

Branson magazine of genealogies, etc.

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# BRANSON FAMILY

IN

EUROPE AND AMERICA

WITH

## CONNECTIONS

EDITED BY

REV. LEVI BRANSON, A. B., A. M., D. D.

WITH

MANY ENGRAVINGS.

MOTTO:

"CONVICTION OF DUTY—FOLLOW."



RALEIGH, N. C.:

LEVI BRANSON, A. B., A. M., D. D., PUBLISHER

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MRS. MARINDA BRANSON MOORE.

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MRS. EMILY BRANSON MOORE.

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# PROSPECTUS, BRANSON MAGAZINE OF GENEALOGIES

Some twenty-five years ago I commenced to gather all the records possible of the Branson family. The work has been necessarily tedious until lately. Now I have in hand more or less data from twenty-two different States; much of it interesting as a novel.

Tradition says that three brothers came over from Nottingham, England about 1720 or 1730. They landed in New Jersey, near to Philadelphia. *One* of the brothers moved into Philadelphia, where many of the name are still living; a *second* brother moved to Ohio, and thence spread out over the West; a *third* brother moved to Virginia, then into North Carolina, and perhaps through the whole South.

The name is spelled in different ways by simply changing the vowel used; thus we have Branson, Brenson, Brinson, Bronson, Brunson and Brownson. Many family peculiarities go to show that all were originally of the same stock. Some of the name, it has been said, married descendants of Lord Antrim, of Ireland, who died a few years ago leaving \$80,000,000 to his descendants in America. We do not expect to get any of Lord Antrim's money, but we do want to know where we come from and whither we are going.

The MAGAZINE OF GENEALOGY will from time to time record what we can find out about the family in different parts of the world. Each number of the magazine will cost 25 cents, and will be sent as published, strictly to those who have paid for it in advance. I can do the *work* of compiling, but the *family* and *connections* must pay the cost of publishing. You can pay for one, two or more numbers in advance. You can have a cut of yourself (if a good one) inserted in the magazine if you will only send me a cut, or send a good cabinet photo with \$2.25 to pay expense of engraving. Respond promptly, and you will not be likely to regret it. Send all communications to

REV. LEVI BRANSON, D. D.,  
*Editor Magazine of Genealogies,*  
Raleigh, N. C.

N. B.—All subscribers to the magazine will be entitled to have their family records inserted free of cost (excepting the cost of cuts). Only a limited edition will be printed.



LEVI BRANSON.



JAMES WRIGHT MOORE.

*M. B. P. July 15 '88*

# BRANSON FAMILY — IN — EUROPE AND AMERICA.

Editorial Notes and Brief Biographies.



**SOLON CARY BRONSON,**

Professor of Practical Theology in Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Cook Co., Ill.

SOLON CARY BRONSON was born in West Union, Iowa, July, 1855. Shortly after the family moved to Fayette, Iowa, where the father, in addition to his ministerial duties, became interested in the creation and growth of the seminary, afterward known as the "Upper Iowa University." The subject of this sketch entered this institution at an early age, and graduated in 1875 in the classical course. He spent the three following years in attendance upon the Garrett Biblical Institute, at Evanston, Ill., graduating from that school in 1878. He entered the Upper Iowa Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the fall of 1878, and was stationed at Hopkinton, Iowa, the seat of the Lenox Collegiate Institute, a school of the Presby-

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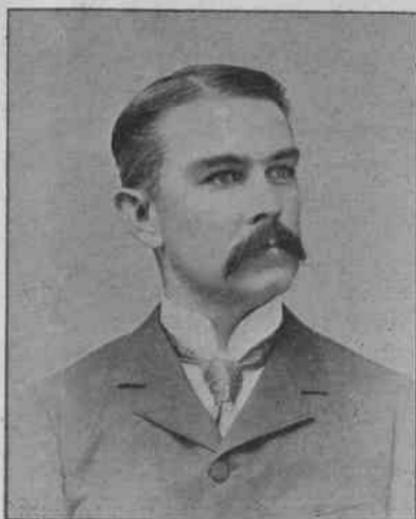
terian Church. In the fall of 1881, he was changed, by expiration of time, and stationed at Waterloo, Iowa. Here he also remained three years, when he was stationed at Toledo, Iowa, the seat of the Western College, an institution belonging to the United Brethren Church. Three years later (in 1887) he he was stationed at Clinton, Iowa, where he remained five years.

In the fall of 1892 he was transferred to the Iowa Conference and stationed at Burlington, Iowa; and from thence (in 1896) he was elected to the chair of Practical Theology in the Garrett Biblical Institute at Evanston, Cook county, Illinois. This is one of the best endowed Theological seminaries of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

In 1879 Mr. Bronson was married to Miss Frances Avann, of Brooklyn, Ohio, and to them have been born two daughters and two sons.

Mr. Bronson received his Master's degree from his *Alma Mater*, the Upper Iowa University, in 1881, and the degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him by the Institute with which he is now connected, in 1893.

In 1879 Mr. Bronson went abroad, making a brief but interesting study of the mission work of the city of London.



**WILLIAM H. BRANSON,**  
Secretary and Treasurer Pearl Mills and Durham Cotton Mfg. Co., Durham, N. C.



HON. NATHANIEL W. BRANSON,  
(Petersburg, Ill.)

HON. NATHANIEL W. BRANSON was born in Jacksonville, Ill., May 29, 1837. He studied law with D. A. & T. W. Smith, and was admitted to the Illinois bar at Jacksonville January 11, 1860. He located at Petersburg, Ill., March 9, 1860, where he has since resided. He was appointed Register in Bankruptcy in 1867 by Chief Justice Chase, and held the position until the repeal of the act, and during the last three or four years of the act was in charge of the bankruptcy business for the Southern District of Illinois at Springfield; was also a member of the 28th and 29th General Assemblies of this State in 1873 and 1875. Having served with him during these four years we know whereof we speak when we say he was among the ablest, clearest-headed, most painstaking and valuable members of the law-makers at that time. He served as trustee of the Institution for the Blind from 1877 to 1893 and was again appointed in 1897.

Judge Branson was Master Commissioner in many of the most important railroad cases in the United States Circuit Court for the Southern District of Illinois, and in several cases in the several cases in the United States Circuit Court for the Northern.

He was an all-round lawyer and not confined to any particular class of cases. He was engaged as counsel in the following cases of note: *People v. Orrin A. Carpenter* for murder; Petersburg, Ills., *People v. Charles Houlden*, murder; *Fisher v. Chicago & Alton R. R. Co.*, case; *Carter v. Wynne et al.*, chancery.

In politics he is a staunch Republican; in religion a Presbyterian. He married Fannie D. Regnier of Petersburg, in February, 1861. They have one son and one daughter—Edward R. and Ellen R.

As a citizen, lawyer or friend Mr. Branson has few equals.

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#### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF MRS. MARINDA BRANSON MOORE.

MARINDA BRANSON MOORE, wife of J. W. Moore of Rockingham County, died in great peace and triumph on Monday evening the 27th of June, 1864. She was in her 35th year, and seemed to be just entering a field of extensive usefulness.

*Early training.*—Her parents, William and Martha Branson, gave her, in early life, the very best mental and religious training for the times and the country in which they lived. At a very early age, a more than usually active mind was discovered, and this was cultivated as carefully and rapidly as possible. Her religious training was in the hands of one of the noblest and most pious of all mothers—a mother who but lately passed into the portals of glory, the first and best of a happy family. Her classic education was commenced under Mrs. Whitney, at the age of thirteen, and finished at Greensboro Female College in 1854.

*Conversion.*—Here is an example in favor of early conversion, and also in favor of campmeeting religion. Mrs. Moore was converted, I believe in her eleventh year during a very glorious campmeeting at Franklinville church, and seemed never afterwards to have lost the knowledge of her

acceptance with God. She loved campmeetings and always labored in such revival seasons with great zeal and success, especially among the children and youth.

*As a Teacher.*—Early in life, Mrs. Moore engaged in the holy cause of teaching; for some years she held the principalship of Gen Anna Seminary, with marked ability and usefulness, which was then under the patronage of our Reverend and zealous brother, Charles F. Deems, D. D. She afterwards maintained, as long as health permitted, a seminary at the residence of her husband, and by her extraordinary zeal, accomplished very much for the cause of Female Education, and especially among the indigent classes.

*As a Pious Writer.*—Sister Moore has been widely known for the last ten years in all the principal religious papers and periodicals of the country. Some of her articles, in the *Home Circle*, and other Literaries, have been copied frequently into other papers. During the last twelve months, she prepared the Dixie series of school books which are extensively known through the country. She leaves a private journal and many valuable manuscripts.

*As a Wife and Mother.*—She left many pleasant remembrances in the hearts of her friends, and her three little girls are beautiful evidences of a wife's care and mother's piety.

*Her Faith.*—Was always of the heroic kind. A short time ago when we were all deeply bereaved she comforted us by relating an incident of her childhood as follows:

"When I was a small girl, mother was greatly afflicted and we thought she would soon die and leave all of us, then little children. I prayed earnestly that she might be spared to raise her children, and God has answered my petitions."

Thus she was accustomed to *pray* for what she desired, and thus *believed*, and thus her *faith* was often amply rewarded.

*Her Patriotism.*—Few ladies felt and expressed a more ardent love of country—a love that extended to all the varied interests of the people, whether of the poor at home, the

brave ones in the field, or, of the future piety and happiness of the populace. Her letters to friends in the army, breathed the holiest fires of Christian patriotism. She often prayed for the preservation of our brothers in battle, always adding "if their lives be not a necessary sacrifice on the altars of our country."

*Social Excellency.*—The many ministers and others who partook of her splendid hospitality, will testify long years to come of her *social excellence*. Husband, and children, friends and even strangers were always cheerful and hopeful in her presence.

*Her Afflictions.*—Were protracted, and she was long apprised of approaching dissolution, but such was her tenderness to the loved ones around her, that she refrained from speaking of death often lest they might be grieved and afflicted. Probably afflictions were never rendered more servicable to working out "an eternal weight of glory."

*Triumphant Death.*—To live great and good, signifies but little if we die in defeat. More bravery is required in *dying* than in *fighting*—This frail sister fought *well* but died *gloriously*; with *her*, life was a *victory*, but death a *triumph*. Many friends gathered around to witness her last conflict. Every earthly comfort was extended to the body, and the kindest words fell softly upon the dying ear. In the morning she said, "I am *becoming* reconciled to leave my little girls." Also, soon after, she said, "I am *reconciled*." There was now no care left on her heart.

Sister Anderson remarked, "*Sister Moore, I shall miss you so much.*" This was her happy response, "Sister, If I am permitted, I'll be your *guardian angel*." Thus sweetly she talked while the voice lasted, then signaled victory long after entering the valley of the shadow of death. Thus our sister in *life*, in *death*, and in *heaven*, sweetly beckons us to the glory land.

