

BRERETON FAMILIES OF IRELAND

*John Brereton of Tullamore, Ireland
(Volume 5)*

By

Faye Brereton-Goodwin, Canada



One Irish Brereton Crest - a demi-unicorn, collared

JOHN (THOMAS) BRERETON & BETSY DOBSON OF TULLAMORE, COUNTY KING'S/OFFALY

1) JOHN (THOMAS) BRERETON (about 1790-about 1850)¹ of Tullamore, Offaly/King's County, Ireland married Betsy² Dobson (died pre-1850). The name John Brereton as 'father' is identified in the marriage records for son John and daughters Eliza and Jane, all in Ireland, in or near Tullamore. However, the name 'Thomas' has also been suggested by some of the family who quote Rev. Frank Britton of Iowa, USA as saying that his parents were 'Thomas Brereton' and 'Betsy Dobson'. Unfortunately, in the lengthy 1904 newspaper article based on an interview with Frank, the parents' names were not specified. Perhaps Thomas was a grandfather. No record has been located for a marriage of a Brereton to a Betsy Dobson.

According to family legend, this family with its English/Scots origins lived in Ireland for several generations, without intermarrying with the Irish. An elaborate explanation of the genetic heritage of John's children was passed down through the generations because the Brereton siblings though born in Ireland, emphatically denied having "even a drop of Irish blood in their veins."

- John's grandfather was English and his grandmother) was Scotch, born about 1700.
- John's father was 1/2 English and 1/2 Scotch; his wife was English.
- John therefore, from his father's side was 1/4 English and 1/4 Scotch, and his other 1/2 came from his English mother. John therefore was 3/4 (6/8) English and 1/4 (2/8) Scotch. John's wife was English.
- The heritage of each of John's children was 3/8 English and 1/8 Scotch from John, and 1/2 English from their mother. Thus each of the children laid claim to being 7/8 English and 1/8 Scotch.

The Brereton farm holdings were located just outside Tullamore, in King's/Offaly County. There is a notation on one document that there were five sons and two daughters. The oldest son, George, remained in Ireland. Four sons and one daughter (Eliza) came to USA. Descendants of Eliza state her baptism as September 1818 and also cite a baptismal record on October 1814 for Anne Brereton, both in Ireland. Several researchers add daughters Jane and Amanda. Records seem to indicate that Jane/Mary Jane married and stayed in Ireland. Several family accounts state that the youngest daughter remained in Ireland due to frail health; she died at age 18 of tuberculosis during the potato famine; this may be Amanda. It's of interest to note the repetition of given names in subsequent generations, particularly noticing that Francis/Frank, the youngest son, named his two daughters 'Anne Eliza' and 'Amanda Jane'.

1.1) Anne Brereton (baptized October 1814 – unknown year)
(born near Tullamore in King's/Offaly, Ireland)

1.2) George Brereton (baptized May 1816 – after 1856)
born near Tullamore, in King's/Offaly, Ireland and died in Ireland
married Catherine Belford in 1845 at Kilbride-Tullamore, King's, Ireland

1.3) Eliza (Elizabeth) Brereton (baptized September 1818 – 6 April 1892)
born near Tullamore in King's/Offaly, Ireland and died in Ohio, USA
married George Kinch (July 1823 – 8 November 1870) of County Roscommon, Ireland,
1 November 1847 in the Church of Ireland parish of Tullamore (Kilbride)³

¹ Information about this family by Beverly Delong Whitaker of Kansas City provided confirmation of descendants, details and dates – as well as new information about the extended family.

² Betsy has also been identified as Elizabeth. She died-1850.

