

# *Wright Family History*



**Calvin Brown?**



**Mary Bowman**



**Calvin Brown Wright**



**Emily Clark**



**Wright - Jackson Family Photo Circa 1903**

**Family Research to date (2008)**

## **To: fellow descendants of Calvin Brown Wright**

The following is a bit of a history lesson. It may be found relevant to readers and fellow descendents of Calvin Wright, my great-grandfather on the Wright side. The story has been that Calvin was born around 1860 in Rochester and was perhaps adopted by Mary Bowman (Gramma Jackson) and his father may have been killed chopping down a tree in Caistorville.

There are many mysteries regarding Calvin. His name is often stated as **Calvin Brown Wright**. In earlier censuses his last name was referred to as Calvin Bowman. He changed to Wright later. Who were his mother and father? Was he adopted? Was it a formal adoption or more informal, such as through the local church? Why did he change names and why to Wright?

Is the name “Brown” accurate? It was commonplace in earlier periods to take the last and/or first name of each parent or grandparent. Amongst German groups there were fixed naming traditions. For example, Benjamin Wright Bowman was located in the 1870’s in Cayuga. (there may be a connection to Calvin). The Wright name came from the mother and Bowman from the father. One Bowman family member, buried in Ancaster, is named Henry Bowman Spahn which also includes each parent. I assume Calvin acquired the Brown/Wright names from parents or grandparents.

There was inter-marrying between Browns and Bowmans especially within the Bowman family stream that pertains to Calvin. The two families go back a long ways. The family of John Brown, a soldier from Thorold, was close to the Bowmans (especially the family of George Adam Bowman and his wife Mary who are of great importance). Browns and Bowmans fought in Butler’s Rangers (Rev. War) together. These Bowmans and Browns also lived at Fort Niagara together in the 1780’s after they left the U.S., following the war, when their lands were confiscated. I found a case of baptisms of a group that included several Browns and Bowmans jointly (1815 and the location was Twelve-Mile Creek). If Calvin’s second name is truly Brown, it is likely due to this very lengthy historical family connection.

One caveat, however. A seasoned expert in the geneology field (a Bowman himself) indicated that Bowman (or Boman) is at times misrepresented as Brown when written in censuses so it could be that Bowman was taken for Brown at some point and it was just accepted over time. In short, Calvin’s middle name may not have been Brown initially but it is doubtful.

There are numerous obstacles to doing research at the times discussed. Cross-border movements were not tracked at the time. Adoption records were rarely maintained. Inaccuracies in censuses are common. Many of those engaged in the census-taking were close to illiterate. Ages provided were often meaningless. One must remember that very early death was commonplace. I read of a Wright family that lost five members in six years, three in one single year. Since the census is only taken each decade, much can happen, and a family can be unrecognizable from one census to the next.

### **About Calvin's Life**

Calvin was born perhaps on Sept 18, 1858-60. It is said that he was born in Rochester. New York State does not have records going back that far. I have checked with both Rochester and Albany, the state capital. The place of birth of Calvin has been consistently given as Ontario in my research and I am doubtful about the N.Y. origin. I suspect that if he had been born in Rochester and brought into Canada without the appropriate naturalization there may be an incentive to not reference an American birth.

Calvin died March 7, 1929 and was struck by a car (not a street-car as some state). Motor cars were referred to as "street cars". The driver was a young fellow - George Traill on his way to the CNR station. He was not charged. The lawyer for the Wright family at an inquest conducted, was R. J. Waterous, father of Dick Waterous still a prominent attorney locally. Calvin was on a bike and was going south on Park Ave between Dalhousie and Wellington. Bicycles were called "wheels" back then and the drivers were called "wheelmen". The young driver thought he hit some ice and didn't see Calvin. His windows were ice-covered and a streetlight or two was out. The inquest pointed to the need for lighting on bikes. Calvin didn't normally drive at night and my suspicion was that he was going to visit Grover, his son since this would be the route to take between the two homes. I presume he helped Grover with his business, which would have been in its infancy, and this may have been the purpose of the trip.