LEVI BRANSON.

FROM ROBERT NEWTON BRANSON, SANDY BOTTOMS,  
MADISON COUNTY, N. C.

[I have heard my father relate many incidents relative to the Branson family coming to America, their struggles, etc.; but suffice it to say, our first American foreparent, Michael Branson, was a son of a widow ~~woman~~ in England, who became so infatuated by the description of the then new world that he determined at all hazards to go to America, and to the colony (or territory) of Virginia. His mother bitterly opposed it, and although a woman of means, she refused to supply him with money to pay his passage; but to America he was determined to go, and to America he went, and worked seven years to pay for his passage; after which he made money very fast, bought a beautiful piece of land on a river, married, and was blessed with only one son. He and his wife died while his boy was too small to remember. His wife's people took possession of the little boy and the property, also kept him in ignorance of his heirship. My great grandfather (or one of his brothers then living in Pittsylvania county, Va.) started to the place where the land was, to enter suit for the land. In the meantime there was a beautiful growing town being built on the land in dispute, but on the way he was taken down sick—concluded that his sickness was sent upon him as a judgment—turned around and went back home. The suit was never prosecuted.

My father could give all the names of men and places, but I was then a thoughtless boy, and forgot them. I can only give the name of my grandfather, Michael, which you will find in the record which I send you. I have Branson connection in Tennessee, Missouri, Indiana and Arkansas, and I understand in Dakota and Kentucky.

I have never seen any of my father's people, except one uncle and aunt. My father, Rev. Luke L. Branson, came

from Pittsylvania county, Va., (where he was born and raised) about the year 1830, as a school teacher. He married in 1834, and commenced preaching the Gospel the same year as a Baptist minister.]

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#### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF WILLIAM BRANSON.

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William Branson was born in Randolph county, N. C., near Ashboro, March the 25th, 1804, and died at his residence near Trinity College, August the 7th, 1879, aged 75 years, 4 months and 13 days. At the age of 24 he married Martha Nance, 18 years old, a lady of fine natural mind and a warm hearted Methodist.

Under the genial influence of the wife, the husband soon professed religion and became an active member of the Methodist Church. His house was always the preacher's home. As a class-leader, a steward, a tent holder, at the great campmeetings of former days, he was always prominent. He raised nine children, all of whom became members of the Methodist Church at early ages.

Though not classically educated himself, he was a great reader and a devoted friend of education. Few men have filled the measure of a long life more faithfully. His death bed was surrounded by the deepest sympathy, and tenderest care of a large circle of friends. None doubted his entire fitness for the change. His second marriage was a judicious and happy Union. A devoted wife and six surviving children mourn his absence, but confidently expect to see him again on the golden shore. Dr. Craven preached the funeral at Trinity College to a large audience of friends and neighbors.

At Hopeful Church near Trinity College, beside "mother" and two sons (my brothers) peacefully sleep the ashes of a good man—my father. LEVI BRANSON.

## EDITORIAL.

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The Bransons will please *realize* that, as *Collector, Compiler, Editor and Publisher* of the BRANSON MAGAZINE OF GENEALOGIES, I have now on my hands a very *tedious* and *laborious* task. As a rule, the American people have paid very little attention to Genealogies. Perhaps this was to have been expected in a country so young as ours; then the rapid movements of families from place to place, and from State to State, make it very difficult to find even the records that have been carefully made by the better classes. However, the time has now come when we *must*, in self-interest, put our genealogies in print.

Contrary to all my early belief, I now find the Branson family to be a very large one, extending into almost every class of society. The earlier Bransons that came to America seem to have been Quakers. As a rule they have been a religious people. I have not found any cases of high crime, and only one instance where man and wife separated. At least four of the Bransons were killed in the last war—some on each side.

I am trying to bring to light such facts as will be good for all citizens, as well as for our own family.

I earnestly invoke the *aid* and good *sympathy* of every *Branson* and every *connection* of the family in my arduous work. I am publishing the book in Magazine form, so that all facts may be recorded as fast as they come to hand.

LEVI BRANSON,  
Raleigh, N. C.

RALEIGH, N. C.,  
May 1, 1897.

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### ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS BOOK.

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b. for born. d. for died. s. for son, dau. for daughter. æ. for age. • m. for married. bap. for baptized. Dea. for deacon. S. P. for (*Sine Prole*) without issue.

NORTH CAROLINA BRANCH  
OF THE  
BRANSON FAMILY.

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1. THOMAS BRANSON, it is said, came from England and settled in Chatham County, N. C., near the Randolph County line, about the year 1700. He had two sons, Levi and Eli—perhaps other children.

2. ELI—The younger, was a patriot at the Battle of the Regulators in Alamance County, N. C., May 16, 1771. Thinking the cause was lost with that battle, he joined the Torys, went back to England, married again, returned to America, after the war, and settled at Ninety-Six, S. C., about the year 1790.

3. LEVI BRANSON—The elder son of Thomas Branson, was born in the year 1732. He lived about five miles south of Asheboro, Randolph County, N. C.

CHILDREN.

4. *Thomas.*
5. *Joseph*, lived near Rocky River, N. C.
6. *Henry*, who married a Miss Cox.
7. *Levi*, who married Grace Fruit.
8. *Abner*, lived in Chatham County, N. C.
9. *Eli.*
10. *Lydia*, who married Wm. Cox, and lived at Holly Springs, N. C.
11. *Rebecca*, who married Thomas Pugh, on Rocky River, N. C.
12. *Mary*, was never married; died in old age at Sandy Creek, N. C.
13. ———, another sister, married William Coltrane, near New Market, Randolph County, N. C.

14. ———, another son, lived in Chatham County—a shoemaker by trade.

NOTE.—One account is that one of the brothers stopped with his family in Virginia, as the family was coming on from Ireland, and that later on this family went to Ohio.

15. HENRY BRANSON (6).—Son of Levi, son of Thomas, married a Miss Cox; lived on Little River, about ten miles south of Asheboro, N. C.; represented Randolph County in the Legislature from 1792 to 1797; then was State Senator for four years (1801 to 1804). He was a member of the Friends' Church.

He moved to Fayetteville, N. C., and was actively engaged in opening up Deep River to navigation. He was a more than usually active man for that day and time.

## CHILDREN.

16. *Nathan*, b. 1788.  
 17. *Mary*, m. Samuel Hill 1790, of Randolph County, 1792.  
 18. *Jane*, m. Mr. Grant.  
 19. *Rebecca*, ———, b. 1795.  
 20. *Lydia*, m. Mr. Hussey, 1800.  
 21. *Henry*, b. 1801, and d. in Fayetteville about 1875.  
 22. *Hannah*, b. 1802.  
 23. *Wm. Cox*, b. 1804.  
 24. *Abner*, b. 1808.

25. LEVI BRANSON (7).—Son of Levi, son of Thomas, was born five miles south of Asheboro, N. C., married *Grace Fruit*.—Lived and d. on Little River.

## CHILDREN.

26. *Elizabeth*, b. January 18, 1798; m. William Hammond; raised a large family.  
 27. *Thomas*, b. March 18, 1800, m. Mary Lewellyn; (2) m. Mrs. Preston.  
 28. *John*, b. March 12, 1802; d. young.

29. *William*, b. March 25, 1804; m. Martha Nance.  
 30. *Mary*, b. June 7, 1806; d. young.  
 31. *Sybil*, b. February 23; d. young.  
 32. *Eli*, b. July 9, 1808; m. Mary Hill; died 1888.  
 33. *Rebecca*, b. Oct. 9, 1813; m. Thomas Walker; d. leaving one dau., Eliza Walker.

THOMAS BRANSON (27.)—Son of Levi, son of Levi, son of Thomas, was born near Asheboro; married Mary Lewellyn—(2.) Mrs. Preston.

## CHILDREN.

34. *Susan*, m. Fuller Rush.  
 35. *Eli*, m. Jane Woody; lived in Augusta, Ga., many years.  
 36. *Rebecca*, m. Solomon Dixon, of Alamance County, Snow Camp.  
 37. *Sallie*, d. in early womanhood.

NOTE.—She was a brunette—a most beautiful woman. This cast occasionally crops out in the Branson family.

38. *Henry*, d. in early manhood, somewhere in Georgia, of fever.  
 39. *John*, lived in Augusta, Ga.; m.; d. leaving one son, D. Clifford—now a traveller on the Continent.  
 40. *Elizabeth*, m. Mr. Moffit, and afterwards Mr. Durham; has several children.  
 41. *William H.*, m. Clara Sargent, of Greensboro, N. C.; resides in Durham, N. C., (1898.) His mother was Mrs. Preston, the second wife of Thomas Branson, only issue from this union.

WILLIAM BRANSON (29.)—Son of Levi, son of Levi, son of Thomas; was born five miles south of Asheboro, N. C., March 25, 1804; died at Trinity College, 1879; m. Martha Nance, who was born 1810; died 1864; m. (2) Samila Nance.

## CHILDREN.

42. *Marinda*, b. Dec. 16, 1829; d. 1864; m. J. W. Moore; was the author of "Dixie Geography," and several other works.
43. *Levi*, b. Feb. 5, 1832.
44. *Emily*, b. Jan. 19, 1834; d. 1896; m. J. W. Moore, (second).
45. *Grace Ann*, b. March 9, 1836; m. Lewis Gaston Tysor, of Chatham County; d. ———.
46. *Thomas Allen*, b. Feb. 5, 1838; d. Aug. 21, 1864; (killed in battle).
47. *Priscilla*, b. Aug. 8, 1840; living at Asheboro, N. C.; m. Enos T. Blair, near Trinity College.
48. *Isaac Newton*, b. March 2, 1843; d. 1866; was a soldier, and surrendered at Appomattox. ✓
49. *Sarah Lovinia*, b. Nov., 1845; d. ———; m. Patrick S. Williams, of Rockingham County; issue four children, (second m. Samila Nance) issue.
50. *Martha Luella*, b. ———; d. ———.

ELI BRANSON (32).—Son of Levi, son of Levi, son of Thomas; was born on Little River, Randolph County, N. C.; was born July 9, 1808, and died 1888; married Mary Hill.

## CHILDREN.

51. *Sybil*, m. William Hocket.
52. *Aaron*, d. in early manhood.
53. *John*, d. young.
54. *Elizabeth*, d. young.
55. *Margaret*, m. Rev. Jeremiah Cox; lives in Greensboro, N. C.
56. *Levi T.*, m. a Vuncannon; lives at the old homestead, and has a large and interesting family of children.
57. *Clarkston*, d. young.
58. *Henry*, d. young.

59. *Mary*, m. Mr. Vancannon.

60. *Unis*, m. Mr. Bingham.

HENRY BRANSON (21).—Son of Henry, son of Levi, son of Thomas; born January, 1801; died about 1875 at residence in Fayetteville, N. C.; married.