³ Source – Church Marriage record for Irish Midlands Ancestry (Laois and Offaly). For research purposes it should be noted that there is a Kilbride in the Counties of Meath, Wicklow, Mayo, Down, Antrim, Cavan, Roscommon, Laois/Queen's as well as Offaly/King's Laois/Queen's as well as Offaly/King's

- 1.4) John Brereton** (baptized October 1820-1 February 1883)
born near Tullamore in King's/Offaly, Ireland and died in Iowa, USA
married Catherine Dix (17 June 1824 – 28 January 1916)
15 January 1850 at Kilbride-Tullamore, King's, Ireland
- 1.5) Robert Brereton/Britton** (30 November 1824 – 14 August 1880)
born near Tullamore in King's/Offaly, Ireland and died in Iowa, USA
married Margaret Jane Anderson (22 March 1840 - 8 March 1913)
married in Iowa on 14 February 1858
- 1.6) William Brereton** (between 1825 and 1827 – 4 Feb 1898)
born near Tullamore in King's/Offaly, Ireland and died in Ohio, USA
married Jane Richardson (September 1830- after 1900)
married in Ohio on 7 February 1853
- 1.7) Francis Brereton/Rev. Frank Britton** (10 February 1829 – 29 April 1910)
born near Tullamore in King's/Offaly, Ireland and died in Iowa, USA
baptized March 1829/ married in Butler County, Ohio
in 1855 to Catherine Flavin (11 February 1839 – 27 December 1912)
- 1.8) Mary Jane Brereton** (born 1829, death data unknown)
married at age 21, at Ettagh, King's/Offaly, Ireland
on 31 January 1850 to Thomas Benn (1820 - ?)
- 1.9) Amanda Brereton** (birth and death data unknown)
Amanda is probably the daughter who remained in Ireland,
due to frail health, died at age 18 of tuberculosis during the Potato Famine

1.1) ANNE BRERETON (baptized October 1814 – unknown year)

Anne was born near Tullamore in King's/Offaly, Ireland. According to an online inquiry by a descendant of her sister Eliza, Anne was baptized in October of 1814. By this date, she is the oldest child of John (Thomas) Brereton. No record has been located regarding a marriage or about her death.

Some researchers have suggested that she was the youngest child, the one left behind in Ireland because she was too frail to travel and that she died at the age of 18. Those facts may instead apply to Amanda Brereton whose birth and death dates are unknown.

1.2) GEORGE BRERETON (baptized May 1816 – after 1856) married Catherine Belford in 1845.

As the oldest son, George inherited his father's lands⁴ and remained in Ireland. George's four brothers and one sister left Ireland for America between 1848 and 1851.

The "Ireland Marriages, 1619-1898" Index, *Family Search* citing "Civil Marriage Records, Misc., Ireland" shows that on 17 May 1845 George Brereton married Catherine Belford, at Kilbride-Tullamore, Kings, Ireland. There is also a record of George Brereton of Lanesborough, Co. Lough (northeast of Tullamore) who was married on 1 July 1845⁵ to Catherine Belford.

⁴ According to an on-line article the Breretons probably came from England circa 1700. As a British Protestant landlord John incurred some Irish enmity and a flaw was reportedly flaw in his land title. When he lost a large section of his holdings to Irish claimants in the 1800's (sometime prior to 1850) he carried the case to the highest court of claims in England and according to family legend, when the case was decided against him, he dropped dead in the courtroom. It is believed that the mother was already deceased. The oldest son George got what property was left and the other four sons and one daughter left Ireland for the USA.

⁵ Report prepared by the Irish Family History Foundation, Tullamore.

Much earlier, in 1837 at the age of 21, George Brereton of King's County had enlisted in the Irish Constabulary (Police). Often enlistments were short, but George made it a career. A record from Slater's Directory of 1856 for the town of Edgeworthstown lists: "*Constabulary Barracks, George Brereton, constable in charge.*" Slater's Directory describes the town: Edgeworthstown was a small market and post town. It lists the Edgeworth connection and the fact that pure water was available from an excellent spring. Civil affairs were handled by magistrates who held petty sessions in a room over the marketplace, once a fortnight. There were two churches and two schools and the nearest railway station was to be found at Mullingar. Market was held on a Tuesday while fairs were held on Shrove Tuesday, May 5th, July 2nd, September 12th, November 5th and the Wednesday of the week before December 25th. The population of the town, according to the 1851 census was 818 persons.

