

Chapter 27 - Elizabeth's Other Sons:

(1855 – 1832)

George, Alick, and Francis

Two other children of David Brown and Elizabeth McMahon, notable for being close are Alick (Alexander) and George. They seem to have teamed up for much of their first thirty years. George was born 12 July 1831 and Alick 14 October 1834. George and Alick were moderately successful in their commercial enterprises, but were in the shadow of their older brothers James and John.

For a brief while, George and Alick shared their childhood with their younger brother, Francis, born c1836. Francis is said to have died in infancy, sometime during 1839. The statistics for the Brown households at Jerry's Plains in the 1841 imply that he was deceased by then. However, Francis was around long enough for George to remember his existence and death and record the fact when registering their father's death in 1857.

When their mother, Elizabeth, died on 21 November 1837 at Jerry's Plains, George was only six years and four months, and Alick was only just over 3 years old. This loss could not help being noticed by them. It may well account in part for George's conduct later regarding his father's subsequent marriages.

About 1848 George and Alick would have actively assisted in the day-to-day business of stock management, which more than likely meant assisting in the driving of sheep and cattle from 'Millie' to the southern markets.

George was in his 17th year and Alick in his 14th when their father married for a second time, to former convict, Harriet D' Arcy, on 16 May 1848, and their brother, Thomas, died. George, in particular, does not seem to have had a happy relationship with his stepmother.

When their father, David, died on 11 January 1857, George was 25 years old and Alick was just over 22 years old.

Robbery at Turrawan

On Saturday evening, 13 January 1866, Alick and brother, George,⁸⁸⁰ stayed at the Turrawan Hotel owned by James Ward. Turrawan is 25 kilometres to the southeast of Narrabri; 90 kilometres southeast of 'Millie'; and 30 kilometres to the north of Boggabri, where Alick had been settled with his family several years. Alick and George were 'on their way down with cattle'. That evening the hotel was 'stuck up' by two bushrangers of Thunderbolt's gang: Kelly, and another about 10 o'clock p.m. The Turrawan correspondent for the Tanworth Examiner reported that "Mr Alexander Brown and Mr George Brown...'

"...were about to retire for the night, when suddenly two horsemen rode up and called for the ostler. On his appearance they dismounted and, giving their horses up to him, ordered him not to stir from the spot. In the bar were Messrs. Brown and some five or six others.

Revolver in hand, Kelly appeared at the door, and bidding them good evening, politely requested them to 'range up', which under the pressing circumstances was at once complied with. Kelly then took his station at the bar door where he could have his eye on both horses and victims. His mate proceeded to examine all the rooms, the stables, outhouse, etc., bringing in every individual on the premises who were made to range up with all the rest.'

The work of searching was systematically proceeded with, except with regard to those Mr Ward requested the bushrangers not to molest, as being men working for him he knew they had no money on them. The only cash they got was from the person of Mr Ward, about £3 10s in silver and 10s in gold. Mr Ward's bedroom was next proceeded to, and every effort was made to discover the bank.'

'Fortunately Mr Ward had that week remitted all his valuable money (the last half only having left by post an hour previous to the attack), so that the cash box presented no very tempting appearance, only "calabashes" (about £10) and some 7s or 8s. This they declined to touch, thinking no doubt, to get a larger haul.'

'Treated very respectfully and told not to fear anything. They were allowed to go to their own rooms, which were left undisturbed. From the store a few trousers and about 1lb of tobacco was all that was taken, there not being other articles suited to their requirements.'