## CHILDREN.

61. *Nathan*, b. Nov. 17, 1821.

62. *William*, b. Dec. 14, 1823.

In middle life, moved to Richmond, Indiana—had a wife and children.

63. *Penelope*, d. young.

NATHAN BRANSON (61).—Son of Henry, son of Henry, son of Levi, son of Thomas; born Nov. 17, 1821, and married his cousin, Martha McIver; spent nearly three years (1845–1848) on whaling vessel, schooner Robin Hood; his journal, neatly kept for each day, is still extant; lived and died in Fayetteville, N. C.

## CHILDREN.

64. *Janie*.

65. *Lilly*.

66. *May*.

The widow and daughters moved to Chicago about 1870, some of them afterwards went to Kansas City.

THOMAS ALLEN BRANSON (46).—Son of William, son of Levi, son of Levi, son of Thomas; was born Feb. 5, 1838; killed in battle Aug. 21, 1864; married Elizabeth Gordon Sthreshly, of Stafford County, Va., in Feb., 1864; died without issue. His widow afterwards married Col. Hyman, of Washington, D. C.; now living in San Francisco, Cal. (1898).

✓ LEVI BRANSON (43).—Son of William, son of Levi, son of Levi, son of Thomas, was born Feb. 5, 1832, near White House P. O., Randolph County, N. C.; married Edith Ann Sarah Cuninggin, of Green County, N. C., Nov. 18, 1858, who was born Oct. 23, 1836.

## CHILDREN.

67. *Walter Cuninggim*, b. Dec. 30, 1859; d. Aug. 21, 1860.
68. *Eugene Cuninggim*, b. Aug. 6, 1861; living.
69. *Ernest Cuninggim*, b. Aug. 16, 1863; d. 1864.
70. *Thomas Cuninggim*, b. Feb. 24; 1865, d. Oct. 23, 1865.
71. *Lillian Cuninggim*, b. April 2, 1866; m. Rev. Geo. T. Simmons.
72. *Edith Myrtle Cuninggim*, b. Nov. 9, 1867; m. J. Quinton Adams, a photographer, and lives in Atlanta, Ga.
73. *Daisy Cuninggim*, b. Nov. 6, 1872; now living (1898).

EUGENE CUNINGGIM BRANSON (68).—Was born at Morehead City, N. C., Aug. 6, 1861, and brought up in Raleigh, N. C.; has diplomas from Trinity College, N. C., and from Peabody Normal College, Nashville, Tenn.; married (1) Ewing Connon, of Murfreesboro, Tenn., June 29, 1886; (2) Lottie Lanier, of West Point, Ga., Sep. 27, 1888; issue from second union; now holds the Chair of Pedagogy in the Georgia State Normal College at Athens, Ga.; has made reputation as a teacher, lecturer, writer and author.

(Ewing Cannon Branson, first wife of Eugene C., died of typhoid fever in Athens, Ga., Sep. 4, 1886.)

## CHILDREN.

74. *Frank Lanier*, b. Athens, Ga., Oct. 4, 1889.
75. *Edith Lanier*.
76. *Phillip Lanier*.

LILLIAN CUNINGGIM (BRANSON) SIMMONS (68).—Dau. of Levi Branson, son of William, son of Levi, son of Levi, son of Thomas; was born at Raleigh, N. C., April 2, 1866; was married May 1, 1889, to Rev. Geo. T. Simmons, of the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

## CHILDREN.

77. *Edith Branson*, b. June 15, 1890.  
 78. *Florence*, d. in childhood.  
 79. *Geo. T., Jr.*, b. Dec. 25, 1896; d. in childhood, 1897.  
 Also *Bernard L.* b March 1900 & *Eugene B.* born Feb 1910

EDITH MYRTLE CUNINGGIM (BRANSON) (72) ADAMS.—  
 Dau. of Levi, son of William, son of Levi, son of Levi, son of Thomas; was born at Raleigh, N. C., Nov. 9, 1867; was married to J. Quinton Adams, of Lynchburg, Va., Nov. 17, 1892. Mr. Adams is a photographer, and lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

80. MICHAEL BRANSON.—(Father of Rev. Luke Laban Branson, of Western N. C.); married Mary Witcher in Pittsylvania County, Va.

It was this Michael's father, or one of his brothers, who is referred to by Robert Newton Branson on page 11 of this book.

✓ NOTE.—It is very important to be able to trace this family further back to its connection with the Stafford County, Va., Branch. It has been also suggested that Michael Branson may have come directly from the old country.

81. REV. LUKE LABAN BRANSON, son of Michael Branson, and Mary, was born on Friday, Sept. 2, 1808, in Pittsylvania County, Va.; moved to Madison County, N. C., about 1830, and d. July 19, 1873. Maliuda Bryan (daughter of Lewis Bryan and Judith, his wife,) was born, on Monday, Dec. 7, 1812, and married to Rev. Luke Laban Branson January 14, 1834.

## CHILDREN.

82. *George Wiley*, b. Saturday, Dec. 11, 1834; d. March 27, 1852.  
 83. *Wm. Hinton*, b. June 9, 1836; m. Nancy Jane Jeffries, of Sullivan County, Ind., Dec., 1866.  
 84. *Nancy Emeline*, b. May 16, 1883; m. to Jackson E. Commons about 1860, who d. 1864. She afterwards m. Geo. Ellington—d. Aug., 1877.

85. *Lewis Bryan*, b. Saturday, Feb. 15, 1840; m. Ann Eliza Hebron, of Sullivan County, Ind., 1868.
86. *Johnathan Larry*, b. Monday, Feb. 20, 1846; d. Sept. 14, 1876.
87. *Judith Elizabeth*, b. Friday, Feb. 20, 1846; m. William E. Eller Dec., 1867.
88. *Narcissa Jane*, b. Thursday, March 28, 1848; d. Dec. 7, 1848.
89. *Mary Malinda*, b. Dec. 6, 1849; m. James Rector, Jan., 1867; d. April 27, 1892.
90. *Robert Newton*, b. Wednesday, Feb. 11, 1852; m. Lydia Margaret Griffin, April 14, 1877.
91. *Martha Amarinta*, b. Friday, April 7, 1854; m. John T. Holcombe, 1875; d. Dec. 18, 1880.

ROBERT NEWTON BRANSON (90) was born Wednesday, Feb. 11, 1852, in Madison County, N. C., the son of Rev. Luke Laban Branson, son of Michael; m. Lydia M. Griffin, dau. of Edward Griffin, who was born Jan. 12, 1851, and was married to Robert Newton Branson April 14, 1877. The family now live at Sandy Bottoms, Madison County, N. C.

## CHILDREN.

92. *Alvin Larry*, b. Jan. 27, 1878.
93. *Oscar Vernon*, b. April 18, 1879.
94. *Minnie Alice*, b. July 14, 1880.
95. *Lillie Blanche*, b. July 10, 1882.
96. *Frank William Grover*, b. July 3, 1884.
97. *John Robert*, b. Aug. 29, 1886.
98. *Sarah Malinda*, b. March 26, 1889.

99. ELI BRANSON came from England, and settled on James River, Va., about 1760.

100. LEVI BRANSON came with his brother Eli (99), and also settled on James' River, Va., at the same time.

LEVI BRANSON (100) afterwards came into North Carolina, Guilford Courthouse (Greensboro), and married into a



Quaker family—Rhoda Ballenger. This couple went to Jefferson County, Tenn., and had fifteen children. Several died in childhood, and several went West.

101. REBECCA, m. John Vance, and lived and d. in Jefferson County, Tenn. They left a number of children who all married and did well.

102. LEVI BRANSON, son of (100) Levi, was b. and reared in Jefferson County, Tenn. He traveled through many of the Southern States about the year 1835; m. Jane Wilson in Abbeville, S. C., March 11, 1838; her mother was Agnes Milhollin, who m. Matthew Wilson, in County Antrim, Ireland, and she was a niece of Lord Antrim, who put her in a convent, and kept her there for many a day, trying to force her to marry an old Irish lord<sup>7</sup> who had money. This uncle had all my grandmother's property. Her father was dead, and his will said she was to marry to please this uncle, or he was to inherit all she had. She made her escape by tearing up the sheets and tying them to a bedpost, and getting out of a window of an upper story, then running away with my grandfather, Matthew Wilson. This uncle (Lord Antrim) allowed her 25 pounds a year after her marriage. She remained in Ireland two years, then came over to America, and landing at Charleston, leaving her 25 pounds a year.

#### CHILDREN.

103. *John C.*, m. E. M. Reynolds. He lived and died in Bartow County, Ga. He was a lawyer, was a member of the Legislature from Bartow County, and was also County Judge the second time. He died in 1888, from a cancer on his mouth, caused by the continual use of cigars.
104. *S. S.*, lives at Hacket City, Arkansas.
105. *W. P.*, lives in Texas.
106. *R. M.*, lives in Indian Territory.
107. *Rev. A. M. R.*, lives at Cotton Plant, Arkansas.
108. *Maggie A. (Reynolds)*, lives at Rome, Ga.

Second m. Mrs. Mull who had one child; said child is Dr. J. E. Mull, of Floyd County, Ga.

## CHILDREN OF SECOND UNION.

109. *Thomas Jefferson*, b. 1878; lives in Shannon, Ga.  
 110. *Fred P.*, b. 1880; lives Fort Valley, Ga.  
 111. *Miss Jessie*, b. 1882; Fort Valley, Ga.

NOTE.—This account of Eli and Levi Branson and descendants was furnished to me this year by Mrs. Maggie A. Reynolds, of Rome, Ga., daughter of Judge Levi Branson (102).

Mrs. Reynolds also informs me that we have some relations in South Carolina, who are descendents of

112. DR. ELI BRANSON. The records of this family are not yet to hand.—EDITOR.

113. BENJAMIN BRANSON lived in Alamance County, N. C.; was born about 1810; m. and raised a family; time of his death not known.

## CHILDREN.

114. *Abner Marsh*, b. June 17, 1832; d. May 9, 1871.  
 115. *Mary*, m. William Pickard.  
 116. *Rebecca*, m. Mr. Stafford.  
 117. *Eliza*, m. Mr. Allen.  
 118. *Jane*, m. Mr. Boggs.  
 119. *Daniel*, m. Julia Coble.  
 120. *Eli*, no record.  
 121. *Levi*, d. from wounds received in the war.

ABNER MARSH BRANSON (114) was born in Chatham County, N. C., June 17, 1832; moved to Moore County about the year 1852; he was Clerk of the Court for thirteen years; married Martha McNeill January 18, 1857, and d. May 9, 1871.

## CHILDREN.

122. *Walter Henry*, b. Nov. 18, 1858; m. Angie Poe, of Fayetteville, N. C., Dec. 20, 1894; lives in Carthage, N. C.