Descendants of Robert Brereton tell the story that his brother George made one short visit to USA at the time of the death of his son John in New Jersey, for the purpose of settling the estate. George had intended to hunt up his brothers and his sister Eliza Kinch; however he lost their addresses and had to return to Ireland without seeing any of them.

Another record indicates that George Brereton and wife Elizabeth and their children John Brereton (1847), Frank Brereton, George Brereton, Robert Brereton, William Brereton and Susan Brereton lived in Hamilton Ohio. One son who died in the United States is also identified in this record as being George Brereton, although elsewhere the son is identified as John Brereton. Given the birthdate of John (1847) and the date of the marriage of George and Catherine, it is possible that the people named could be their children, but George and his family never lived in Hamilton County, Ohio. It should also be noted that George's brother William appears in a City Directory in Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio, with some of their children bearing the same names. William's children in census records were Lizzie, Mary Jane, John, Robert, Katie, Susan, Josephine, Fannie, and William.

1.3 Eliza (Elizabeth) Brereton (baptized September 1818 – April 1892) married George Kinch (July 1823 - 8 November 1870) on 1 November 1847 born near Tullamore in King's/Offaly, Ireland and died in Ohio, USA

The "Ireland Marriages, 1619-1898" Index, *Family Search* citing "Civil Marriage Records, Misc., Ireland" states the event date of 01 Nov 1847 for the marriage of George Kinch and Elizabeth Brereton and also gives the name of the father of the bride as being 'John Brereton' and the father of the groom as 'George Kinch'.

According to an on-line inquiry by a direct descendant of George Kinch and Eliza Brereton, Eliza had a sister Anne baptized October 1814 and three brothers - George baptized May 1816, John baptized October 1820 and Francis baptized 1829. There is no mention in this record of brothers Robert and William or sisters Mary Jane and Amanda.

A passenger list for the ship *Tam-O-Shanter* shows the George Kinch family arriving in New York on 28 April, 1851.

April 1851 - December 1851, page 97:

Kinch, George, age 26, male, Occupation Unknown

Eliza, age 30, female

John, age .08, male, infant

Date of Arrival April 28, 1851

Tam-O-Shanter from Liverpool to New York

In the 1860 census at St. Clair, Butler, Ohio, George is 38 and Eliza is 40, both born in Ireland. Of their 4 children in this census, John-11 was born in Ireland. Eliza J-8 and her brothers George-7 and Robert-5 and William-3 were born in Ohio.

Prepared by Beverly DeLong Whitaker

Beverly may be contacted through contact@breretonhistory.ca

In the 1870 census at Hanover Twp., Butler Co., Ohio (P.O. Bunker Hill), George is 48 and Eliza is 51. Children in the home are George-18, Robert-16, William-14, and Susan-8.

During the Civil War, the father George served in the Union Army which is indicated by military records and his headstone as a deceased Union veteran, death date of 8 November, Hamilton, Butler, Ohio.

The Famine Immigrants, Vol. VII

Military Side: Union

State or Military Term: Ohio

Military Unit: 26th Regiment, Ohio Infantry

Military Company: A

United States Records of Headstones of Deceased Union Veterans, 1879-1903

Military Final Rank: Private

George Kinch

8 November 1870

Hamilton, Butler, Ohio

George Kinch died at Hamilton, Butler Co., Ohio on November 8, 1870. In *FamilySearch*, there is an 1870 burial record for the father George, not the son who appears in the 1880 census and who died in 1882. "Ohio, Deaths and Burials, 1854-1997," index, *FamilySearch* citing reference; FHL microfilm 182,746.

The death of the elder George Kinch also appears in the *United States Records of Headstones of Deceased Union Veterans, 1879-1903* "death: 8 November 1870, Butler, Ohio."