Calvin lived in Michigan and Ohio from the time of his marriage to Emily Clarke in Brockway Michigan and returned to Canada with his children and wife in 1899. Emma's parents were Mary and Milo Clarke and were farmers and were each born in New York and of Welsh extraction. (Mary Clarke was perhaps related to Thomas Jackson who later married Mary Bowman). Why Calvin went to Michigan is unknown but there was a surge of emigration to Michigan in the late 1800's. There was unrest here, and greater economic opportunities there. Emily may have been the sole attraction.

As a profession, Calvin began as a photographer. I suspect he did various things in the U.S. When he returned to Canada he focused on his business. He did upholstery and awnings. He had a large home - still standing with some apartments. Their children were Bert, Stan, Grover, Frances, and Myrtle. They lost Frank (twin to Frances), and Mabel.

Calvin was quite involved in the Masons since there were six pallbearers at his funeral, two each from three Masonic groups from different cities. The service was conducted both in the home and at Marlboro United Church and was well attended. He was interred at Mt. Hope, as was his wife who died in the 1950's. The stone is well marked. The location of the stone is:

### **Calvin Wright and the Bowman Connection**

**Mary Bowman was born around 1840 and died in 1911** (she is interred with Thomas Jackson and other family members at Mt. Hope and the location is ???). I have reason to suspect that she, like other pioneer women, was less than totally honest about age. She was the daughter of George Adam and Mary Agatha Bowman (maiden name not yet known and Agatha is not certain) and brought up in Caistor, Lincoln County. In 1871 she married Thomas Jackson (Scotch, Baptist, widower, farmer) in Dunnville in the Parsonage at New Connexions Church (a form of Methodism). Rev. E. Williams was the Minister. Thomas had two boys at the time, Albert and Thomas. Thomas -her husband died in 1899. Thomas Jackson Jr. died in Vassar, Michigan. I often wonder whether he emigrated to this region with Calvin. Mary, of course, had Calvin at the time she married Jackson.

It was common for the two families -Wrights and Jacksons to be pictured together. You may have a photo. There have been many assumptions made of who the people are but I think the past conclusions were flawed. The young fellow in the front was presumed to be Stanley Wright. I think the photo predates Stan. If it is Stan, the ages of the others are a problem. The young fellow is Arthur Lockhart, who was adopted late in life by the Jacksons or by Mary alone. You probably have a picture of the Wright and Jackson family. The Jacksons are Mary (Bowman), Martin, George, Eliza, and Mary Ann, The Wrights are Calvin, Grover, Bert, Frances and Myrtle. The young fellow is Arthur.

The picture I contend was taken between 1899 and 1905 due to the absence of Stan Wright and Thomas Jackson. 1903 would be a good guess. You might detect some facial similarities with some of the people you might know, especially those on the Wright/Right side of the photo.

What was the relationship between Calvin and Thomas Jackson? Mary Bowman married Jackson (he was the son of John and Janet Jackson). It is claimed that Calvin was “her child from a previous marriage” in her obituary. Jackson, a widower, already had a couple of children. Calvin took neither the name nor the religion of Jackson. Mary took both. I suspect that in those early times to be a stepchild would not have been a comfortable arrangement. Many parents could be tough task-masters. I conclude that Calvin did not integrate well into this blended family. I submit that his return to Brantford from the U.S. in 1899 - later the year that Jackson died - was no coincidence. The fact that his property almost backed on to Mary’s is also no coincidence. (He was on Marlboro and she was on Grey St.). I believe he was very protective of, and committed to, his mother. The initial move to Brantford by Mary may have been inspired by the fact that many Bowmans (perhaps close relatives) were resident in Burford and the local region.

### **The Bowman/Baumann Family**

It has not yet been determined to what degree Calvin and others who followed him are truly Bowmans. In the event that he and we all are, it can be stated that the importance of the Bowmans in terms of Ontario and American history can not easily be overstated. A book and articles have been written dealing with them. A book is titled: The Baumann/Bowman family of the Mohawk, Susquehanna and Niagara Rivers written by Maryly Penrose (published by Liberty Bell Associates). They opened up much territory in N.Y. and Pennsylvania as well as in Canada. They fought in many engagements with Butler’s Rangers alongside Joseph Brant, other natives and British regulars. Some were killed or wounded. Like many Palatine Germans (discussed later) they were good riflemen. Few books or articles that deal with Loyalists fail to discuss the Bowman family.