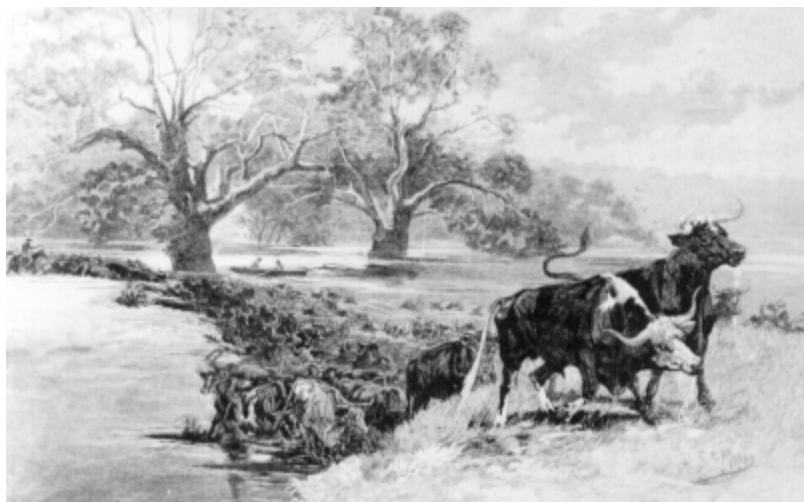
'Observing some trunks on which the children were sleeping quietly, they thought they were on the track, but upon being told that they contained only linen and clothes, they said the children looked very happy and they would not disturb them. The females were treated very respectfully and told not to fear anything.'

'They kept open house in the bar for about two hours, calling for grog for all hands, and regretting that, having reaped such an insignificant harvest, they could not afford to pay, and ...

⁸⁸⁰ The probability of there being another Alexander & George Brown in that location, driving cattle 'on their way down', and being well known in the Turrawan, and the surrounding district is extremely remote. The people mentioned in this article do not have to be related, however, as another indication of the probability of them being any other than the subject of this work, there are only seven births Alexander Brown/es in the NSW BDM 1800 - 1846. There are only 43 George Brown/es 1800-1846. There is only one each that has parents in common.

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| called upon someone else to shout. The call was responded to by Mr A Brown.' 'After which ' taking a bottle of port wine, and bidding all good night, | they started down the river at about 12 o' clock. They were splendidly mounted and each had a spare horse." Information was sent "to the | police as soon as it was possible to get a horse, and about 2p.m. on the 14 th four troopers and a tracker passed in pursuit." ⁸⁸¹ |
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It is apparent that "*Messrs. Brown*" were better known to the correspondent than the '*five or six others*' – Presumably, because they were regular visitors, and well known in the Turrawan, and the surrounding district. It is likely that it was well known where they were driving their cattle from – i.e. John's '*Millie*' /*Waterloo Creek*' Possibly, the author expected the men to be known to many of the readership of various regional newspapers?



Cattle being driven across swollen river

Also, Alick, the younger of the two brothers, was seen to have a greater presence than his brother. The writer was more aware of Alick than George. Alick was then 32 years and George 35 years old. It was Alick who had the generosity of spirit (or wisdom) to help keep the situation calm, and pay for the 'shout'; and had the money to do so. George, the elder of the two, was reticent - Perhaps fuming at the idea of frittering money on hostile strangers?

Both men were married at this time and had young families to go home to.

More on George Brown

In 1857 George became the licensee of the 'Horse and Jockey' that had been bequeathed to his father's third wife, Eliza Lewis nee Page. With the exception of 1859, he held the licence to 1868.⁸⁸²

Emily Jane Griffiths Keating, daughter of Richard Keating, became George's wife in 1861.⁸⁸³

A daughter, Emily Elizabeth was born to George and Emily on 9th October 1861 and baptised on 1st November 1861. George's occupation was given as 'innkeeper' of Jerry's Plains.⁸⁸⁴

Death of Alfred

George's half brother, Alfred, age 14, died on 15 November 1862 as a result of a fall from a horse at 'Arrowfield near Jerry's Plains'. However, one of the witnesses to the burial was 'George Brown' Perhaps demonstrating a genuine sense of loss, or dutifully paying his respects?

At the time of 'Registration of Death', Alfred's father was given as 'David Brown' a 'Publican' and mother 'unknown'. The informant was the surgeon A.W. Thornton of Muswellbrook. As to where Surgeon Thornton got this particular information from about Alfred is unknown. While it is indicative of

⁸⁸¹ Armidale Express Saturday 21 January 1866 (abridged from the Tamworth Examiner 20 January 1866).

