

## BROWN FAMILY

In 1922, I met Pete Haile in the K. of C. Rooms and became friends. This is the story he told me.

He was married to Ellen Barnett; his father was a brother-in-law to my grandfather, Thomas Brown. Barnett's had three daughters; Ellen married Haile, Kate married John Gribbons and Mary did not marry. Pete Haile had two sons, Paul and Phil.

He said Thomas Brown was born in County Cork, Ireland; went to Wales to work in the coal mines to make enough money to go to college. He went to the University of Cambridge and was later sent to the United States as an exchange student. He learned the art of boxing in school.

Thomas Brown met and married Catherine Barnett in Trevorton, Pa. They had eight children: Anna, Kate, Isabella, William, Dennis, Joseph, Philip and George. Anna married Thomas Fitzpatrick - no children; Kate married John Morris, a member of the Molly McGuires - one son, John Jr. died at birth; Isabella died at age 18; William never married; Dennis was married to Violet Blair and had two children - Bill an actor in vaudeville and Violet who first married a man by the name of White and later married Harry Trinkle in Philadelphia; Philip married Min Mensch (she had one daughter, Alma, married to Hugh Phillips) they had one son and four daughters - George, Catherine, Esther, Ernestine and Cloma; George married Ellen Cavanaugh and they had two daughters, one married William Schaefer and the other married Frank Ronowsky. They lived in the Bronx, N.Y.; Joseph married Margaret Lex, and they had twelve children - Margaret, John, Joseph, Thomas, Catherine, Henry, Mary, James, Susan, Peter, Helen and Anna.

George Brown was killed in the Luke Fiedler Coal Mines; he was trapped in the mine for six months. Dennis was killed on the railroad. He was also a baseball player.

After Thomas Brown married he went to work in the Iron Mines in Danville, Pa. and later moved to Shamokin, Pa. to work in the coal mines.

Thomas Brown, during the Civil War, was drafted for the army and the law was that if you could pay a certain fee someone would go in your place; so he paid the fee, but later when the south was coming north, as the north was being defeated, Thomas enlisted in the army to stop the south. He served with the Pottsville Volunteer Brigade under Captain McBride. His name is engraved on the stone in Gettysburg Battlefield where he fought with the Pa. 118th Infantry. During his life he was well known.

On a Sunday afternoon he and his brother-in-law Barnett would put on a boxing exhibition in a hall on Market Street. He was very likeable and had a lot of friends, even the famous Molly McGuires. He was a friend of them and he knew them all by name. As he got older he became blind and died at the age of 85.

My great grandmother's maiden name was O'Neill from London, England; she was a maid to the Queen of England. She later married Barnett and lived in Trevorton. Catherine Barnett Brown died at age 65.

One time Thomas Brown got a job in the mines in Trevorton, because they paid more money and could not get enough miners. He rented an old log cabin about the year 1780 and moved his family there; winter set in and the first snow came, during the night as the family slept, the wind blew snow through the cracks and when they awoke in the morning the beds and floor were covered with snow. The family had to stuff rags and papers into the cracks to keep out the cold and the snow. As soon as he found a house in Shamokin, Thomas moved the family back to Shamokin. That winter in Trevorton was so severe that the family had to sleep around the stove to keep warm.