### **What and where is the Palatine and why did they depart?**

The Bowmans or Baumanns (the German name) can be referred to as Palatinates, Rhinelanders and, in some cases, Hessians. Hessians were German mercenaries who fought with the English forces against the colonial army and often fled the U.S. and settled in Ontario. They had fought for the British in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 etc. I suspect it would matter how you define a “mercenary” in order to determine whether these Bowmans would be so defined. Hessians are often referred to as people from the State of Hesse in Germany but the term could represent any mercenaries from Germany. Although the Bowmans originated in Hesse, the same region as the bulk of the Hessians, I would exclude them for one simple reason. Hessians were armies leased by German princes to the British

during the Revolutionary War in 1770's. The Bowmans arrived in 1709/1710. (There might be some exceptions to this. Many mercenaries arrived and then deserted and got lost amongst families already settled here.) Generally speaking, the Bowmans of most interest were here prior to the Hessians.

This family lived for a few generations in southwest Germany by the Rhine River in the palatinate. Historically, a palatine is the name for a duke or similar title who had a castle that would be used to host the monarch. There is no such equivalent title in this part of the world. The region with a duke palatine is a palatinate. They were also electorates and helped elect the Emperor. There were two such major areas but we are only concerned with one in the southwest of Germany on the Rhine and bordering on France. The village of Bacharach was home to the Baumanns for at least four generations. It was at the confluence of the Rhine and Neckar Rivers.

There was great suffering in this region for decades. The source of the problem was partly due to its location, close to France. It was often the hot spot for conflicts. At one point Louis <sub>14</sub><sup>th</sup> of France ordered that all the villages in the Palatine be put to the torch. He wanted a buffer between Catholic France and partially Protestant Germany.

A major conflict was the Thirty Years War. The area was predominantly Protestant but the country was Roman Catholic. In fact, there really wasn't a German country at this point. It was termed the Holy Roman Empire and was an association of city-states so one could not readily count on assistance from higher levels of government to defend a community. Often there were troops in the region who were at liberty to seize crops and livestock. In addition to the above threats, famine and disease could be rampant. Due to these realities, some have stated that over half the population was wiped out.

Due to all the suffering, Queen Anne of England encouraged these people, who had a reputation for being reliable and industrious, to settle in the new colonies in the Americas. They would be given land to get started - forty acres - and transport and sustenance for two years. They would have a contract to develop products needed by the British government such as lumber for ship-building. Many began their stay here (Bowmans included) working in the tar fields referred to by the new arrivals as the Taar Bosh.

Mostly, they would have gone down the Rhine to Rotterdam and sailed to England where some would stay on. A major exodus was in 1709 (referred to as the Aus Wanderung). There are lists of the so-called "1709'ers" and also ocean registries.

(Johann) Adam Baumann appears on each. The trip might be taken in stages. There were three dozen customs houses along the way. Once arriving in England, many remained for a period in Blackheath, a shantytown outside London, filled with Palatinates. The ocean trip would be dangerous and of the 3000 in the voyage that landed the first Bowmans of interest, about 400 were lost, including the wife of Johann Adam Baumann who is important to this effort. There were ten ships in this fleet and the flagship was Lyon of Leith under Captain Stevens. Upon landing many became indentured to pay their passage.

### **Where did they settle in the New World?**

Originally they settled along the Hudson River. They would get some assistance in New York to get started. The Dutch were the first settlers in New York, and other than native Indians, there were few others when they arrived. Due to poor land and other matters people would move on. The Bowmans lived in such places as Schoharie often on disputed lands. The Bowman family compound was developed in a place called Canajoharie (this is an Indian term and may mean something like a boiling cooking pot. Some observe that it means one with an occupant!). Here an area known as Bowman's Creek was established. (a Bowman's Creek was named at each of three creeks where Bowmans dwelt). The land was purchased from the Mohawks. It is likely that the Bowmans were closely connected to Joseph Brant since he was also from the same small village (Canajoharie). They also fought alongside Brant and he ended up in the same Masonic lodge as the Bowmans later in Canada. Some Bowmans settled in Pa. around an area called Tunkhannock where a couple of the families acquired some disputed lands. These were brothers Jacob and (George) Adam. The land was preferable in this area and those who clung to the German language, religion and culture might have been comfortable.