123. *Fannie Elvira*, b. Aug. 28, 1862; m. J. B. Shaw Dec. 25, 1884; he died, leaving her with two children, a son and a daughter.

124. SARAH (BRANSON) PARKS, of North Hero, Vt., was born Feb. 17, 1831, and m. to William E. Parks, son of Elihu and Hannah (Kingsley), b. April 19, 1830; d. July 20, 1849.

## CHILDREN.

125. *William Glenford (Parks)*, b. June 3, 1850; d. Dec. 5, 1862.  
 126. *Lewis Irford*, b. Oct. 23, 1852, d. Dec. 7, 1862.  
 127. *Ruth Elvira*, b. Nov. 25, 1855; m. April 19, 1874.  
 128. *Willis Drake*, of Burke, N. Y.  
 129. *Adelia May*, b. Feb. 7, 1859; m. Dec. 8, 1879.

130. ADELIA MAY PARKS (129), m. Solomon J. McNall, of Plattsburg, N. Y.; ———

## CHILDREN.

131. *Jesse Hazen (McNall)*, b. March 5, 1864; d. Aug. 30, 1865.  
 132. *Jesse Guy*, b. June 20, 1866; d. Oct. 17, 1873.  
 133. *Erford Milton*, b. July 25, 1869.  
 134. *Glenford Milan*, b. July 25, 1869; d. June 20, 1870.  
 135. *Fred Hadley*, b. June 25, 1871.  
 136. *Lillie Belle*, b. May 19, 1876.

137. REBECCA (BRANSON) DIXON (36), m. Solomon Dixon, of Snow Camp, Alamance County, N. C. They are members of the Friends Church.

## CHILDREN.

138. *Mary Frances*, m. J. R. Coble, and d. leaving four little girls, three of whom are living.  
 139. *Julia*, m. Oliver Kirkman, who died and left her with two little boys, who are now grown young men, and live with their mother in Tennessee.

140. *Jennie*, m. W. P. Stout. They have six children, and live at Snow Camp, N. C.
141. *Sallie*, m. T. Hornady, who is a telegraph operator, and lives at Pinnacle Station, N. C., on the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railroad. To them was born one son.

142. WILLIAM BRANSON, of Illinois, father of Judge Nathaniel W. Branson, was born Nov., 1811; d. June 8, 1894; m. Jane Cooledge, who was born about 1817, and d. May 5, 1886, and m. to William Branson May 25, 1835.

## CHILDREN.

143. *Nathaniel W.*, b. May 29, 1837; living (1898).
144. *Fannie D. Regnier*, b. Oct. 29, 1836; m. to Nathaniel W. Branson, Feb. 21, 1861.

## CHILDREN OF NATHANIEL W.

145. *Ella R.*, b. Sept. 11, 1870.
146. *Edward R.*, b. June 15, 1875.

147. ZEBULON BRANSON, son of John Branson, was born June 20, 1818, near Chillicothe, Ohio, Ross County, at the town of Kinnikinnick; moved with parents to Sangamon County, Illinois, in 1823; married Aug. 6, 1840.

His wife, Rachael Brancher, elder child of Isaac R. Brancher, was born March 10, 1821, in Pickaway County, Ohio; moved with her parents to Sangamon County, Ill., Oct. 1835. The family moved to Fulton County, Ill., where they lived until 1883, when they moved to Lincoln, Neb. Zebulon Branson, in Aug., 1862, enlisted in the 103d Regiment, Co. "T," Volunteer Infantry, U. S. A. (private). He was killed at the battle of Kennesaw Mountain, Ga., at the assault or charge made on the morning of the 27th of June, 1864, commanding Co. B. as Captain. From private he became Second Lieutenant of Co. "T"; when killed was commanding Co. "B," as Captain.

The Confederate troops held the field until about July 3d or 4th, and he was buried with the unknown. His remains now lie at the "*National Cemetery*," Marietta, Ga.

## CHILDREN.

148. *A son*, b. June 14, 1841; d. June, 15, 1841.  
 149. *Mary Ann*, born May 7, 1842; d. Nov. 8, 1842.  
 150. *Emily*, b. Oct. 29, 1843.  
 151. *John*, b. Aug. 17, 1846; d. Nov. 27, 1847.  
 152. *Caroline*, b. May 26, 1848.  
 153. *Still born*, Jan. 27, 1850.  
 154. *Isaac Riedaffer*, b. Jan. 28, 1851.  
 155. *Charles Marion*, b. July 19, 1853.  
 156. *Susan Rachel*, b. Sept. 16, 1855; d. April 4, 1860.  
 157. *Henry Clay*, b. June 25, 1857; d. Sept. 3, 1859.  
 158. *Zebulon Seigle*, b. March 25, 1862.

## BIOGRAPHY OF MARTHA BRANSON.

Died in Randolph County, N. C., near Trinity College, on the 8th of February, 1864, Mrs. MARTHA BRANSON, wife of William Branson (29), aged 54 years.

Her disease was congestive fever; after a severe illness of five days, she passed without a struggle into the Spirit land. She had been afflicted with disease of the liver for several years, and suffered more than tongue can tell, and often remarked "that she would not be with us long." She was, however, generally cheerful, and we naturally clung to life for her, hoping she would survive yet many years to distill precious words of consolation into our ears as we plod along life's rugged path. But, alas! in an unexpected hour, God, in His Providence, saw fit to call her away from the sorrows, the afflictions, the anxieties, consequent to this life, to dwell with Him in everlasting bliss.

She embraced religion in the fifteenth year of her age, and joined the M. E. Church, after which she always reverently performed her religious duties, both public and

private *first*, then carefully studied the comfort of her family and friends.

Often did her willing hands relieve the needy, and her gentle words comfort the distressed. She was very energetic, always laboring for the good of humanity. She loved the Word of God, the Church, and almost idolized the ministers of the Gospel.

A few months prior to her death she manifested deep concern for the spiritual welfare of her family, especially her sons in the army. In a word, her whole life was devoted to the cause of Christ, her example was indeed worthy of imitation.

She leaves a husband and eight children to mourn the first link broken in the chain which bound one of the happiest families in existence. But although there is left in our hearts a void that can never be filled, and we weep as we never wept before when we remember "We have no mother now;" we would not recall her to suffer and die again.

She left no dying testimony save her pure life, which is enough to satisfy us that she has found rest for the aching head and anxious heart. Yes, rest for the weary soul!

Oh! may we all be guided by her pious example and angelic spirit into the Haven of eternal repose, where we shall see her and never weep again. A DAUGHTER.

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#### DEATH OF MISS ELLA BRANSON.

MISS ELLA BRANSON (50), one of our most esteemed young people, died at her home on Monday. Her death created much surprise. Although she was known to be very ill, her friends did not think her end so near. Miss Branson was in the bloom of young womanhood and a universal favorite. Her charm of manner, her modest deportment and her bright, useful life was inseparable from every glimpse or recollection of her. The inexorable fever was peculiarly pitiless that consumed her young life. To say

that our community was shocked as the dreaded news reached our different homes is to express only the truth. We all feel that we have sustained a great loss—a loss which it will be impossible to supply. We tender our sympathy not only to the aged mother and other relatives, but to our city in this untimely demise.

Miss Branson's funeral was preached from the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in High Point, on Tuesday by the pastor, Rev. J. W. Jones. His talk was peculiarly tender, and was varied by the reading of resolutions of respect from the Home Lyceum, the Y. W. C. T. U., and the Methodist Sunday-school, of all these she was a member. A large number of our citizens attended—the Lyceum and the Y's attended in a body. Six of our leading young men acted as pallbearers.

#### OBITUARY.

ENOS TOMLINSON BLAIR was born near Trinity College, Randolph County, N. C., November 27th, 1828, and departed this life December 12th, 1891, being 59 years and 15 days old.

He was united in holy matrimony to Miss Priscilla Branson (47), Randolph County, N. C., May 26, 1868, with whom he lived in happy wedlock until death parted them.

Bro. Blair joined the M. E. Church, South, on profession of faith in the spring of 1880, under the ministry of Rev. B. Craven, D. D.

He was raised among the Society of Friends, and always afterwards had a warm attachment for them, but when he came to make a profession of his faith in Christ and joined the Methodist Church, he entered the church with his beloved wife.

Bro. Blair was patient in his sufferings, and seemed fully resigned to God's will in the matter. I visited him often as his pastor and conversed freely with him about his condition, and always found him trusting in his blessed Saviour, and was present when he breathed his last, and saw him "fall asleep in Jesus,"

"Asleep in Jesus, blessed sleep,  
From which none ever wakes to weep."

J. W. JONES.

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...OF...



# Genealogies

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EDITED BY

Rev. LEVI BRANSON, A. B., A. M., D. D.



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1899

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1899

## HENRY A. WISE ON CHIMNEY ROCK

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### What Virginia's Former Governor Said of this Famous North Carolina Crag

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In the midst of one of his impassioned speeches years ago during the "Know Nothing" campaign, the late Henry A. Wise, formerly Governor of Virginia, and perhaps its most eloquent orator, stretched himself to his full height and exclaimed: "Those mountains which lift their hands to milk the clouds." The old chap was without doubt referring to Chimney Rock. His index finger was pointing directly at Chimney Rock. Henry A. Wise is dead. But Chimney Rock still lives. Henry A. Wise is immortal. So is Chimney Rock. Chimney Rock is one of the boldest of American crags. The Seaboard Air Line will take you there. It is only seventeen miles beyond Rutherfordton. Railroad tickets good over the stage line. The ride is one of phenomenal grandeur. The inns are set cozily in the recesses of the wild mountain range. One dollar to two dollars per day. The beds are clean. The food is plentiful and toothsome. The pools are solitary and cool and glistening with speckled trout. The leafage of the steeps is a ceaseless study and solace and stimulant. The summer thermometer does light duty, having a "beat" of only from 60 to 81. This means deep sleep by night and long climbing walks by day. Everybody wants to walk. But Henry A. Wise said it all. Summer tourist rates from all parts of North Carolina. Don't miss it, men and brethren. Inquire of all Agents. Kick if everything is not perfectly comfortable. Watch the baby get well. Watch the boy from college get tough as a hickory. If Chimney Rock is anything, it is a place to set the family up against the fall. Excursion tickets on sale at all Seaboard Air Line ticket offices to Chimney Rock and return at greatly reduced rates.

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### The Summer Season Should be Taken with a Grain of Salt.

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The way to the seaside is by the Seaboard Air Line. Saturday and Sunday excursions from May 20th to September 24th to Virginia Beach, Ocean View, and Old Point Comfort, round trip \$3.50 via Seaboard Air Line. Tickets will be on sale Saturdays and Sundays, good to return following Monday, from Raleigh, Roanoke, Durham, Lewiston and intermediate points.



REV. ALEXANDER McDUFFIE REID BRANSON,  
OF COTTON PLANT, ARKANSAS,

Itinerant Methodist Preacher—Author of a Book of Sermons, etc., etc.

