

Brunson

THE BRUNSON FAMILY RECORD

As it relates to the Ancestors of William James Brunson, Father of Maria Brunson Crichlow, Ethel Brunson Rhodes, Clyde Wyndham Brunson and Eunice H. Brunson.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Since beginning to do research on the family we have found it to be among the earliest English ones settling in America and that several books have been written concerning its various branches. Material from The Brunson Family - Alabama 1963 by Marion B. Brunson and The Brunsons of South Carolina compiled by Cassie Nichales and published by R. L. Bryan Co., Columbia, S. C. 1973 have provided much of the background material. Mrs. Edwin P. (Martha Brunson) Guerard of Columbia, S. C., was most helpful especially in locating the original documents as probated and other related inventories and appraisals of properties of Peter Edgar Brunson, which showed Lawrence M. Brunson, Grandfather of William James Brunson, to be a son of Peter E. Brunson.

Credit should be given to Catherine Ann Sullivan, great granddaughter of William James Brunson whose request for information to do a family tree as a school project started this search. Helen Crichlow and Barbara Brunson Sullivan, granddaughters of William James Brunson have both greatly helped the writer in the research and we are indebted to Helen Crichlow for the typing of this record. Rebecca Ann Rhodes, great granddaughter of William James Brunson helped in locating the daughter of Annie L. Brunson Culpepper, who unfortunately died before she could respond to an inquiry of the writer.

The writer surely does not want to overlook the help and patience of her friend, Elizabeth Jones, who has been a captive listener when there have been questions as to what to put in and what to omit and the better way of saying this and that. For her advice and forbearance the writer is most grateful.

Lenice Brunson

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The family, i. e., Richard Brownson and his two sons John and Richard emigrated from England to Massachusetts about 1633, probably with the Reverend Thomas Hooker's Congregation (Puritan) and moved to Hartford County, Conn. Richard Brownson Sr. and other older Brownsons are buried in the cemetery of Mr. Hooker's original church at Hartford.

THE NAME

In Marion Brunson's book, he writes in some detail the name saying, "Most historians believe the name Brunson, Bronson and Brownson to have derived from the English name of Branston - the name Branston having been taken by its first bearers because of Residence at Branston in Staffordshire. The meaning of 'ton' is town or homestead. Brand, a common personal name, generally of Scandinavian origin, means flame or sword. Brand was a Christian name and Christian names are older than surnames which were not used prior to the Norman Conquest of 1066."

FIRST BROWNSON - DOUGLAS

Marion Brunson further writes, " The first Brownson of whom we have any knowledge came to England from Scotland in May 1568, as one of the nineteen or twenty attendants of Mary, Queen of Scots.
(1)
Douglas Brownson, the attendant settled in Derbyshire, where he married a Derbyshire girl who helped him build his first home. It was located in the village of Parwich and Bassington Moor, not far from the city of Ashbourne in the valley of the Dove River."

"In due time Douglas Brownson and his wife acquired title to the land on which they settled and here their children were born: four sons - George, Richard, Robert and Thomas and perhaps daughters. In the beginning of the reign of King Charles I we know of four Brownsons living in England: George, Richard, Robert and Thomas. Tradition is that they were the four sons of Douglas of Derbyshire."

"George the eldest continued to live in Derbyshire; Richard went to Essex and settled at Chelmsford. Robert went to Devonshire and Thomas to London."

(2)

"Richard, the second son of Douglas Brownson, was our progenitor and immigrant ancestor to America. There is record of Richard Brownson in Chelmsford, Essex, England, prior to 1633, where he was a member of the Church of Rev. Thomas Hooker. Mr. Hooker was a vicar of the Parish Church of Chelmsford (now Cathedrall where he was silenced for non-conformity in 1620."

1590 "Our knowledge of Richard, Sr. is very limited. - - - The exact date of his birth is not known, but it was probably about 1590. We do know that he has two sons, John and Richard, and perhaps others who remained in England."