Eliza appears as a 55-year-old widow in Hamilton, Butler, Ohio, in the 1880 census. With her are George T. Kinch-26, Robt. B. Kinch-24, William Kinch-23, Frank Kinch-22, and Susan Kinch-18.

George and Eliza Kinch had issue:

John Kinch (baptized June 1849 -)

John was born in Ireland and made the ocean voyage with his parents.

Eliza J. Kinch (abt 1852 -)

George Kinch (1853 -1882)

George died at age 26.

Robert B. Kinch (abt 1855 -) married Mattie Mathews
who after his death moved to California.

William Kinch (abt 1857-1920)

Frank Kinch (abt 1858 -)

Susan Kinch (1863-1936) married Squire Mortin or Martin.

Prepared by Beverly DeLong Whitaker

Beverly may be contacted through contact@breretonhistory.ca

1.4) JOHN BRERETON (1820-1 February 1883) Tullamore, Ireland married Catherine Dix (17 June 1824 - 8 January 1922)⁶ of Kilbride on 15 January 1850.

The marriage record for John Brereton and Catherine Dix⁷ is filed as a Civil Registration, Kilbride and Tullamore, King's, Ireland on 15 January 1850 and includes the names of both fathers; the groom's father is shown as 'John Brereton' and the bride's father is shown as 'John Dix'.

Soon after their marriage, John and Catherine Dix left for the United States. John's younger brother Frank Brereton accompanied them. The story of their voyage was reported in an article about Frank and published in an area newspaper on 24 March 1904. Crossing the Atlantic had taken eleven weeks because the vessel wrecked, but returned and was repaired. They docked at New Orleans where they made arrangements for Catherine to stay in a boarding house while John and Frank started up the Mississippi River on a 1600-mile trip to Cincinnati. Staying for only a short time, John then returned to New Orleans and brought Catherine to Ohio.

John and Catherine settled first in Butler County, Ohio, near to where Eliza and George Kinch made their home. There is a certificate of John 'Brierton' becoming a citizen of the United States, in the State of Ohio: "Certificate of John Brierton becoming a citizen. State of Ohio, Butler County, November 10, 1858. John Brierton, a native of Ireland and now a resident of this county, made application to be fully Naturalized, and to become a citizen of the United States. Certified by oath of Wm. A. Elliott, Thos. Moore and ? Millikin, citizens of the U.S. that John Brierton has resided within the U.S. 5 years and within Ohio 1 year. He abjures allegiance to the Queen of Great Britain & Ireland. Et., etc. John McElwee, Clerk."

John appeared on the 1860 Census as living in Jackson, Ohio, age 39 years. In the 1870 census the family is living in St. Clair, Butler County, Ohio. Having lived in Ohio for many years, it must have been a difficult decision for John and Catherine to move to Iowa which they did in 1873, leaving behind William and Jane Brereton, and sister Eliza and George Kinch. But Frank and Kate Brereton had stayed in southeastern Iowa and had already enticed Robert to come there to live also. These three brothers lived close to one another in the same county the remainder of their lives, leaving many descendants in that area.

John and Catherine settled in the Boyleston⁸ community in Jackson Township, Henry County, Iowa. They appear in the 1880 census in Salem, Henry County, Iowa..

Both John and Catherine are buried at Pleasant Hill Cemetery, 3 miles southeast of Mt. Pleasant in Henry County, Iowa. John and Catherine had issue:

William J. Brereton (22 Nov 1850, Butler County Ohio – Jan 1922 in Henry County, Iowa
He married Nancy Jane Moore (28 August 1852 – 6 October 1925).
Children – Clyde, John, Nannie, Williard

John Brereton (1851 – ?) may have died young

Margaret 'Lady' Brereton (born 1853) married Mr. Fields
Children – May, George or Joseph, Frank

⁶ 15 January 1850 Civil Registry of Kilbride, Tullamore

⁷ According to the Church Marriage Record provided to the author by the Irish Family History Foundation of Tullamore, John Brereton of Tullamore married Catharine Dixon of Lynally Parish in the Church of Ireland on 1 January 1850. Her father was identified by the name 'Dixon' and his father 'Brereton'.