### **Emigration to Canada from the American Colonies**

Since the Bowmans fought largely for the British in the Revolutionary War (they were Tories or Loyalists) and they did not prevail, life got difficult for the Bowmans. Families were separated in the colonies both during and after the war. Further, several of the Bowman men were jailed, wounded or killed. They were guests of the state in prisons in Lancaster, Philadelphia, Hartford and Wilkes-Bane and at forts. Often women trekked to Canada with their children towards either Montreal or Niagara. Their homes were looted, and property seized. Many families were split up in Canada if they did make it. In one case, a scouting party was sent out from a fort and Mrs. Bowman and others were recovered with 3 1 starving children. (The other families in this group were Secords, Nelles and Youngs, all prominent loyalist families). Efforts were made after the war to reunite families.

Many were in Montreal or Quebec and were brought to Niagara where the combatants resided.

Although Bowmans fought for the British side there were exceptions. (Peter Bowman was a Captain with the colonials and was killed in the Battle of Oriskany.) I have enclosed an informative letter written by a granddaughter of Jacob Bowman to Egerton Ryerson in the 1800's which well depicts the conflicts and suffering at the time of the Loyalists.

## **Land Grants**

To provide compensation for lands lost, England made arrangements to provide land grants to Loyalists. There were many conditions attached to the system. The Bowmans received land grants in various areas of Ontario such as Pelham, Stamford, Caistor, Ancaster and others. At the time it was not called Ontario. Initially the province or region had four district names, all German, since the largest group of inhabitants may have been Germanic: Nassau, Hesse, Lunenberg and Mecklenberg. In time it was called Quebec (Ontario was considered part of Quebec), then Upper Canada/Lower Canada, then Canada West and finally Ontario. (I suspect that this sequence is accurate, but it isn't critical). In time, the Bowman family moved farther west from the location of their initial land grants to Burford and Oakland. Henry (who is of special interest) received a land grant and willed a parcel of land to sons George Adam and John in Caistorville. (John sold his bequeathed parcel to George Adam.)

## **What is the True Origin of Calvin Wright?**

Back to some less ancient history, there are a few known facts that we know about Calvin and they follow:

1. He was referred to in the obituary of Mary (1911) as "a son from a previous marriage". I have no evidence of a prior marriage and have looked for some but marriage licenses weren't always documented.
2. In the Death Certificate of Calvin his father was referred to as Brown by his son Bert, with the same place of birth provided as that of Mary, Caistor.
3. When Mary married in 1871 she was asked whether she was a widow or single, and she specified "single". If she were a widow and had a child she would have specified this. There would be no shame in this. Thomas Jackson specified widowed.
4. Calvin indicates that he was Welsh, and since the Bowmans are as German as one can be, it is hard to comprehend this. Something is missing. There have been times that those in a census decline to indicate German as an origin.

5. He was brought up from birth, or very close to it, by the Bowman family. He was with them in the 1861 census and claims to have been born in 1859 so that leaves little time for all the occurrences to have taken place that many speculate occurred. In the 1861 census he was described as a three-year old apparently negating the 1860 birth year used by some.

I have a few theories and will discuss a couple. I do leave open the possibility that an older sibling of Mary had a child and perhaps perished and she brought the child up. This, of course, would make us no less Bowman. Older sisters were Betsy and Eliza. Older brothers were George Adam, Peter, Benjamin and Joseph. (I can't trace the elder girls). Mary was the youngest:

1. There is a church called the Bowman Church in Ancaster (founded by our ancestors) and it is still in existence and located at 880 Garner East. I visited the church and in the graveyard there are two family plots close together: the Bowmans and the Wrights. There is less than five feet separating them. There is a Calvin Wright interred there who died around 1840 at a young age. Could our Calvin be named after this boy? The Church was Methodist and almost exclusively populated by Palatines. One possibility might be as follows.