⁸⁸² Index to Liquor Licences in the Hunter 1865-1921

⁸⁸³ Marriage registration No 15 of 1861, Sydney.

⁸⁸⁴ BDM registration No 11518 of 1861. (transcript of parish register of Jerry's Plains, entry No. 25.)

a vague recollection, it is also consistent with the antipathy George expressed towards his stepmother and half-brothers when registering his father's death.

David had not been a licensed publican since 1838 when he gave it up to his son, Thomas, and a succession of others - He had held it for only three years. George registered his father as a 'Farmer' when he registered the death in 1857. Many others in the Jerry's Plains community also would have known David as that, and 'Landowner' and Grazier as well.

For further insights into this event, consult chapter 21 'Inheritance'.

A daughter, Annie was born to George and Emily in 1863, and registered at 'Patrick Plains'⁸⁸⁵.

A daughter, Mary was born to George and Emily in 1865, and registered at 'Patrick Plains'⁸⁸⁶.

A daughter, Martha was born to George and Emily in 1867, and registered in 'Patrick Plains'⁸⁸⁷.

On 24 February 1865 Eliza D'Arcy formerly Brown of Jerry's Plains sold land at Jerry's Plains on the Hunter River to George Brown landholder of Jerry's Plains for £50.

The deed of sale included portions promised to John James and Thomas Edward on Eliza's demise having not produced any heirs. The initiative for preparation of the deed seems to have emanated from George.

The land that his nephews were liable to inherit was small in relation to the land that George had managed to acquire as part of a steady acquisition program. Young John and Thomas's land was also enveloped by George's holdings.

However, long lasting dissatisfaction on the part of the nephews about their Uncle George, and the beginnings of an unhappy legend, seems to stem from this transaction.. (See Chapter 21 'Inheritance'.) Rumours (perhaps unfair) of his nephews having been 'hard done' by their Uncle George' being broadcast around the district in places like the 'Horse and Jockey, could well have made life in Jerry's Plains difficult. As it is, George's departure from Jerry's Plains coincided with his sister-in-law, Ann Brown⁸⁸⁸ taking up residence at nearby Merton.

In 1868, George gave up being licensee of the 'Horse and Jockey'. He and his family moved to Newcastle where his elder brother, James, and family, had been living for years.

George and family were known to have at some point taken up residence at 'Prospect Cottage', in Tyrell Street, Newcastle, one of many properties owned by James. It seems likely that Prospect Cottage was George's first and only home in Newcastle.

Blanche Eliza was born to George and Emily in 1869 in Newcastle, NSW.⁸⁸⁹ Blanche ultimately became Mrs Blanche E Jenkins. As such, she recorded much of the family legend in general and in particular about (romantic?) connections with Scotland.

On 1 July 1870, George 'formerly of Jerry's Plains, now residing in Newcastle', and describing himself as 'Gentleman', sold 640 acres Parish Wambo, County Hunter, for £400 to his brother, John, Brown of Jerry's Plains⁸⁹⁰. It appears on this date George disposed of all the land that he had acquired at Jerry's

⁸⁸⁵ BDM registration No 12046 of 1863

⁸⁸⁶ BDM registration No 13478 of 1865

⁸⁸⁷ BDM registration No 14541 of 1867

⁸⁸⁸ Nee Shepherd.

⁸⁸⁹ BDM registration No 15310 of 1869

⁸⁹⁰ Book 120 No 218, 221, and 223.

Plains to his brother, John. It noticeably omitted or ignored the portions promised to John James and Thomas Edward that he had negotiated with Eliza in 1865.

A son, George A(lexander?) was born to George and Emily in 1871 in Newcastle, NSW⁸⁹¹.

A son, Thomas Percy was born to George and Emily in 1873 in Newcastle, NSW⁸⁹².