RICHARD BROWNSON, JR.

(3)

1617 "Richard Brownson, Jr., who was born about 1617 in Chelmsford, England. --- About 1640 Richard married Abigail Wilbourne, or as sometimes written, Wyborn." She was from the County of Kent separated from the County of Essex by the Thames River. Abigail joined the Farmington, Conn. Church (Congregational) July 19, 1652 and Richard April 2, 1654.

"Richard was the original mill owner at Farmington. Abigail the mother of all of Richard's eight children died about 1666. Richard secondly married widow Elizabeth Orvis. --- Richard died in Septmeber 1687. Richard's will in Manwaring Probate Records Vol.1, Page 279. Elizabeth died about 1695 and her will was dated April 6, 1694, Vol. 1, Page 414 Manwaring Probate Records."

Richard and Abigail Wilbourne Brunson's second child (1st son), John is the progenitor of the Southern Branch of the Brunson family. To learn of the other seven children see Marion Brunson's book PP. 5 and 6.

JOHN BROWNSON - PROGENITOR OF SOUTHERN BRANCH

(4)

1645

John Brownsong was born August 1645 at Farmington, Conn. and was baptized there on Feb. 20, 1658. He married Hannah Scott, a daughter of Edmund Scott and Hannah Bird Scott on Oct. 24, 1664. They made their home in Farmington and owned Lot # 23, containing, 185½ acres. They later sold this land and moved to Weathersfield, Conn. and bought more land. John was very prominent in public affairs

"John and Hannah had a family of six children, all born in Hartford County, Conn. As some of their sons reached maturity, they drew land lots in the fontier country of South Carolina and left New England for their new home in the Santee River Valley and in Craven County, which is today Clarendon." The book The Brunsons of South Carolina states that they first settled in Dorchester across the river from Charles Towne. John and Hannah likewise joined their family in South Carolina and there began what genealogists call the Southern Branch of the Brunson Family. This family changed the spelling of the name to Brunson.

Marion Brunson records the following references should future research be desired: Puritans, P. 346; Farmington Land Records, Vol. 6 P 206; New Haven Gen. Mag. Vol. 2 PP 111-112; Charleston Wills 1711-1718 PP 33-34.

After moving to South Carolina in the 1680's John and Hannah lived the remainder of their lives there. John died in 1711 and Hannah later.

The Will of John Brunson is as follows: I John Brownson, being of perfect memory and mindful of my own mortality, desiring the peace and welfare of those I leave behind me in the world, and in order to the settling of any worldly affairs and the disposing of the estate which God has given me in this world I may composedly prepare for my dissolution, do make, ordain and conclude this my last will and testament declaring all former wills to be null and void.

I bequeath my soul to God, my faithful creator, to be by Him received to glory for ye merit's sake of my redeemer ye Lord Jesus Christ, and my body to the earth from whence it was taken to be therein buried decently in hope of a glorious resurrection at the last day through ye love and merits of my Savior; and my debts and funeral charges being paid, I dispose of my worldly estate as follows:

Imprimis: I give and bequeath to my true and loving wife Hannah Scott Brunson the use, profit and management of all my estate, real and personal, for her comfortable subsistence after my decease as long as God shall continue her life.

Item: I give and bequeath to my son Abraham Brunson all debts

due me from any person in the aforesaid Colony of Connecticut. I give and bequeath to my son Joseph Brunson five pounds to be paid to him by my aforesaid son Abraham Brunson.

Item: I give and bequeath to my son Isaac Brunson my new dwelling, and all the land which I am possessed owner, within the Province of Carolina.

Item: I give to my daughter Sarah, the wife of Daniel McGregor, a valuable cupboard and a bell metal pot.

Item: My will is that my wearing clothes shall be equally divided among my three sons, Abraham, Joseph and Isaac.

Item: It is my will y't all ye movables belonging to my estate besides w't have already been bequeathed in this my last will and testament, be equally divided between my two daughters, Sarah and Grace, by each of whom I will forty shillings, to be paid to my granddaugther, Mary, wife of Preserved Ford.