Elijah Wright, the head of the household and father to young Calvin, married a second time after losing his first wife. She was a young wife, Adelia. My suspicion is that she died in childbirth around 1860 after having perhaps a multiple birth. Calvin Brown Wright was born about the same time and he may have been a twin and may have been named in honour of the lost Calvin. Twins did run in the Bowman family and Calvin also had twins: Frances and Frank - Frank died. Elijah may have had the tragedy of losing his new wife and being forced to cope with twins. An adoption through the Bowman Church to Mary could be a possibility. This is merely a theory and I put little credence in it.

Was Calvin a twin? There were two three year-olds living in the Bowman home in Caistor in the early 1860's. One was Calvin and one was James who died that year from inflammation. It is very possible for two three-year olds to be living in the family and not be twins or even siblings but twins do repeat within our ancestors. There were some prior to Calvin and not only is it possible that Calvin was a twin but he also had twins (Frances and Frank).

2. A second area pertains to a barrister in the Lincoln region who was single and the same age as Mary. His name was Calvin Brown. He married late in 1870 (Helen Benson). Mary married early the following year. One might speculate that she gave up on this chap. I will include a profile of this man. I can comment that

there are many connections between Mary, the Bowmans and Calvin Brown. He practiced law in Lincoln County, he had a focus on real estate and Bowmans had holdings throughout the region, he had been a county warden as had the Bowman men. He was a Mason as were the Bowman men. He is descended from the Brown family that was deeply intertwined with the Bowmans and discussed earlier. (It would be unlikely that Mary and Calvin weren't acquainted). They were all Palatines and they did cleave closely together. I am convinced that Calvin Brown Wright acquired his name - if not his entire origin - from this man. I suspect that Mary and Calvin Brown had a child - or twins - together, when they were both about 18 or 19. She may have been sent away to have the children/child for the usual reasons. To travel to Rochester would be not abnormal. Both families originated from this region.

It is clear that Calvin Brown was bred for success. He may be one of the most important persons in the history of St. Catharines. Calvin was the first mayor of the city. He would describe himself in censuses as British and Anglican which typified the establishment of the time. Having a (perhaps) illegitimate child would not have been ideal.

The deciding point for me respecting this theory came recently. Calvin Brown in the 1870's described his occupation as Photographer. It may seem difficult to comprehend why a lawyer/politician/bank board member/developer etc. might emphasize photography but it was akin to being an artist/engraver and it was very avant-garde. In the 1871 census Calvin Wright described his occupation identically. Do you know how few photographers there were at the time? I suspect that our Calvin emulated his true father's profession - not uncommon and had been assigned his name.

Some might submit that Calvin Brown Wright was named after Calvin Brown merely due to the fact that he rose to great heights. However, when Calvin was actually named Mary and Calvin Brown were teenagers and his eminence was merely imminent. People did name in such a manner, however. I did find a Wright family who named a child John Graves Simcoe Wright. As an aside, since Simcoe was in charge of land grants it appears that the Wrights weren't beyond pandering to the authorities.

The Browns descend from Adam Brown who was Palatine and lived in Schoharie NY as did the Bowmans. There were only a couple of dozen families there. They would have attended the same church (probably the Dutch Reformed Church of Stone Arabia) and would know each other well. These few families built the community, cleared the lands and built roads.

The Brown family became arguably the most preeminent family in the Niagara region. It was said that in the Battle for Quebec one of the Browns carried Wolfe off the battlefield. He received large land grants near Niagara and a quarry business was developed there. They had contracts for the building of the second Welland Canal. When one of the senior Browns died the funeral procession was several miles long. Calvin became the first mayor of St. Catharines and a picture is enclosed. Sadly, there were some financial embarrassments due to over-extending himself in real estate acquisitions. He moved to Detroit. I assume the law firm, Brown and Brown, that he had with his brother Albert, was dissolved. Calvin Brown died in Detroit in 1899 and Calvin Brown Wright returned from the Michigan and Ohio region where he had dwelt the very same year. This also may be no coincidence.