A son, Vesper R was born to George and Emily in 1876 in Newcastle, NSW.⁸⁹³

A son, Herschel J, was born to George and Emily in 1878 in Newcastle, NSW.⁸⁹⁴

George's brother, James, died on Wednesday, 24 April 1878, and the funeral procession left from George's residence, 'Prospect Cottage' at 4pm the next day. Also during 1878, George's son, Vesper R, died.⁸⁹⁵

While Prospect Cottage was said to be George's home in 1878, it was also known to be a property that had been acquired by James. It may have George been renting or had purchase the premises from his brother. James had property in Sydney, at Newtown Road, and had been living there at the time of his death. The disposal of James' sestate may have left George with no alternative other than having to seek a job and new 'digs' ?

The Maitland Mercury of Saturday, 8 January 1881, carried the following notification of George's death:

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| <p>On the 23rd December, at his residence, "Tighe's House" Waratah, George Brown, aged 49, fifth son of the late David Brown, of Jerry's Plains.</p> |
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Emily, perhaps having been researching the Brown family history for some years, wrote to genealogist G. R. Nichols in 1914 asking for assistance. She was living at Neutral Bay at the time. (See footnote 293 on page 82).

Emily's death was registered in 1932 at North Sydney. She had been a widow 26 years.

George and Emily Brown nee Keating had at least nine children:

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|------|-----------------|-------------|-------|--------------|--------------|------|
| i. | Emily Elizabeth | (1861-1940) | vi. | George A. | (1871-1917) | (186 |
| ii. | Anne | (1863-1934) | vii. | Percy Thomas | (1873 -1964) | |
| iii. | Mary | (1865-1953) | viii. | Vesper R. | (1876-1878) | |
| iv. | Martha | (1867-1919) | ix. | Herschel J. | (1878-1952) | |
| v. | Blanche E. | (1869-1957) | | | | |

George is an interesting character. He is a figure of some mystery, with a hint of Victorian self-righteousness concealing a deep-seated animosity. His role in the dealings pertaining to his father's estate and the care of his half brothers suggests interference. He is at the centre of events that unfolded regarding those matters. One gets the impression that his father, and his brothers John, and Alex, and his sister-in-law, Ann Brown had the measure of George.

⁸⁹¹BDM registration No 14193 of 1871

⁸⁹²BDM registration No 15330 of 1873

⁸⁹³BDM registration No 16665 of 1876

⁸⁹⁴ BDM registration No 18366 of 1878

⁸⁹⁵ Hawkesbury Pioneer Register Volume I, contributor Merryll Hope.

More on Alick Brown

On 24 December 1855, Alick purchased Portion 39, Parish of Maroota 100 acres Cattai Creek property (originally granted to his Uncle James) from his father, David, for £600.⁸⁹⁶

Three and a half years later, Alick married Ellen Turner in West Maitland, NSW, on 6 April 1859, according to the rites of the Presbyterian Church. Alick was 24 years old and described as ‘Stockholder’, usually residing in Maitland. Ellen, whose usual residence was given as Lochinvar (near Maitland), was under the age of twenty-one and required the consent of her father, Mark Turner. David Turner and Catherine Kidd were witnesses.

On 19 May 1859, Alick mortgaged his 100 acre, Portion 39 property at Cattai, to his brother, James, (now of Ada Street, Newcastle) for 500 pounds at a rate of 8 percent per annum.⁸⁹⁷

A daughter, Ellen Elizabeth, was born to Alick and Ellen at Lochinvar, on 6 January 1860.

A son, Mark, was born to Alick and Ellen at Lochinvar, on 21 Oct 1862

Again, on 7 December 1863, Alick (‘of Jerry’s Plains’) mortgaged his 100 acre, Portion 39 property. This time to his brother, John, “now of Elizabeth St, Singleton”. Alick got a marginally better deal from John than James had given him four years earlier. For the same mortgage of 500 pounds, John charged him 7 percent per annum instead of the 8 percent James had imposed - Perhaps reflecting changing market rates at that time?⁸⁹⁸



Ellen Brown nee Turner wife of Alexander Brown

During the early 1860’s Aleck moved his family to Boggabri to be near Ellen’s folks and take up a selection. Her father, Mark Turner, is reputed to have acquired the first lot of land sold there, and built Boggabri’s first hotel. Boggabri was (perhaps conveniently) much closer to Millie than Lochinvar, and on the stock route between Millie and Jerry’s Plains.