⁸ Boyleston, Henry County, Iowa was village in Iowa - located between Salem and Lowell. It no longer exists.

George Brereton (born 1854 -?) may have died young

Eliza 'Tid' Brereton (22 Oct 1856 - 27 Apr 1932) never married

*Mary Jane 'Jennie' Brereton (1857 - 1931) married Reverend Alex Talfer
They had 4 children -- James, John, Margaret, Alec*

*Sue Brereton (22 Dec 1858 - 8 Aug 1936) married Joseph Blake Branch.
They had 8 children - Sylvia, Kate, Frank, Gladys, John, Nelle, Harry, Mamie*

Frank Brereton (12 March 1860 - 27 February 1927) never married

*Catherine 'Kate' Brereton (9 December 1861 - 24 March 1896) married John Morris Wilson.
They had 2 children - Clara and George*

Robert Brereton (1864 or 1865 -16 January 1884)

Harrison Brereton (born 1868 -?) may have died young

1.5) ROBERT BRERETON (24 November 1824- 14 September 1880) married Margaret Jane Anderson (1840-1913) born at Athens, McMinn, Tennessee USA.

Robert and Margaret were married on February 14, 1858 at Lowell, Baltimore Township, Henry County, Iowa, and lived out their lives there. (Birth, marriage, and death dates are recorded in the family Bible by early members of the family.)

Robert was born 24 November 1824 in or near Tullamore, King's County -- now Offaly, Ireland. The family lived on a farm just outside of the town, and it is reported that the railroad now runs through the spot where their home once stood.

According to a family on-line history, Robert served for four years in the British Army before immigrating to the United States, but those years were more likely in the Constabulary which was the Irish police force. Robert's name is recorded in one listing of the Royal Irish Constabulary (1816-1921) as Robert Brereton, age 21, born in King's County and who enlisted in 1843. Constabulary reports were issued in various years, but enlistment dates are included.

A Passenger List shows a 'Robert Braratan', aged 25 years arriving in New York on 15 July 1850 on the *St. George* which sailed from Liverpool, England. Robert's brother William had made a similar voyage to the USA two years earlier and their sister Eliza and husband George Kinch (along with infant son John) immigrated to America in April 1851, also by the Liverpool to New York route. John and his wife Catherine, accompanied by Frank, arrived in New Orleans sometime in 1850, after an 11-week voyage that involved a shipwreck and return to port for repairs.

Robert and three of his brothers and one sister had come to America, apparently with Ohio as their ultimate destination. They reunited in Hamilton County, Ohio, probably in about 1852. In 1850, after finding lodging for his wife in New Orleans, John along with his younger brother Frank had journeyed up the Mississippi and the Ohio River, but neither stayed long. John returned to New Orleans and brought his wife back with him to Ohio. Meanwhile Frank hunted up William in New York and found work in that state. Eliza and George Kinch settled in Ohio, and Robert joined them. William came to Ohio to visit his sister and brothers, met Jane Richardson, married her there in February of 1853, and they raised their family in Ohio. Frank came from New York about that time, and he married Catherine (Kate) Flavin there in 1855.

Prepared by Beverly DeLong Whitaker

Beverly may be contacted through contact@breretonhistory.ca

Soon after their marriage, Frank and Kate started west in search of a farm. Robert accompanied them, expecting to find good farm land. Upon arrival in Keokuk, Iowa, they hunted up a private home for Frank's wife. Then Robert and Frank went straight to the land office at Chariton, and from there to Ringgold County, thirty or forty miles across a prairie. Neither found land to their satisfaction; Frank and Kate decided to stay in Iowa at least for the winter, but Robert returned to Ohio.