George E. Terry.  
Nath'l R. Bronson.

LAW OFFICES OF TERRY AND BRONSON,  
WATERBURY NATIONAL BANK BUILDING,  
150 Bank Street, Waterbury, Conn.

MAY 4, 1898.

*Rev. Levi Branson, Raleigh, N. C.*

DEAR SIR:—I am in receipt of Vol. 1, No. 1, of the Genealogy of the Branson family, being the June number.

I observe from the genealogy given therein that your line starts with Thomas Branson, said to have come from England about 1700, who then settled in North Carolina.

I am not certain, in fact, have no means of even inferring from my present knowledge of matters, that the two families are in any way connected, certainly on this side of the water.

86/5105

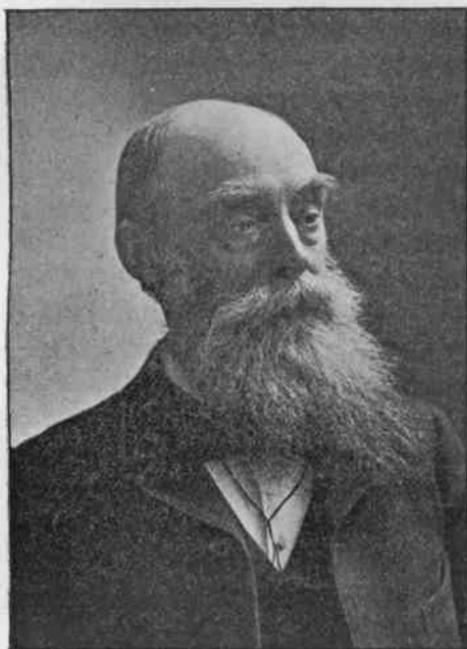
I do not remember whether I have previously stated to you or not this fact, but it is so, that in December of 1894, in a conflagration which consumed the building in which my office was situated I lost all of my genealogy of the family, which was much more extended than anything which is now at my command. I had spent a good deal of time upon it, and with it went all of my notes. I have been too excessively busy since that time to attempt to replace it, and presume I always shall be. The basis of my information, however, is still obtainable, and the facts are somewhat like this: The first of our ancestors of whom we know anything was John Bronson, who was then in Hartford, in Hartford County, the capital of this State, which is one of the oldest settlements in this State, and, in fact, in this part of the country.

He went from there to Farmington, but a few miles; he came from there here.

The name is spelled also "Brownson" and "Brunson" on the Farmington records. It is spelled all ways on the records in this town, our earliest ancestors not being oppressed with any sense of monotony in spelling, but using a variety of methods of spelling all of their names.

It is comparatively certain that he was in the Pequot War in 1637. He is mentioned as being in Hartford in the list of settlers in 1639, and his house lot was stated in the old village of Hartford in 1640. His father, Richard, is supposed to have been with him.

Little is known of Richard, only by statements of him in connection with his son John, of whom we have this and other pieces of positive information. There are various references to John on the records about 1640. He went to Farmington in 1641, and he was one of the seven organizers of the Farmington Church in 1652, and was a Deputy to the General Court in 1651, and Constable in 1652. He died in 1680, leaving seven children, Jacob, John, Isaac, Mary, Abraham, Dorcas and Sarah.



**JAMES L. BRANSON,**

**OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA,**

Minister of the Friends and Manufacturer of Knitting Machines—Publisher of  
"Good Tidings," etc.

He and others of his sons were among the first settlers of Waterbury. They moved back and forward from here to Farmington, as circumstances changed in one place and the other, so that certainty ceases in the story.

Of this family, my particular branch is descended from Isaac and James, the son of Isaac, born in 1727; Roswell, the son of James, born 1751; Garry, the son of Roswell, born 1791, who married Maria Richardson, and died in 1841; Lucian, the son of Garry, born in 1821, who was my father.

Something more than a hundred years ago the old town of Waterbury, being cumbrous in its size, was cut up and other towns made out of part of its territory. My ances-

tors happened to be at that time in that district which was so set off and made into the new town of Middlebury, but my father, Lucian, came back here about 1855.

I was born in July, 1860, and have two children, sons, of whom, by the way, one further word may be said, that they are the only boys to carry on the name in that generation out of all of the children of my father's family, and they were eleven.

So much for a very brief generalogy.

I know this country somewhat thoroughly, having been born and lived here all my life, except during my six years in obtaining my education at Yale University, and I know of no Bransons in this country. A great many of our branch of the Bronson family (and it has been very prolific) went to the Western Reserve, so-called, and during the course of my correspondence with the members of the family, directly and collaterally interested, I found a great many resident in that region. Moreover, being in the city of Kalamazoo, Michigan, a few months ago, and having occasion to introduce myself to a stranger, I was informed that the name was a good one conjure with in that region, because the city had originally been called "Bronson," from its practical founder—certainly first settler. Upon investigation in their free library—which is, by the way, a very fine one—I found the description of this man Bronson, and learned that he had come, so far as was known, from the Western Reserve region, and with him, by the way—a matter of great interest to me by reason of my family history through another branch—was his broth-in-law, one Richardson, who came from Litchfield County in this State. The Richardsons, from whom I am descended through my grandmother, the wife of Garry, have been inhabitants of this State for about 250 years, as have the Bronsons, in fact, being some of its very earliest settlers, and with my Bronson genealogy, which perished as above stated, was also a very large amount of memoranda on the

Richardson generalogy, which, however, I had never worked up with the same degree of care.

A brief part of this statement I should like to have you insert in your next number, and particularly call it to the attention of Judge Nathaniel W. Branson, of Petersburg, Ill., whose name I now for the first time discover as being also one of your correspondents. I should like to know where he got his name Nathaniel. I observe he is a much older man than myself, and has doubtless a large amount of information at his command.

It was a great sorrow to me that before my genealogical loss occurred, I had but resently—some three years before—lost my father, who was the source of most of my information in family matters, being one of the old-fashioned men who carry all their family knowledge in their heads and on their tongues' end, and did not need to refer, as does his son, to books and records.

It may be, of course, that Judge Branson's first name and mine are the same by coincidence, but Nathaniel is a family attachment in our branch, occurring quite frequently.

Yours truly,

NATHANIEL R. BRANSON.

---

NEW ENGLAND, NEW JERSEY AND VIRGINIA  
BRANSONS, ETC.

---

EARLY ACCOUNT OF THE BRANSON FAMILY.

BY JAMES L. BRANSON, of Philadelphia.

The grandmother of the William Branson on the mother's side, who married Elizabeth Osmund, was Elizabeth Day.

The grandmother on the mother's side was Martha Bailey.

The name of the grandfather and mother of William is not given, but their childrens' names were as follows :

Elizabeth, Mary, Thomas, David, John Day Branson, Sarah, Joseph, Jonathan, ~~Lional~~, Rebecca, William and Day Branson.

It must have been John Day Branson who married Martha (Antrim) Osmund, for he is the only John who is brother to our great-grand father William, who married Elizabeth Osmund, the daughter of Martha (Antrim) Osmund, widow of John Osmund. Jacob Branson's account, found among Isaiah Branson's papers, says, speaking of Martha (Antrim) Osmund: "She was again Married to John Branson, my father's brother, hence became my aunt." It seems singular he does not mention the name of his grandparents, though he gives all their children's names, and mentions the maiden name of his great-grandmothers, Elizabeth Day and Martha Bailey.

John Day Branson married Martha Osmund, widow of John Osmund, and daughter of Thomas and Sarah Antrim; and William Branson, our great-grandfather, married Elizabeth Osmund, the daughter of the widow Osmund, whom his brother, John Day Branson, married. But what was the given name of the father of these thirteen children, one of whom married the widow Osmund and the other the daughter of her first husband?

John Day Branson, whom we know as John Branson without the middle name, married Martha Osmund, widow of John Osmund, according to the State Records of New Jersey, on the 6th day of December, 1748. And William Branson, his brother married Elizabeth Osmund, the daughter of John and Martha Osmund, April 11, 1753, according to these same records.

NOTE.—The above letter is printed in full, as it throws light on the family record which follows.—EDITOR.

Record of the family of 159 WILLIAM BRANSON and ELIZABETH (Osmund) BRANSON, his father's and mother's name unknown. He was married to 160 Elizabeth Os-

mund, daughter of 161 John and 162 Martha (Antrim) Osmund, April 11, 1753. They were the parents of twelve children, namely:

## CHILDREN.

- 163. *Abram*, b. October 12, 1754.
- 164. *Eunice*, b. December 12, 1756.
- 165. *William*, b. September 24, 1758.
- 166. *Sarah*, b. July 17, 1760.
- 167. *Rachel*, January 26, 1763.
- 168. *Isaac*, b. February 18, 1765. ✓
- 169. *Charity*, b. January 1, 1767.
- 170. *Martha*, b. June 15, 1769.
- 171. *Jacob*, b. Aug. 5, 1771.
- 172. *Elizabeth*, b. July 14, 1773.
- 173. *Mary*, b. April 6, 1775.
- 174. *John*, b. April 2, 1777.

Elizabeth, wife of William Branson, was taken sick on the 4th day of November, 1778, and departed life on the 14th day of the same month, aged about 41 years.

JACOB BRANSON (171), son of William (159) and Elizabeth (Osmund) Branson (160).

Jacob Branson was born in Stafford County, Virginia, the 5th day of August, 1771, being by birthright a member of the Society of Friends. He was married to, 175, Rebecca Holloway, daughter of, 176, Asa and, 177, Abigail Holloway, also of Stafford County, Virginia, December 16, 1795, according to the order of Society of Friends. They moved to Flushing, Belmont County, Ohio, in 1805, with four children. They were the parents of nine children, namely: ✓

## CHILDREN.

178. *Abigail*, b. Nov. 1797.  
 179. *Isaiah*, b. Feb. 25, 1799.  
 180. *Phebe*, b. May 12, 1801.  
 181. *Lydia*, b. Jan. 20, 1803.  
 183. *Ann*, b. Dec. 22, 1803.  
 182. *Deborah*, b. June 21, 1806.  
 184. *Aaron*, b. April 15, 1811.  
 185. *Samuel*, b. Oct. 10, 1813.  
 186. *Jacob*, b. Feb. 16, 1817.

## DEATHS.

Jacob Branson, Sr., died June 7, 1845, in the 74th year of his age.

Rebecca Branson (175), his wife died October 30, 1834, in the 62d year of her age.

Abigail Branson (178), daughter of Jacob and Rebecca Branson, died in the fall of 1815, in the 18th year of her age.

Isaiah Branson (179) died January 22, 1886. Aged 86 years, 10 months and 27 days.

Phebe (Branson) Bracken (180), wife of Elisha Bracken, died May 24, 1827, in the 26th year of year of her age.

Lydia (Branson) Roberts (181), wife of Jesse Roberts, died August 18th, in the 34th year of her age.