A daughter, Katherine Emily was born to Alick and Ellen at Boggabri, on 3 April 1864.

A son, Alexander was born to Alick and Ellen in 1866 and died the same year.⁸⁹⁹

A daughter, Mary Ann, was born to Alick and Ellen in 1867.

In June of 1867, the Hawkesbury broke its banks. On 23 June of that year, a surge in the river, in conjunction with an exceptionally high tide at its entrance to the sea, caused it to flow a record 19.2 metres above its usual containment. In Pitt Town most of the residents were sheltered in churches and schoolhouses.⁹⁰⁰ Brown family records are said to have been lost on this occasion and similar massive flooding on the Hunter.

⁸⁹⁶ Dept of Lands, Portion 39, Parish of Maroota, Conveyance Book 41 No 199 dated 24 December 1855.

⁸⁹⁷ Lands Titles Office Ref:91M102(235) of 11 November 1993. Re: Portion 39, Parish of Maroota ‘ Crowngrant dated 5/8/1806 of 100 acres to James Brown’ . Mortgage Book 61, No 257 dated 5 May 1859.

⁸⁹⁸ Lands Titles Office Ref:91M102(235) of 11 November 1993. Re: Portion 39, Parish of Maroota ‘ Crowngrant dated 5/8/1806 of 100 acres to James Brown’ . Mortgage Book 86 No 341 dated 7 December 1863.

⁸⁹⁹ Death Certificate Reg No 1866 6759

⁹⁰⁰ Hawkesbury 1794 -1994. The first 200 Years of the Second Colonisation'

On 1 April 1868, Alick (now of 'Cox' s Creek Namoi River, Farmer') leased Portion 39 to Ann Horan of Caddai Creek, widow, for a seven-year term.

George David Alexander was born to Alick and Ellen at Boggabri in 1871.

A daughter, Edith Marian, was born to Alick and Ellen at Boggabri on 15 November 1873.



There was record flooding of the Hawkesbury region during 1867. Considerable property was damaged, crops and stock lost.⁹⁰¹

A daughter, Gertrude Amelia, was born to Alick and Ellen at Boggabri on 30 June 1876. She died in infancy on 21 January 1878, at Gunnedah. Cause of death was given as 'Teething'.⁹⁰² Alick gave his occupation at the time as 'Butcher'.

Alick and Ellen' s eldest child, Ellen, at age 23 years, married on 14 March 1883 at Boggabri to Hugh Arnold.

Alick and Ellen' s second eldest daughter, Catherine, at age 19 years, married on 12 June 1883 at Moree to William John Mahaffey.

Ellen, died at Smith Street, West Maitland on 12 June, 1890, aged 52 years. The informant was Alick. Cause of death was ' Endocardites, Morbus Brighti and Dropsy' and she was buried on 14 June 1890 in the Church of England Cemetery, West Maitland.⁹⁰³

Alick died at Caddai on 23 November 1899, aged 65 years, of acute diarrhoea over 5 days,⁹⁰⁴ and was buried at Ebenezer.

Alick had eight children by his marriage with Ellen:

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|------|---------------------------|------|---------------------------------------|
| i. | Ellen (1860 - 1924), | v. | Mary Ann (1869 - 1955), |
| ii. | Mark (1862 - 1938), | vi. | George David Alexander (1871 - 1941), |
| iii. | Katherine E (1864 -1927), | vii. | Edith Marian (1873 - 1926), and |
| iv. | Alexander (1866 - 1866), | viii | Gertrude Amelia (1876 - 1878). |

⁹⁰¹ Illustration per The Sydney Illustrated News re flood of 1867

⁹⁰² Death Certificate Reg No 1878 9775.

⁹⁰³ M Tattam 9 Aug 2001

⁹⁰⁴ NSW death registration No 15764, Caddai.