We don't know how long Robert stayed in Ohio this time, probably near or with his sister Eliza. Robert does not appear in the Iowa census in 1852 or 1854 or 1856. It must have been shortly after 1856 that he returned to Iowa to visit his brother Frank. There in south-eastern Iowa, Robert met Margaret Jane Anderson, daughter of Peter Anderson and Sarah Matthews. Robert and Margaret were married in Lowell, Iowa (Baltimore Twp., Henry Co.) on 14 February 1858. He was 34 years of age, and Margaret was 18. In the 1860 census, Robert is listed in Baltimore Township, Henry County, Iowa, living near his brother Frank. Both families remained in Henry County the remainder of their lives. It wasn't until 1873 that John brought his family from Ohio to live in Iowa.

Although Robert started using the name 'Britton' when his neighbours had difficulty pronouncing his surname, the name was never legally changed. Robert's children went by 'Britton', but in the family Bible, they recorded the parents' names as 'Robert Brereton and Margaret J'.

Robert filed application papers for citizenship at Burlington, Des Moines County, Iowa. Robert Brereton was naturalized on June 18, 1859 at District Court in Mt. Pleasant, Henry County, Iowa. He owned and farmed land in Henry County, Baltimore Township and built a log home of the 40 acre property. Both Robert and Margaret are buried at Pleasant Hill Cemetery, 3 miles southeast of Mt. Pleasant in Henry County, Iowa.

On October 12, 1878, Robert Britton was serving on jury duty in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, when he suddenly became very sick. His son George, 12 years old, brought him home by wagon, and Robert was bedfast almost 2 years before he died August 14, 1880. His death certificate lists pulmonary consumption (tuberculosis) as cause of death. His widow Margaret lived another 33 years.

Robert and Margaret had issue:

William Robert Britton (15 December 1858 --11 February 1937)
married Adeline Porter, 18 March 1883

Elizabeth Azetta Britton (30 September 1861 – 30 April 1922)
married William H. Beery, 1884

Francis (Frank) Britton (20 January 1864 – 11 December 1934 ~~1932~~)
married Alta Short, 14 November, 1917

George Albert Britton (21 June 1866 – 11 July 1953)
married Orel Pearl Williams, 1 January 1889

Katie Jane (Kathryn) Britton (26 September 1868 – 26 January 1942)
married "Berd" T. Frazier of Salem, Iowa, 18 November, 1896

Sarah Margaret (Sadie) Britton (17 April 1872 – 9 May 1955)
married Donald Brown, 21 January 1908

Minnie Leona Britton (5 October 1874 – 6 May 1951)
married Algeron H. (Allie) Madsen, 6 June 1900

*Alpha Florence Britton (7 March 1877 – 27 August 1967)
married Joseph O. Doyle, 6 February 1913 in Colorado*

1.6) WILLIAM BRERETON (born 1825) married Jane Richardson (September 1830 – after 1900) who was born in Ireland.

Before leaving Ireland, William's name is recorded in the listing of the Royal Irish Constabulary (1816-1921) as William Brereton, age 20, born in King's County, who enlisted in 1843.

William 'Brierton' was the first of the Brereton siblings to come to America, arriving in New York, in steerage, on board the *Angenora* on July 10, 1848. In the 1850 census, William (Wm. 'Brardton' or 'Bruraton') appears at Cheektowaga, Erie County, New York, living with the Nathan G. Stibbins family.

Only William appears in 1850 federal census in America; even those traveling in 1850 arrived too late to be included in that census. Brother 'Robt Braratan' came alone on the *St. George*, which departed from Liverpool and arrived in New York on July 15, 1850. Both William and Robert came on ships departing from Liverpool which is across the Irish Sea from the Brereton homeland near Tullamore, King's County, Ireland. Perhaps that was the intended route, also in 1850, for Frank along with John and his bride Catherine, but their ship's wreckage and repairs resulted in a voyage lasting 11 weeks, depositing them in New Orleans. The next year their sister Eliza with her husband George Kinch followed the usual route from Liverpool and arrived in New York, aboard the ship *Tam-O'Shanter* on April 28, 1851.

