), and some descendants to this day remain in Cross Anchor. The Sylvanus Brown branches that remained in Greene County mostly lived along Baileyton Road in District 21, north of Cross Anchor and south of the Romeo area. The sons and grandsons of Sylvanus Brown and their descendants are largely clustered in the Roaring Springs and the Davis Valley areas, although a few descendants remained in District 12. Some of the descendants of Sylvanus Brown who did not own land appear to have farmed land in District 11 owned by David Brown’s son, William Brown.


The descendants of Old Jotham and Pheby (nee Johnston??) Brown are participating in both the male (Y) DNA Project and the female (MtDNA) Project. Descendants of all five sons of Old Jotham and Pheby Brown are represented in the Y-Project. One female descendant is participating in the MtDNA Project. Persons who have interest in this cutting-edge science may wish to visit the Johnson Family website, www.johnsonfamilyhistory.org. DNA results have also been published in the The Pioneer, issue November 2006.

For descendants of the Brown/Crumley branches, detailed information on the Crumley Families has been published by Nella Smith Myers in the May 2007 issue of The Pioneer. A book will be published by Nella in the near future culminating years and years of research.

The Pioneer publications may be obtained from the T. Elmer Cox Library, 229 North Main Street, Greeneville, Tennessee 37743.

To the many, many descendants of the Old Jotham and Pheby Brown Families who have shared their information with me, I thank you all very much. As we all know, genealogy is not a static endeavor. No doubt new information will be uncovered and here-to-fore undiscovered branches will be identified. However, for now, the stories of the Old Jotham and Pheby Brown Families are continued on the next pages.