And further, it is my will that if any of the movables be necessarily spent to maintain my wife after my decease, or to defray the charges of her funeral, or be unavoidably diminished before her decease, then my two daughters aforesaid shall pay less than the aforesaid sum each of them in proportion to the said diminushion; for the discovery of which diminshun I will that appraisement be made, and an inventory taken of all my movable estate as soon as convenient after my decease.

Finally, I nominate and declare my good friend, my well beloved wife, Hannah Brunson and my sons, Abraham, Joseph and Isaac Brunson as my executors of this my last will and testament, I set hereunto my hand and seal this eleventh day of January of the year of our Lord, 1711.

Memorandum: On this the twenty-eight day of April, Anno Domini 1712, personally appeared before me, the Governor, Mr. Graham Hawks, Mr. Thomas Graves, and Mr. Thomas Osgood Jr., who being sworn saith that they and each were personally present and did see John Brunson, the testor, sign, seal and publish and declare the within to be, and to contain his last will and testament and y't the closing of it was of sound mind and memory, Signed by Charles Craven, Governor of South Carolina.

ISAAC BRUNSON - THIRD SON OF JOHN AND HANNAH BRUNSON

(5)

1672

"Isaac Brunson was born in Hartford, Conn. in 1672. Isaac grew to maturity in Conn. and married Thankful Dibble, daughter of Samuel Dibble. They had two sons and it is thought they were named Samuel and Joseph; however this has not been proven. Isaac drew a land lot in the new Carolina territory and was gone two years improving his land and building a house. When he returned to Weathersfield, Conn., about 1710, he divorced Thankful."

"Isaac Brunson secondly married Margaret of Westhersfield. Her last name is not known. They lived in Hartford County until after 1720 for all of their five sons, George, Isaac, James, William and David were born there."

1721

About 1721 Isaac and Margaret and their five sons moved from Conn. to South Carolina. The will of Isaac Brunson was dated Feb. 20, 1732, Charleston Memorial Bk 3, page 142. It is believed he died the same year since Margaret Brunson signed land transactions the following year. It is not certain when Margaret died, but her last land transaction was signed in 1752.

JAMES BRUNSON - PROGENITOR OF OUR BRANCH

(6)

James Brunson, the third son of Isaac and Margaret Brunson is the progenitor of the branch we are tracing as ancestors of William James Brunson. James Brunson was born about 1714 in Hartford County, Conn. He married Elizabeth whose maiden name is not certain. Some think it was Cantey.

From Marion Brunson's Book - "They lived in the Sumter district of the Santee River Area and were large property holders and wealthy planters. Some of the land transactions for James Brunson were: Memorialized two hundred acres on a small branch of Black River, plat certified for him Oct. 11, 1764. A land memorial in St. Marks Parish originally granted to Isaac Brunson, Sr., and passed to his son James and from James Brunson to his sons, James Jr., Isaac and Peter."

PETER ^EEDGAR (EDGAR) BRUNSON - GREAT GRANDFATHER OF WILLIAM
JAMES BRUNSON

(7)

Peter Edgar Brunson, the third son of James and Elizabeth provides the link from Lawrence M. Brunson to the Brownson Family that emigrated from England to the new American Colony in 1633.

1836 Peter's date of birth is unknown. He died in September 1836

- Sumter Probate Office Books O. Page 6. In the 1810 Census in Claremont after Peter E. Brunson is the foll: 5M (1-9), 2 M (10-15), 2 M (16-25), 1 M (26-44) (Peter Edgar) 1 F (1-9) 1 F (45 or over), his wife. Since his wife was at least 45, we might surmise that he was about 43 or 44, in 1810, which would have placed his age at

death about 69 or 70. Peter's wife was Helena (last name unknown). Peter Edgar Brunson's name is recorded in numerous alphabetized abstracts of Sumter County, S. C. - Deed, wills and miscellaneous records compiled by Gen. Von Hoeke, now deceased. Some of these follows:

Brunson, Peter Edgeah (Edgar) (died before 1-27-1837) of Claremont County, bought 9-7-1797 from Joshua Hodges 100 a. on Cypress Pond Br. E side of Wateree, branch of Black River, orig. grant to Sam'l Timmons 5-24-1795 (C.34) 1-19-1808 wit'n at Sammy Swamp (C-293), 7-11-1801, Wit'n Clarendon Co. (Wills A, 61) 1-4-1809, bought from Jeremiah Rhame 400 a. in Claremont Co., part of 2300 a., granted to Isaac Giddens 10-2-1786; plat from 12-21-1808, bordering: N-John Beagance, W-Bonerham, S- Barney Kelly, E-Thos. Gibbs (C-415) --- 10-1-1801 as Peter E. Brunson ~~to~~ Cap't. Jos. West' Militia Co. in Clarendon Co. (S.C. Hist. & Geneological Mag. Vol. 54 P 170). Bought 1-8-1816 from John China 200 a. on Bushy Branch, Waters of Sammy Swamp, orig. granted to Joshua Hodge 4-3-1786. (DD-261).

Peter died without a will, but all the proper original papers - summons etc., showing names of all living heirs are in the S. C. Archives. These were (1) William H. Brunson, (2) Merry Brunson, (3) Leonard E. Brunson, (4) Manning D. Brunson, (5) Lawrence Brunson, (6) Jared N. Brunson, (7) James Y. Brunson, (8) Willis L. Brunson, minor, (9) Harvey P. Brunson, (10) Emily Brunson, now McElwain, (11) Demaris Brunson, now Hodge and Mason Reames guardian for Willis L. Brunson. There are also originals of appraisals of land to be sold (500 acres) for \$1000 and

are recorded in Book N P 22 on 20th of March, 1836. Administration Basic on Estate of Peter E. Brunson filed on Oct. 3, 1836, recorded in Book N P. 20 March 10, 1837.

It is believed there was one other son, Isaac W. Brunson, who was evidently deceased prior to Peter's death.

LAWRENCE M. BRUNSON, Grandfather of William James Brunson

(8)

1797
1854
Lawrence M. Brunson, son of Peter Edgar and Helena Brunson was born Feb. 1, 1797, in South Carolina. Lawrence M. Brunson is listed in the 1820 Census in S. C. with a child under 10. Also pencilled in material received from the South Carolina Brunsons is the name of Susan Jackson as his wife. 1-13-1820 Wit'n to Jared N. Brunson as Lawrence M. Brunson (F. 159)

In the 1850 Census of Sumter Co., Ala., Lawrence M. Brunson is listed as a farmer born in S. C. 53 years ^{with wife Kiziah} old B. in Georgia. In this 1850 Census listed in the same household are their 3 children: (1) George E. (Edgar) 20 M. Farmer, B. in Ala. (2) Thomas M. 19 M. Farmer b. in Ala. (3) Mary P. 15 F. B. in Ala.

Lawrence M. Brunson died Sept 4, 1854. Data on tombstone in Zion Cemetery near Kewanee almost on Ala.-Miss. border, where both Lawrence M. Brunson and ~~Ziaiah~~ Kiziah are buried indicates Kiziah's date of birth as May 23, 1804 and death as Aug. 3, 1896.

In the 1870 Census Sumter Co., Ala., Kiziah Brunson is listed as 63 F. b in Tenn. and in the 1880 Census in the household of her first born son George Edgar. She is listed as being born in Tenn. with her father being born in Germany.

GEORGE EDGAR ^R BRUNSON

(9)

George Edgar Brunson is the father of William James Brunson.

1830 He was born Feb. 5, 1830 and died July 4, 1917. He married Julia
1917 Woodall on Feb. 28, 1856. Their marriage license is recorded in
1836 Marriage Bk. 2 P. 306 Sumter County, Ala., Julia Frances Woodall was
1909 born April 19, 1836, and died Nov. 19, 1909.