Deborah Branson (182) died August 25, 1822. Age 17 years.

Ann Branson (183) died September 2, 1886.

Aaron Branson (184) died in summer of 1876.

Samuel Branson (185) died January 14, 1896.

Jacob Branson, Jr., (186) died September 13, 1886.

Ann Branson was a prominent minister of the Society of Friends. She never married, and lived to the age of 83 years. Her ministry extended over a period of about 50

years, during which time she kept a journal, which was published by the "Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends" in 1892. In her 80th year she visited the New England Yearly Meeting at Westerly, Rhode Island, traveling from Belmont County, Ohio, there, and attending all the settings for nine days, and taking a prominent part in the exercises. At this time she also attended many of the meetings of Friends in and around Philadelphia, speaking with much force and fervour. Her last entry in her journal was made five days before her death.

ISAIAH (179) and Sarah Gould BRANSON, (175) son of Jacob and Rebecca (Holloway) Branson.

Isiah Branson (179) was born in Stafford County, Va., February, 1799, died near Richmond, Ind., January 22, 1886, and was buried in Earham Cemetery, near same place. Age 86 years, 10 months.

Sarah Gould Lawton ((187) his wife, daughter of (188) James and (189) Susanna Lawton, was born in Barlow, Washington County, Ohio, November 14, 1802.

#### CHILDREN.

190. *Elizabeth Branson* was b. in Uniontown, Belmont County, Ohio, July 27, 1829; d. in New York City Nov. 14, 1878; 49 years, 3 months, 27 days.
191. *James L. Branson* was b. in Uniontown, Belmont County, Ohio, April 3, 1831; lives in Philadelphia, Pa.
192. *Rebecca Potter* was b. in Flushing, Belmont County, Ohio, July 5, 1833.
193. *Susanna Hill* was b. in Flushing, Belmont County, Ohio, June 24, 1835; died near Trinity, Texas, May 3, 1892. Age 56 years, 9 months and 20 days.

194. *Jesse Branson* was born near Flushing, Belmont County, Ohio, May 14, 1890. Age 52 years, 11 months and 28 days.
195. *Martha Branson* was b. near Flushing, Belmont County, Ohio, Sep. 21, 1839.
196. *Phebe Hill* was b. near Flushing, Belmont County, Ohio, Aug. 21, 1841; died near Richmond, Indiana, Feb. 23, 1870. Age 28 years, 6 months and 12 days.
197. *Jacob Branson* was b. near Flushing, Belmont County, Ohio, May 4, 1844.

198. ELISHA BRACKEN, son of (199) Caleb and (200) Rebecca (Miller) Brecken, who married Phebe Branson (180) daughter of Jacob (171) and Rebecca (175) (Holloway) Branson, Ocober 30, 1822.

## CHILDREN.

201. *Deborah Bracken*, b. August 26, 1833; died at Friends' Boarding School, Mt. Pleasant, Ohio, March 26, 1838.
202. *Rebecca Bracken*, b. April 10, 1825.
203. *Israel Steer*, m. Rebecca Brecken (202) Oct 31, 1844.

## CHILDREN.

204. *Lindley Bracken Steer*, b. Sept. 26, 1845.
206. *Deborah Steer*, b. Dec. 27, 1847.
205. *Elisha B. Steer*, b. June 2, 1850.
207. *Phebe A. Steer*, b. Dec. 6, 1852.
208. *Lina R. Steer*, b. June 25, 1855.
209. *Wilson J. Steer*, b. Oct. 31, 1859.
210. *Sarah E. Steer*, b. August 30, 1864.

## MARRIAGES.

Lindley Bracken Steer (204) married (211) Hannah S Penrose November 31, 1868.

Elisha B. Steer (205) married (212) Ellen C. Gilbert May 22, 1874.

Deborah Steer (206) married (213) Oliver L. Nagus November 1, 1875.

Lina R. Steer (208) married (214) James Walton April 1, 1891.

Wilson J. Steer (209) married (215) Mary C. Hall October 29, 1890.

AARON BRANSON (184). son of Jacob and Rebecca Holloway Branson (179).

Aaron Branson married (216) Frances Crawford, daughter of (217) Richard and (218) Priscilla Crawford May 11, 1837.

Frances Crawford was born April 22, 1816, and died March 25 1887. they had several children.

## CHILDREN.

- 219. *Anna R. Branson*, b. April 18, 1844.
- 220. *Oliver J. Branson*, b. June 19, 1846.
- 221. *Richard C. Branson*, b. Sept. 25, 1849.
- 222. *Susan G. Branson*, b. Jan. 28, 1852.
- 223. *Thomas W. Branson*, b. Oct. 29, 1854.
- 224. *Elma P. Branson*, b. April 30, 1858.
- 225. *Mary H. Branson*, b. April 25, 1859.

## MARRIAGES.

Anna R. Branson married (226) Chalkley Dawson October 8, 1873. They had one daughter, (227) Mattie Dawson, who died September 8, 1886.

Oliver Branson, 220, married (228) Josie Ramage February 26, 1873. They had three daughters, (229) Maud, (230) Elma, and (231) Lucy Ramage Branson.

Susan G. Branson (222) married (232) E. A. McGrew, May 27, 1874.

Thomas W. Branson (223) married Rebecca Patton (233) June 1, 1882. They have one son, Ernest P. Branson (234), born June 14, 1883.

Elmer P. Branson (224) married George R. Janeway (225) December 18, 1889.

## DEATHS.

Annie R. Branson (219) died in the summer of 1877.

Oliver J. Branson (220) died April 6, 1887.

Susan G. Branson (222) died February 1, 1876.

Elma P. Branson (224) March 14, March 16, 1892.

Mary H. Branson (225) died June 13, 1859.

SAMUEL BRANSON (185), son of Jacob (171) and Rebecca (175) (Holloway) Branson.

Samuel Branson (185) married (236) Sarah A. Huff, daughter of (237) Daniel and (238) Nancy Huff, April 18, 1848. They had three sons as follows:

## CHILDREN.

239. *Daniel H. Branson*, b. Jan. 17, 1849.

240. *Frank W. Branson*, b. Nov. 25, 1850.

241. *Abbott L. Branson*, b. Jan. 11, 1858.

## MARRIAGES.

(241) Frank W. Branson married Ada McNutt, daughter of (242) Michael and (243) Henrietta McNutt, October 18, 1883.

Abbott L. Branson married (244) Ida Ammann, a daughter of (244) John and (245) Magdalena Ammann, June 16, 1872.

## DEATHS.

Daniel H. Branson (237) died March 16, 1886.

## RECORD OF THE FAMILY OF JACOB BRANSON, JR.

JACOB BRANSON, JR., (186) son of Joseph Branson and Rebecca (Holloway) Branson, was born February 16, 1817. Married Juliann H. Johnson, daughter of (246) John H. and (247) Hannah Johnson, November 30, 1842.

## CHILDREN.

248. *Levi Branson*, b. Nov. 2, 1844.  
 249. *Joseph H. Branson*, b. Nov. 29, 1846.  
 250. *Benjamin Branson*, b. Dec. 15, 1848.  
 251. *Deborah Branson*, b. April 10, 1851.  
 252. *John J. Branson*, b. Sept. 20, 1853.  
 253. *Mary E. Branson*, b. Sept. 5, 1856.  
 254. *Annie L. Branson*, b. Feb. 6, 1859.

## MARRIAGES.

Joseph H. Branson (249) married 255 Ruthanna Stratton Sept. 24, 1869, daughter 256 Benjamin D. and 257 Ellen Stratton.

Benjamin Branson (250) married 258 Caroline Hall Oct. 9, 1884.

Annie L. Branson married 259 James Watson, July 28, 1886.

Levi Branson (248) married 260 Lizzie Common Sept. 15, 1887.

## DEATHS.

✓ Jacob Branson, Jr., (186) d. Sept. 13, 1868.

John J. Branson Jr., (252), son of Jacob Branson, d. Sept. 11, 1855.

Benjamin Branson (250) d. Aug. 12, 1886.

Annie L. Walton (239) d. April 27, 1888.

Deborah Branson (251) d. March 2, 1891.

Mary E. Branson (253) d. May 16, 1893.

FAMILY OF JOSEPH H. (249) AND RUTHANNA S.  
BRANSON (255).

261. *Elma Branson*, b. Sept. 28, 1870.

262. *Walter J. Branson*, b. Oct. 29, 1871.

263. *Albert D. Branson*, b. Aug. 26, 1873.

264. *Anna Mary Branson*, b. Dec. 27, 1889.

265. *Julia E. Branson*, b. Nov. 7, 1889.

266. *Joseph Howard Branson*, b. April 16, 1892.

## MARRIAGES.

Elma Branson (261) married (267) Robert W. Maris  
Sept. 7, 1892.

CHILDREN OF ROBERT W. MARIS AND ELMA (BRANSON)  
MARIS.

268. *Alma Branson Maris*, b. Dec. 19, 1893.

269. *Elalor Wood Maris*, b. Aug. 23, 1895.

270. *Arthurly Maris*, Oct. 29, 1896.

## DEATHS.

Albert D. Branson, (263) son of Joseph H. and Ruth-  
anna S. Branson (255) d. Jan. 27, 1885.

CLEARBROOK, FREDERICK COUNTY, VA.,  
December 1, 1897.

*James L. Branson, Langhorn, Bucks Co., Penn.*

DEAR COUSIN:—Thy letter of 28th ult. at hand in due time. I am much obliged for the information, as far as it goes. It makes the connecting link in our families, but I think thy grandfather had several children besides thy father. I saw a daughter of his in 1854, when in Ohio, and I also think thee had several brothers and sisters whom I saw in 1854, when at thy father's house in Indiana (near Richmond). I seem to remember one sister of thine particularly, her name was Rebecca, but I fear it will be out of my power to get hold of all the names of the descendants of William and Elizabeth Branson, of Stafford County, Va., who were our great grand parents, but I would like to get back to their parents and grand parents, if possible, and come on down to my grandfather (Abraham Branson), oldest son of William and Elizabeth. He was born October 12, 1754. Joined Friends April 1, 1776. At the same meeting his mother requested for her minor children, William, Rachel, Isaac, Charity, Martha, Jacob (thy grandfather), Elizabeth and Mary. John, as spoken of in thy letter, could not have been born then, as he is not in the minutes made at that time, but his death, which occurred on March 2, 1815, is recorded in our minutes of Hopewell Monthly Meeting as a brother of Abraham. I am able to trace the descendants of Abraham down to the present time, but of the others I know but little; would like to know a great deal more. Those of Abraham run at this time up to several hundred. I have not as yet gotten them formulated. Abraham's first wife was Catherine Rees, daughter of Henry and Martha (Thomas). They were married at Hopewell, Frederick County, Va., on October 22, 1779. They had one son Rees Branson, who married Ruth Downing, daughter of William and Phebe, on March 10, 1802.

