

BRUNSON - ROBERT
Columbia, S.C.

The Rev. Prot. F.H. Peoples,
Hilton Head Isl., S.C.

March 15, 1974

Dear Robert:

Thanks for yours of March 13th. It came the day my wife had major surgery at Richland Mem. Hosp. She is still in "intensive care" but I believe is heading well. If my letters have seemed incoherent it is because my mind has been concentrated on her. Our eldest son, The Rev. ^{B.D. Sweeney} Thos. M. Staff, Jr., Rector of Columbia Co., arrived on the 12th & was with me during the operation, but had to leave P.M. of the 13th for home.

First let me say that the Brunson book is full of errors. Nor did I want them to use my line - i.e. Joseph's - because there was no time to get up the lists of hundreds of officers, descendants of Joseph. They used my line anyway, ^{though had a book}

The release you refer to from John Brunson & wife Abigail, Bradwell's & others, to Barnaby Brauford (Mar. 1, 1743; 200 - a Berkeley Co.) is explainable thus. Ann, the wife of John Brunson (s. of Joseph) was dead by 1731, at the birth of their 3rd child, Mary. I find no marriage of this John to an Abigail, but such must have been the case. Also ~~I believe~~ ^{Sweeney} her name was Sweeney, ^{sister of Samuel} and, ~~I think~~ ^{Sweeney} the dau. of Duncan Sweeney.

Since 1st wife, G. Ann Way, was dead by 1731, and John was married to Abigail (Sweeney), by Mar. 1, 1743, she had a lower interest in his lands. This Abigail Sweeney was not my ancestor. Ann was & her dau. Abigail was of course. Now Abigail (Sweeney) Brunson must not have survived long after Mar. 1, 1743, release, for in Aug. 1743, John Brunson & M-d. Widower, M-d. Sarah Robinson, widow

according to pub. records of Pr. F.'s ^{parish} church.

"Abigail" was definitely a name that ran in the Bronson family up in Conn. The brother of John Bronson (will, 1711) was Abigail Jewell. He also had a slightly younger sister named Abigail. So that my Abigail Bronson, wife of Stephen Peak, was prob. named for her G. Grandmother, Abigail (Jewell) Bronson.

Mary, the wife of Preserved Ford, was an orphaned grand-daughter of old John Bronson & wife b. Hannah Scott. She came with him for Conn. in 1696, was provided for in J.B.'s 1711 will, etc. Mary's name before marriage was Mary Hills, as she must have been the daughter of a deceased daughter of J. & H.S.B. Mary Hills Ford, while first cousin to John Bronson of Pr. F.'s ^{parish} was his senior by 11 years.

Of course I know Mattie Overend. She is our good friend of late; visited us at our winter home in N-E Ga. last summer. She has been most helpful to me - and I return to her - vice versa. We are remotely related by way of two Bronson Brothers, one for Isaac, I for Joseph. We are more closely related however, through Benjamin of Black River - Jerusalem, for Va. (d. 1782); and his son known as "Mr. Brown, Sr."

I have relied heavily on pub'd. works - (1) Mrs. Harriet Bronson Sibley's Bronson Lineage, 1917 (copy in Pickle Co. pub. div.) & Rev. James Strain's Hist. & Records of Newbury Church. I am a copy of this fine book, privately printed & financed by Batters (circa 1940), from your kin. Try the Book Basement, Chesham. for I - or locate Edwin Prescott one of the 2 former Deacons. He ^{can find one for you.}

I have been unable to connect John Brauford with
 Mr B. I doubt seriously that they would in the same
 circles, either economic or social. The Braufords of St. Andrew's
 parish were far wealthier & intermarried with families far
 more prominent than did those of St. George's. I can find
 no connection ^{between} ~~with~~ Bulls, Brewsters, Izards, Middletons
 etc. and the very sincere but unpretentious Congregational-
 ists. In fact the very building of St. George's parish church
 in the first year of Dorchester, or to speak, had much to
 do with the immigration of a large part of the Dorchester
 group to Georgia. - in my opinion. The two elements
 were not compatible.

Mar. 15th My wife is now better; got out of "intensive care" yester-
 day after 96 hours of it. The youngest of our three sons came Fri.
 p.m. got in a few visits with his mother but flew back home
 (Hamden, near New Haven) at 4th m. yesterday. He studied for
 the ministry one year at Berkeley Seminary, New Haven, Conn.,
 by then, with a wife & 2 children he could not remain to finish.

After 5 surgical operations on my eyes my sight is great-
 ly impaired. So excuse this poor writing. Meant to rewrite it
 for you but no time was allowable for it. It is less or nothing.

To repeat John Brewster (1st s.c. generation) m. (1) Anne Brau-
 ford; (2) Abigail Sumner, sister of Samuel; & (3) widow Susannah
 Robinson. Don't ask me for citations now. My work papers, etc.
 are at our Dilford, Ga., home. True John married Susannah
 quite soon after Abigail's death, but, in those days, circumstances
 (like small death tax) dictated prompt remarriages. I can docu-
 ment all I have given you.

Cordially,
 Thomas Stubbbs

P.S. Will follow up your suggestions & other leads
 + true parents. T.M.S.