George Edgar Brunson was a farmer and also served as a dentist for the area. He was reputed to be a person of great curiosity. The writer remembers visiting him when a very small child. He had a long white beard and delighted in cutting sugar cane of just the right size for a little girl's mouth.

George Edgar and Julia Frances Brunson had nine children:

1. Thomas King b. Aug 13, 1857 married Annie Tate
2. George Lawrence age 10 in 1870 Census, d. June 2, 1882, buried in Zion Cemetery.
3. Mary Kiziah called Mollie age 9 in 1870 Census. Married Jo Cook, Pushmataha, Ala.
4. Julia Estelle 6 yrs. old 1870 Census. Married James M. Garrison, Yantley, Ala.
- 1866 5. William James b. Feb. 26, 1866 at Rosser, Ala., d. Jan.
1941 4, 1941, Mobile, Ala., More details follow.
6. John Melton 2 yrs. old 1870 Census. Died Single.
7. Catherine (Kate) Elizabeth - Married Albert Brown, Toomsaba, Ala.
8. Florence Eugenia - Married John Garrison, brother of James M. Garrison, Yantley, Ala.
9. Annie Lillian b. May 28, 1881 - Married Parker Culpepper, Meridian, Miss.

1208 Selma St.
Mobile, Ala., 36604

May 7, 1986

Dear Mary ...

It was so good to meet you at the Zion Reunion. Hope this material I am sending will be helpful.

I urge you to read Marion Brunson's book, *The Brunson Family - Alabama 1963*. I've just learned a new book is about to go to press and also that he has a good bit of information about the Brunsons up your way that he hasn't put in the book. His address is: Judge Marion Brunson Probate Court, Elba, Ala.

Marion Brunson's book was very helpful after I learned the ancestry of my great grandfather Lawrence M. Brunson whose grave at Zion has I believe L. M. instead of full name. The census shows he was born in South Carolina. As mentioned in acknowledgement, I had to go to archives in Columbia, South Carolina; and here was fortunate to learn about Mrs. Edwin P. (Martha Brunson) Guerard who had been a part of a group in South Carolina that did research and finally publish the book The Brunsons of South Carolina compiled by Cassie Nickales.

If your relative was a sister or brother of my father, William James Brunson, then you can provide your own chart from this point down to the present, as I did. See how far back you can go with your own history and then bring it up to date.

If you think you are related through the Watts also. let me know.

...

(... of Mr. Holly ...)

Wm. Joseph Ryan - Catharine

(son) Ely. H. Ryan - Mary P. Brown (1834 - 1889)

Holly ...
b. 1874 - d. 1887
m. 1865 ... wife Ely. Ryan

m. 1882 - ...
c. 1865

(2 sons & one daughter)

Catharine E. Ryan

(Obst. died in ...
(59 years, 7 months & 21 days)

m. - Thomas W. ...
b. 1832 - d. Aug 23, 1891
b. ... 1832

W. A. Ryan, P. ...
J. Howard ...
Thomas W. ...
m. ...
in ...

Family ...

Mary, E. ...
E. ...

Grand ...

Mary

Tyler ...

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

Since writing the earlier material a few news facts have been found by Barbara Brunson Sullivan.

For the Brunson material:

#1
" John Brownson and wife Hannah came to Charles Towne, South Carolina, from Connecticut. - - -

His son Isaac lived for a while near old Dorchester, which is about eleven miles from Charleston on the Ashley River. Later on he moved up to Santee River, and his widow, Margaret Brunson was one of the first owners of a grant in the area which later became Poinsett State Park. It appears that the first land granted to the son Isaac was made out in the name of Brunson (instead of Brownson) and this name became Brunson in South Carolina from that time on."