Since Mary may have had Calvin at 18 and married Jackson around 32 there was considerable time for other things to develop. During this period she may have been involved with or married to a Wright. There were Wrights involved in the Butlers Rangers and almost all marriages were within these affinities. Bowman neighbors were Wrights. Many of these were Germanic, Wrihtenbergs and Wrightmans, who later Anglicized their names.

### **Summary:**

More can be done in the way of geneological research. It would be interesting to learn more about Calvin Brown. A DNA test amongst Wrights, Bowmans and Browns might be enlightening. I would like to access more information on a Wright who may have been involved with Mary - or married to her - since he is the originator of the Wright name.

At some point we may undertake a trip to the Rhine area and perhaps more very early information can be obtained. My wife's family (the Lefebvres) has French roots and I am hopeful that we will co-exist there better than the French and Germans in the early 1700's. In any case, without this historical friction, life as we all know it would be far different.

The above may be of interest to many and should not be deemed to be the final and definitive outline of the origins of Calvin Brown Wright, my great grandfather. Most importantly I hope this effort will contribute to the memory of people who endured extreme hardship and contributed to the building of the country. Perhaps we can each learn lessons from their depth of character and fall not too far from the family tree.

My thanks to Warren Wright, Bill Bowman and the Latter Day Saints who have all contributed to this effort in a very meaningful way... **(John Richard Wright)**

## **Likely Family Tree:**

### **Some from the Palatine region:**

#### **1. Wilhelm Baumann**

#### **2. Peter Baumann**

#### **3. Peter Johann Baumann**

#### **4. Johann Adam Baumann**

4<sup>th</sup> generation to live in Bacharach, located on the Rhine. His father was a cooper and he was a butcher. His approximate arrival in North American was 1709-1710 probably in New York, He lost his wife in the crossing and remarried in 1711 to Ann Kugel. He started out at West Camp, Ulster County NY. He moved to Schenectady and then Schoharie.

#### **5. Jacob Bowman**

Original patentee of Burnetsfield, a patent of land in Herkimer County NY on Apr 30, 1725. He was granted Lot 27, 100 acre tract of land on the south side of the Mohawk River. He married Elizabeth around 1830 Lived in Bumetsfield. He acquired Lots 1, 8 and 12 in Canajoharie and moved to Canajoharie in 1740's. This was part of William Dick Patent. This became known as Bowman's Creek. He made his will in 1757 and left land to his son George Adam. He died prior to 1770. His wife died at the family compound.

#### **6. George Adam Jeriadam**

He was born in 1731 in Albany, Herkimer County. He next lived at Bowman's Creek, Canajoharie until about 1750. He married Mary Ann Conrad in 1757. He relocated to Pa, along the Susquehanna about 1770. He enlisted in Butler's Rangers. He was discharged in 1779 to look after his nine children and wife who were in in Canada. He conveyed land at Bowman's Creek to Catherine, widow of his brother when he went to Pa. Jeriadam died in 1803 at homestead in Grantham Twsp

#### **6. b.**

Jacob is a brother of George Adam and will be included since he is covered in the letter enclosed to Egerton Ryerson. He was born in 1738 in Albany. Received land

from his father in his will. Purchased land in Pa. Lived near George Adam. He and his son were captured by the colonials. They were released and recaptured. He was married to Elizabeth. He was granted land in Niagara near the Whirlpool. Elizabeth died and he remarried Ann. He died in 1815 and was buried with his two wives in Stamford.

### **7. Henry**

Son of Jeriadam (aka George Adam). He was born in 1761 in Canajoharie and was the 2<sup>nd</sup> born male. He was a Loyalist and a member of Butler's Rangers. Served until the end of the War. He Settled in Niagara in 1787, unmarried, in District of Niagara on six acres of land. Land petition was made in 1795. He was then married to Eve and had three kids. Henry requested about 300 acres, received in two different periods. His wife was Eve and they settled in Pelham Township. Henry died at his home in Pelham October 1818. There were about 11 children that are known.: Magdalene, John, Henry, Jacob, Phillip, George Adam, Mary, Elizabeth, Margaret, Eve.