Their (4) children were Abraham, Maria, Eliza and William. [William is the only one now living. He lives at West Branch, Cedar County, Iowa, is 85 years old.] Abraham's second wife was Sarah White (my grandmother), daughter of Nathaniel and Mary White. They were married on January 12, 1786. They had seven children, viz.: Mary, married Jos. Fawcett, and have a large number of descendants. William P., who married Fannie P. Hale. they had one daughter, Sarah Ann, who married Albert Chandler of Maryland, and before his death, eight years ago, came back here to live, and died here on the 20th of last month in her 75th year—no children. Nathaniel died in his 20th year. Isaac married Sarah Bracken, of Ohio, and left a large number of descendants. Thomas married Annie Bail and left numerous descendants. Joseph (my father) married Tacy Wright, daughter of Jonathan and Hannah (Ridgway) Wright, on April 11, 1827. They left five children, viz: Nathaniel B. born May the 1st 1828, who married Nancy Holmes of London Co., Va. They have two children, viz: Joseph H. M. D. of Washington, D. C. who married Ellen M. Robinson of Ohio and Mary E. Branson, David W. (second son of Joseph and the sister of his), born September 28, 1830, married Ann Bailey on January 18, 1866, daughter of William E. and Sarah Bailey, of London Grove, Chester County Pa. Their two children were Wm. E. and Elizabeth Anna. She died at 3 years of age. Ruth Hanna, daughter of Joseph and Tacy born October 20, 1833. Married Samuel H. Matthews, of Maryland, September 9, 1860. They have three children and three grand children. Phineas A. fourth child of Jas. I. was born March 23, 1836. Married Mary Lancy, of Pittsburg, Pa., no children. She died in 1878, and he died in 1881. Jonathan W. fifth child of J. and T. B. born May 16, 1841. Married E. Caroline Cunningham, daughter of Edward L. and Elizabeth Cunningham (nee Hollingworth)

on March 5, 1867. Their two children were Tacy and Lillian. The latter died on February 2, 1894, aged 21 years.

Benjamin, youngest son of Abraham and Isaac Branson, was born April 30, 1797 and died in his 23d year.

A. Branson was recorded as a minister in the society of Friends on September 4, 1797. He died June 16, 1827, age 74.

Sarah (White) Branson died on February 4, 1832 aged 77.

Mary (Branson) Fawcett, died in her 72d year.

Wm. P. Branson died in his 62d year.

Isaac Branson died in his 83d year.

Thomas Branson died in his 81st year.

Joseph Branson died in his 83d year (1897). He was a recorded minister for many years.

DAVID W. BRANSON.

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#### IN HONOR OF THE DEAD.

Mrs. Sallie L. Williams (49), wife of Patrick S. Williams, daughter of the late William Branson (29), of Randolph County, and sister of the Rev. L. Branson (43), of Raleigh, was born November 26, 1845, and died February 13, 1895.

Converted in her girlhood, she joined the M. E. Church, South, at Trinity College, of which she remained a faithful member until after her marriage, when she joined the church of her husband, the Flat Rock Methodist Protestant Church, in which connection she died. The writer enjoyed an intimate acquaintance with the deceased for nearly seventeen years, and can testify to her many virtues and her remarkable exemption from many imperfections that so sadly mark our frail, fallen humanity. Hers was a very, bright, sweet, loving and lovable spirit. In all the walks and ways of her life she exemplified the virtues of Christianity. In the difficult sphere of second wife and stepmother she so

nobly acted her part as to gain the admiration and gratitude of all who were interested, and her stepchildren, as well as her own, "rise up and call her blessed." She is sadly missed in her home, her community and her church. Her pastor misses her rapt attention, her radiant face and tear-filled eyes. Everywhere she moved her gentle influence was powerful for good. Her character seemed well-rounded, and in every way she appeared as she felt, "ready to depart and be with Christ." She had no fear of death. Her Saviour had conquered death. Calmly and pleasantly, as if preparing for some delightful tour, she gave orders concerning her burial clothes, and had food prepared for friends expected at her burial service, and, smiling, she bade her loved ones farewell, and with joy she entered into rest.

Three motherless daughters are left without her care and guidance, but her God will be theirs, and they are following in her steps. No one who knew her doubts that she is now with Jesus, and her sweet babe, that preceded her but a few years, and all the redeemed throng in glory.

May the many who loved her so much at last, meet her there.

Her pastor,

T. J. OGBURN.

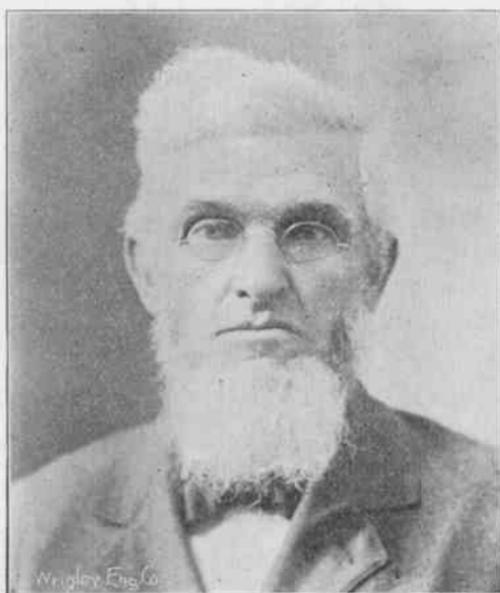
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#### DR. NATHANIEL B. BRANSON DIED IN WASHINGTON.

Mr. Nathaniel B. Branson, of Clearbrook, Va., died at the residence of his son, Dr. Joseph H. Branson, at 2 P. M. in Washington, Wednesday, May 18, aged seventy years. He had been a great sufferer for several months, and went to Washington sometime ago for treatment, also where he could be under the care of his son, Dr. Joseph H. Branson. Everything that kind hands could do was done to alleviate his sufferings until the end came, when he was called to higher realms where pain and sorrow are unknown. He leaves a devoted widow, one son and daughter to mourn the

death of a loving husband and father. Two brothers, David W. and Jonathan Branson, also a sister, Ruth Anna Mathews, survive him,

The remains will reach Stephenson at 6:30 P. M. this evening, and conveyed to the residence of his brother, David W. Branson, where the funeral service will be held at 10 A. M. tomorrow (Friday). The interment will be in Eriends' graveyard at Hopewell.



DAVID W. BRANSON,  
OF CLEAR BROOK, FREDERICK CO., VA.

GREENWOOD FARM,  
NEAR CLEAR BROOK, VA., July 11, 1898.

*Dear Bro. Levi Branson, D. D.:*—The spring and summer thus far have been so full that I have had very little time to devote to Genealogy. We had an anxious time all

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during the early spring about my eldest brother, who passed on to a higher life on the 18th of May, and since his death we have had sickness and other things to keep the time fully occupied, and now I am preparing for a visit through the West, which will occupy a month or six weeks, so that my work must wait awhile longer.

I have forgotten what the cost of thy book or books is to be. I had a letter from a cousin, L. A. Branson, at West Branch, Iowa, saying they had received one of the numbers. I do not want to be left out, if I can raise the money to pay for it. I send with this two photos of myself, one taken in 1863, and the other a few days ago. Thy last letter, of April 16th, says the one I sent is not plain enough for a "half-tone" cut. Now, if either of these will do, and thee will let me know, I will try to raise the money to pay for having a cut made. Thee says the cut will be mine after thee has inserted it in the book. Let me hear from thee; we do not expect to go West till the middle of August.

Very truly,

D. W. BRANSON.

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#### THE PERSONALITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

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We assume that the personality of the Holy Spirit is to be settled by the dogma of Scripture. Those who are not subordinate to God's Word and set their own reasoning up against it, can carry on their own controversy with God till He falls on them and grinds them to dust. Nothing that can be said upon this subject, that has not the authority of Scripture for it, is worthy of a moment's consideration. No attempt will be made to reconcile the Scriptures with human reason. This would be an attempt to reconcile the greater with the less, to subordinate the Creator to the creature. Let God be true, though it makes every man

a liar. The only evidence that is of any value, or that can throw any light upon the question, is the testimony of Holy Writ.

1. Luke iii. 21, 22: "Now it came to pass, when all the people were baptized, that, Jesus also having been baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit (the Spirit, the only One) descended in a bodily form, as a dove, upon him, and a voice came out of heaven, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased." Here we have three separate and distinct persons—Jesus, who was baptized; the Spirit, the Holy One, in bodily form as a dove, and the Father speaking from heaven. This is the fact stated in this Scripture.

2. John xiv. 6: "I will pray the Father, and he will send you another comforter." Three persons, Jesus, the one interceding; the Father, the one interceded to, and the Comforter, the Spirit, the Holy One, asked for.

3. II. Cor. xiii. 14: "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all." There are three persons distinctly affirmed here, and the personality of each stand or fall together.

4. I. Pet. i. 2: "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God, the Father, in sanctification of Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ." Three persons, the electing Father, the sanctifying Spirit, and the atoning Saviour.

In the *second* place the Scriptures give to the Holy Spirit the attributes of a person.

1. Rom. viii. 28: "He that searcheth the hearts knoweth the *mind* of the *Spirit*, because he maketh intercession according to God." Here the Spirit has a mind, choice, or preference of his own, but never contradictory to God.

2. Rom. xv. 13: "That ye may abound in hope through the *power* of the Holy Spirit." Power is the attribute of a person. The Holy Spirit exercises power.

3. Rom. xv. 30: I beseech you by the *love* of the Spirit." Love is the attribute of a person. An influence or a principle do not love.

4. I. Cor. xii. 11: "Dividing to every man severally as he *will*." Will is the distinctive attribute of a person, and the Spirit exercises will, and is therefore a person.

In the *third* place the Spirit exercises the functions of a person.

1. Acts viii. 29: The Spirit said to Philip, "Go near, and join thyself to the chariot." Peter says, "And the Spirit bade me go with them, making no distinction" (Acts xi. 12). Commanding is the function of a person exercising *will* and *power*. In these passages we have a person exercising dogmatic authority, commanding in a way that brooked no denial. This could not be unless the Holy Spirit were a person.

2. Acts xiii. 2: The Holy Spirit *said*, "Separate forthwith unto me, Barnabas and Saul, for the work unto which I myself have called them (*Rotherham*). This passage alone should set at rest the question of the personality of the Holy Spirit. He speaks, commands autocratically and categorically. "Separate *forthwith* unto me." It is unto himself personally—"unto me." This is his own divine assumption of personality. But the statement of the personality of the Spirit in this passage is the more absolute and emphatic because it is not made as a claim, but taken for granted as a fact, and that, too, as an admitted one. It goes on the presumption of an admitted and acknowledged truth. How can it be made clearer than by this direct assumption of personality? "I have called them." It is "I, myself—personally.