Sons of Isaac and Margaret Brunson, Isaac Jr., James, William and David owned grants in Santee, Wateree and Black Rivers and also near their Mother in the Poinsett Park Area. In a listing of persons buried in the Salem Baptist Church near Cuba Ala., there is a H. P. Brunson with dates Jan. 22, 1801 - April 11, 1855. It seems likely that this is Harvey P. Brunson, a son of Peter Edgar Brunson and thus a brother of Lawrence M. and Leonard E. Brunson. These latter two are buried in Zion Baptist Church Cemetery near Kewanee in a nearby area.

#1. From Sumter District by Janey Revill.

Brownson (Brunson) Family Chart

(1) Douglas Brownson + Wife moved from Scotland To England in 1568

George stayed in Eng. (Derbyshire) (2) Richard b. about 1590 went to Essex (Chelmsford) Robert (Derenshire) Thomas (London)

John (3) Richard Jr. b. about 1617 m. Abigail Wilbourne about 1640

Abigail b. 9-8-1643 (4) John b. 1645 m. Hannah Seatt Cornelius b. 1648 Hannah b. 1650 Elizabeth b. 1652 Edith b. 1655 Mary b. 1659 Samuel b. 1661

John b. 1665 (5) Isaac 1672-1739 Abraham b. 1673 Sarah b. 1671 Grace b. 1679 Joseph 1677-1734

(1) Thankful Dibble (2) Margaret

Samuel b. 1707 Joseph 1709 George b. 1710 Isaac -1770 (6) James b. 1714 William

James Isaac m. Elizabeth (Cattley)?

(7) Peter b. 1736 m. Helena

William Merry Leonard E Manning David N. James Y. Willis L. Emily Demaris Isaac. (8) Lawrence M. 1797- Henry P

(9) Susana (?) (2) Kiziah

(9) George Edger 1830-1917 Thomas M b. 1831 Mary P. b. 1835

(10) Catherine Ely. Davison - Wm Adria - Will. H. - 24 - Mary Tom - m. ...

Catherine Ely ^{Davison} ~~_____~~ - Capt. Thomas W. Davison

- William Adair (Chief of messengers)
- Walter R. - Dr. C. C. Pepper
- Mattie Kate - Sarah E. Davis
- Howard - married Helen Leach
- Wesley Tom - T. H. Pepper



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

PETER A. BRANNON, DIRECTOR

MONTGOMERY 5, ALABAMA

29 March 1962

A 9 11

Mrs. Earl E. Erwin
303 Broadway
Birmingham 9, Alabama

Dear Mrs. Erwin:

With reference to your letter of March 27, 1962, in which you request several Confederate military records, the files of this department contain the following information.

L. W. Sloan, whose address was Scottsboro, Jackson County, Alabama, drew a pension for his service in the Confederate Army. His pension application certifies that he served as a Private in Company C, 28th Alabama Infantry Regiment, C.S.A. He enlisted September 17, 1861, at Paint Rock, Alabama, and was honorably discharged November 8, 1862. This record has been verified by the U. S. Adjutant General's Office.

Mrs. Mary Culpepper of Sumter County drew a pension as the widow of a Confederate soldier, James Culpepper. Her pension application certifies that her husband served as a Private in Company C, 40th Alabama Infantry Regiment, C.S.A. It also certifies that he died June 10, 1862. The Confederate military record of James Culpepper has been verified by the U. S. Adjutant General's Office.