### **8. George Adam**

He would have been born around 1800. Son of Henry and Eve and the 2<sup>nd</sup> born again, after John. They each received 100 acres each of land in Caistor from their father. George Adam got the western half. Lot No 8 in the first concession. John transferred the property to George Adam. I suspect he had been bequeathed land elsewhere and they perhaps agreed not to break up the parcel. Children were Betsy, Eliza, Mary, Peter, Benjamin, George Adam, and Joseph.

### **9. Mary Bowman (Jackson)**

Born about 1840 in Caistor, the youngest child of Mary and Geo. Adam.

### **10. Calvin**

It is my belief outlined above that Calvin Brown Wright is the offspring of Mary Bowman and Calvin Brown. Whether this birth was from within marriage or not is unknown.

The subject of this memoir, Calvin Brown, Esq., barrister at law, and ex-Warden of the County of Lincoln, is a scion of one of that noble band, the United Empire Loyalists, who, scorning to renounce their allegiance to the Crown of England, left their pleasant homesteads to the spoiler and settled on the Queen's broad domains in Upper Canada, and by their loyalty and determination, laid the foundation of this glorious Dominion—one of the brightest gems in the Imperial Crown. Mr. Brown is a descendant of German ancestry, who emigrated from Germany to the British American Colonies in the eighteenth century, serving on the loyal side during the American war. On the termination of the revolution his grandfather settled in Upper Canada, where, in 1798, he received, in recognition of his loyal services, 1,500 acres of land, a valuable portion of which was on the Niagara River, a grant of 500 for himself, and 200 for each of his five sons, the valuable farms still held by the family near Queenston being part of the original grant from the Crown.

Mr. Calvin Brown was born on the old homestead in the Township of Niagara in 1839. He received the first rudiments of education at Pine Grove public school, and after attending the Grantham Academy was placed under the private tuition of F. W. Barron, Esq., the late Principal of Upper Canada College. In 1855 he came to St. Catharines and studied law in the office of Messrs. Eccles & Currie and with Messrs. Patterson, Harrison and Hodgins, Toronto, and while completing his studies, he compiled jointly with Mr. E. M. Chadwick, barrister-at-law, a law book of some 400 pages called the "Examination Questions and Student's Guide," which has proved a great boon to law students. He was called to the bar in 1863, and in 1870 married Helen, third daughter of the late Thomas Benson, Esq., of Port Hope.

Since his call to the bar he has resided in St. Catharines and enjoyed a lucrative practice, holding for years the responsible position of solicitor to the Niagara District Mutual Fire Insurance Company and the Security, Loan and Savings Company, of which latter Company he was the originator. He has contributed greatly to the growth and beauty of St. Catharines by the large number of buildings he has erected on the large landed estate which he has acquired, and has earned the gratitude of the working classes by his successful efforts to build them cheap and comfortable residences. He has taken an extremely active part in the town and county councils, having been continuously a member since 1866. He is an ex-Warden of the County, and presented the County address to the Governor-General in 1874 upon His Excellency's visit to St. Catharines, on which occasion, as Chairman of the Public School Board, he also presented an address. He is at present the Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Corporation, a local Director and Solicitor of the St. Catharines Branch of the City Bank of Montreal, a Director of the Gas Company, and President of the Masonic Association. No person has done more to build up the town just merging into a city than Mr. Brown. He has built more houses within the last few years and has made greater improvements in opening up and grading streets, with miles of shade trees, than any other person. He has been on important committees of the Council, and has always been particularly identified with the corporation's finances, and did good service for the people at the settlement of the Municipal Loan Fund indebtedness. He was the first to move in procuring the two additional new wards to the town some three or four years ago, and was also the mover in the extension of the town limits last year, was chairman of the important committee of extension of the limits and incorporation of the town into a city which undertaking has been crowned with such success that on the first of May, 1876, a new city was born where formerly stood the Town of St. Catharines.