"There is no proxy; no circumlocution or indirection, but "I, myself", in the most emphatic way you could speak of it as a personal act. It was the Holy Spirit who called them, and for a particular work. And they "were sent

forth by the Holy Spirit" (verse 4). And their actions were controlled by him, forbidding them to speak "the word in Asia", and turned them back when they attempted to go into Bithynia, "and the Spirit of Jesus suffered them not" Acts (Acts xvi. 6, 7.)

3. "He made overseers" (Acts xx. 28). "In which the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers."

4. He speaks: "The Spirit *saith expressly* that in the latter times some shall fall away from the faith." (I. Tim. iv. 1). "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith to the churches" (Rev. ii. 7).

5. He met with the brethren in council. "It seemed good unto the Holy Spirit and unto us" (Acts xv. 27). The same form of expression is found in verse 22. "Then it seemed good unto the apostles and the elders." The apostles and the elders were without question distinct personalities, just as the Holy Spirit was a person distinct from these, as included in the "us."

6. He testifies: "And we are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God hath given to them that obey him" (Acts v. 32).

7. He can be grieved. "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, in whom ye were sealed unto the day of redemption" (Eph. iv. 30).

LANGHORNE, Pa.

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NEW SHARON, IOWA, April 8, 1899.

*Rev. Levi Branson, Raleigh, N. C.*

DEAR FRIEND:—More than a year ago, when I was at Westbranch, Iowa, where my father, William D. Branson, lives, and where I lived almost forty years, I saw your Quarterly Magazine of the Branson family, and I now write sending the connection of our family back as far as

Abraham and Catharine Branson. Rees Branson was one of their sons, and there were others that lived in Virginia. Jacob was another. Isaac Branson, a half-brother, came to Iowa about the time my father came, in 1853, when I was twelve years old. Isaac Branson had two daughters—one married John B. Lee, who now lives at Muscatine, Iowa; and the other married Samuel Staples, who lives at Barclay, Kan. These daughters have several children and some grandchildren. I can arrange to trace up this branch of the Branson family. My father is almost eighty-five years old; his father died before he was one year old, in Virginia; and he lived with his grandfather for a time and then came to Ohio; worked with his brother Abraham in the woolen manufactory for a time and married and went to Salem, Ohio, in 1842, and came to Iowa in 1853, and has been a farmer, but has lived in town for about fifteen years; now lives with his youngest daughter, Ida Hathway, joins houses. I have been a nurseryman since 1867. Nearly all my father's family are Orthodox Friends.

Respectfully,

ABNER BRANSON.

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270. ABRAHAM BRANSON was b.—  
 271. Catherine Rees was b.— They were m.

CHILDREN.

272. *Rees Branson*, b. Sept. 3, 1780; d. March 15, 1815.  
 273. *Ruth Downing*, b. Oct. 16, 1782; d.—  
 Rees Branson and Ruth Downing were m.—  
 274. (2). *Abraham Downing Branson*, b. June 13, 1806.  
 275. (3). *Mariah Rees Branson*, b. Dec. 30, 1809; d. Feb. 7, 1897. Was m. to Mr. Wilson and later to Herst.

276. (4). *Eliza Jane Branson*, b. Feb. 1, 1812; d.—; m. Negus, and later Fancett. (Perhaps other children.)
277. WILLIAM D. BRANSON, b. April 26, 1814, and is still living at West Branch, Iowa.
278. *Eliza Oliphant* b. Oct. 8, 1817; d. May 28, 1896. William D. Branson and *Eliza O.* m. June 26, 1840.

## CHILDREN.

279. (1). *Abner Branson*, b. April 28, 1841.
280. (2). *Rees Branson*, b. Aug. 20, 1842; is m. and has three children.
281. (3). *Lina Ann Branson*, b. Feb. 2, 1847; not m.
282. (4). *Samuel Branson*, b. June 2, 1849; is m. and has five children.
283. (5). *Newton Branson*, b. Sept. 15, 1855; is m. and has six children.
284. (6). *Ida Branson*, b. May 6, 1858, and has three children. W. D. Branson had three other children, who died young.
285. ABNER BRANSON, (279) b. April 28, 1841.
286. *Eliza Comfort Jepson Branson*, b. Dec. 19, 1843; d. Feb. 2, 1890; was m. to Abner Branson Feb. 7, 1867.
287. *Esther Mitchenor Rockwell* was m. to Abner Branson (his 2d wife) Oct. 12, 1892.

## CHILDREN.

288. (1). *Herbert W. Branson*, b. Feb. 1, 1872; d. Feb. 9, 1872.
289. (2). *Hattie S. Branson*, b. Feb. 1, 1872; d. Feb. 10, 1872.
290. (3). *Sarah Arvilla Branson*, b. April 19, 1875.

291. (4). *Mina Eliza Branson*, b. April 19, 1875.  
 292. (5). *Fverett Samuel Branson*, b. Jan. 30, 1878.  
 293. (6). *Eviline Mary Branson*, b. Jan. 30, 1878.  
 294. (7). *Edith Clara Branson*, b. Aug. 31, 1881.  
 295. (8). *Mabel Branson*, b. July 4, 1886; d. Dec. 17, 1886.
296. ALBERT A. BRIGGS was b. May 11, 1871, and m. Sarah Arvilla Branson (290) Dec. 25, 1897—daughter of Abner (279).

## CHILDREN.

297. (1). *Raymond Abner Branson Brigg*, b. Feb. 3, 1899.

Rees Branson (272) has two children married, and one of them has two children.

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A MEMORIAL OF HOPEWELL MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS.  
 FRFDERICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, CONCERNING OUR DECEASED  
 FRIEND, JOSEPH BRANSON.

"The memory of the just is blessed."

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Under a humiliating sense of the great loss we feel in the removal of our friend and father in Israel, Joseph Branson, and while the precious savor of his *exemplary* life remains fresh in our memory, we feel it right to preserve a short aceount of his life and faithfulness in the cause of Truth.

He was the son of Abraham aud Sarah Branson, who were both consistant members of the Society of Friends, and was born in Frederick County, Virginia, on the first day of the first month in 1796.

In early life he gave up to the admonitions of Divine Truth, and was a good example of uprightness to the young people with whom he associated.

In the year 1827 he was united in marriage with Tacy Wright, a union which continued in the greatest harmoeys for thirty-eight years.

About the year 1840 his friends felt it right to appoint him to the station of Elder, which position he filled to the satisfaction of his meeting for twenty years. It was then believed he had received a gift in the ministry, which was acknowledged in the year 1860. His communications were short, but bore evidence of Divine authority, and were impressive and always acceptable, his principal desire being to bring to view the necessity of individual faithfulness to *known* duty, believing that man, at this time, stands in the same relation to the Author of his being that he ever did in any age of the world:

One of his last communications, when at meeting, was: "One hour in the courts of the Lord is worth a thousand elsewhere."

Although he never traveled a great deal in the ministry, yet he was ever ready to assist those who were engaged in that religious duty, and his kindness and hospitality in the entertainment of traveling friends were prominent features in his life.

He several times, in earlier life, went as companion to our late dear friend, Mariam G. Groves, in his religious visits through parts of Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania.

He was diligent in the attendance of all his meetings; always arranging his business affairs in such a way as not to interfere with those held near the middle of the week, and was generally found in his place when meeting-day came, when health permitted. He was a loving husband, a kind father, a faithful friend, and universally respected by his neighbors, evidencing to those around him the eminent practicability of the precept: "Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so unto them."

While his faith was sorely put to the test during the four years our country was embroiled in an intestine war, his home being situated on one of the main thoroughfares, where the contending armies were almost continually passing and repassing, he suffered heavily in the loss of prop-

erty, taken by those in power, yet never in one instance did he lose confidence in that overruling Providence "whose ways are above our ways."

On one occasion, when the armies were drawn up in battle array on either side of his dwelling, he was known to seek retirement, and in silent prayer implore the Divine Father to avert so great a calamity from being enacted in his presence. In a short time, for some unknown cause, the armies moved, and about four miles south of his residence a severe battle was fought.

In the year 1865, he met with a sore affliction in the loss of his beloved wife; but he was enabled to bear the dispensation with becoming resignation, believing his loss was her eternal gain.

On the 31st of October, 1878, he was suddenly prostrated by disease while he was preparing to attend meeting, most of his family being at the time in attendance at Baltimore Yearly Meeting. It was thought best to summon them home. When they arrived they found him very weak, but upon having medical attendance, he was apparently much relieved, and was able to talk some about the Yearly Meeting and of friends who had sent messages of love. He said "it is pleasant to be remembered, and I love them, but shall never see them *here* again." For several days he seemed to be gaining strength, and was able to sit up and walk across the room, but on the morning of the 12th of November, 1878, he suddenly and unexpectedly to those in attendance, grew worse, and in a few minutes passed quietly away, and without pain to "the better land", his last words being "let me go." He died in the same house in which he was born, and had lived for nearly eighty-three years.

His mortal remains were interred in the Friends' burying ground at Hopewell, on the 14th, a large concourse of friends and neighbors being in attendance.

He has left an example which, if we are faithful to follow we too may, when the summons comes, "Steward, give

thy stewardship," have the same evidence that he had, that our work has been done in the daytime, and may receive the answer, "Well done thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joys of the Lord."

Read in and approved by Hopewell Monthly Meeting, held at Hopewell, on the 10th of July, 1879.

J. W. BRANSON,  
R. J. LUPTON,  
*Clerks.*

Approved by Fairfax Quarterly Meeting, held at Goose Creek, August 18th, 1879.

J. B. DUTTON,  
H. B. BRANSON,  
*Clerks.*

Approved in Baltimore Yearly Meeting, October 27, 1899.

L. R. BROWN,  
M. C. CUTLER,  
*Clerks.*

SOME ACCOUNT OF (298) EBENEZER AND (299) ELIZABETH ANTRIM AND DESCENDANTS.

CHILDREN.

300. (1) *Samuel Antrim*, b. 1762.  
301. (2) *Benajah Antrim*, b. 1763.  
302. (3) *Sarah Antrim*, b. Sept. 10, 1764; d. July 23, 1821;  
m. David Branson April 25, 1791.  
303. (4) *Stacy Temperton*, b. 1766.

DAVID BRANSON, III. Sarah Antrim April 25, 1791.

CHILDREN.

304. *Stacy Branson Antrim*, b. Jan. 30, 1792.  
305. *Samuel Branson*, b. Jan. 4, 1894; d. Dec. 15, 1795.  
306. *Moses Branson*, b. May 19, 1796.  
307. *Thomas Branson*, b. June 16, 1798.  
308. *Sarah Branson*, b. Dec. 30, 1800.  
309. *Elizabeth Branson*, b. Jan. 1, 1803; d. Sept. 10, 1855; m. (310) John Guest 1825.  
311. *David Branson*, b. Aug. 1, 1808.

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