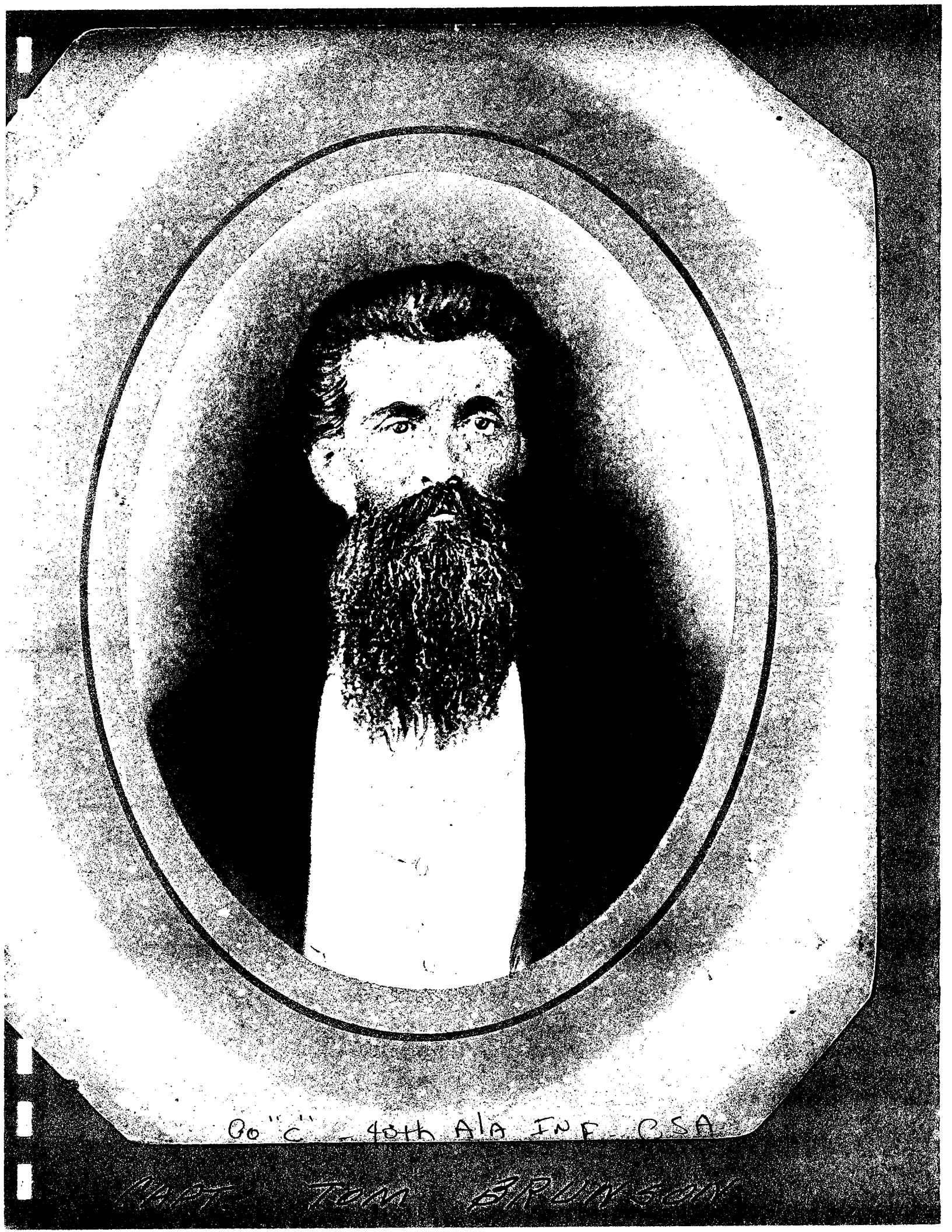
A muster in roll, dated at Livingston, Alabama, on March 15, 1862, shows Thomas H. Brunson, 2nd Lieutenant, Company C, 40th Alabama Infantry Regiment, C.S.A. He was from Sumter County, Alabama. A list of Confederate officers furnished this department by the Office of the U. S. Adjutant General in Washington shows Thomas H. Brunson, Captain, Company C, 40th Alabama Infantry Regiment, C.S.A.

Mrs. Emma Bettie, 500 Adams Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama, is a genealogist. We suggest that you write to her concerning the records you wish to have traced.

Very truly,

Peter A. Brannon
Director

ahl



Co "C" - 40th Ala INF CSA

MART TOM BRUNSON



ADRIAN BRUNSON, SON OF CAPT. TOM BRUNSON



Tandy Key Colpepper
Mary Tom Bronson Colpepper