While visiting his sister Eliza Kinch in Ohio, William met Jane Richardson. In the 1900 census, Jane reported her own birth as September 1830 in Ireland and that she left Ireland in 1840. William 'Braraton' and Jane Richardson were married on February 7, 1853 in Butler County, Ohio, by Rev. John M. Worrall. ["Ohio, Marriages, 1800-1958," index. *FamilySearch*.] Their first child, Lizzie, was born about 1854 in Ohio. William and Jane raised their family in Butler County, Ohio, living close to Eliza and George Kinch and their children. William and Jane appear in Butler County, Ohio in both the 1860 and 1880 census, and probably were there in 1870 as well.

In the July 1863 Union Civil War Draft Registration Records, William 'Brareton' of Butler Co., Ohio is registered as born in Ireland, white, age 37. (*Ancestry.com. U.S., Civil War Draft Registrations Records, 1863-1865* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA.)

William is in the 1871 City Directory for Hamilton, Ohio. [Residence Year: 1871 Street address: e s 4th b Main and Boudinot 1st Ward Residence Place: Hamilton, Ohio, USA Occupation: Teamster Publication Title: Williams' Hamilton Directory, 1871.]

William Brereton with occupation shown as carpenter, died in Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio on 04 Feb 1898. ["Ohio, County Death Records, 1840-2001," Index and Images, *Family Search*] William's age is shown as 66 with a birth year estimated as 1832, which is a later birth year than what is cited in other records. On both the July 10, 1850 *Angenora* passenger list and the 1850 New York state census, his age is given as 24. The 1860 census in St. Clair, Butler County, Ohio lists him as age 33 with an estimated birth year of 1827. The July 1, 1863 Civil War Draft Registration showed him as age 37. The 1880 census for Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio lists him as age 55 with an estimated birth year of 1825.

In the 1900 census, William's widow Jane is at the same location-- Hamilton Ward 1, Butler County, Ohio. Two of her children and 2 grandchildren were living with her.

William and Jane had issue:

Lizzie A. Brereton (abt 1854 -)

Mary Jane Brereton (1856 -)

John Brereton (abt 1858 -)

Robert Brereton (1860 – 1936)

Katie Brereton (abt 1863)

Susan Brereton (abt 1867 -)

Josephine Brereton (1869 -)

Fannie Brereton (abt 1872 -)

William Brereton (1878 – 1951)

1.7) FRANCIS BRERETON/REV. FRANK BRERETON (10 February 1829 – 29 April 1910) married Catherine “Kate” Flavin of Ohio. Francis was born in Tullamore, baptized in March 1829.

In a 1975 newspaper article (The New London Journal Centennial 1875-1975), the name of Frank’s father is given as ‘Thomas Brereton’ and his mother as ‘Betsy Dobson’. However various family members have identified the father as Daniel, George, David or John. In recent years, a descendant has found three legal records in which the name of the father is shown as ‘John Brereton’.

In the 1900 census, Frank states that he had been in USA for 51 years. The census was dated June 14, 1900; so his statement suggests an arrival in the fall of 1848. However, he tells about traveling to America with John and his wife Catherine -- and they were married in Ireland in January, 1850.

After their parents died, Francis was the youngest to leave Ireland. With John and Catherine, Francis immigrated to the USA. After an eleven week voyage interrupted by shipwreck and repairs, they arrived in New Orleans. From there, Frank and John moved up the Mississippi and Ohio River to Cincinnati before travelling to Buffalo, New York State. According to one record, Francis went to Buffalo because at that time his brother William lived about 5 miles east of Buffalo. Francis found work in the area and appears in the 1850 census at Cheektowaga, New York State. He stayed in New York for about 2 to 3 years. He may have lived in Rochester for a time. Meanwhile his sister Eliza and her husband George Finch arrived and settled in Butler County, Ohio. Brothers William, Robert, and John also migrated there, and Francis decided to join them. During his visit he met Catherine (Kate) Flavin, a young woman whose family had recently arrived there from Massachusetts.

Francis married Catherine (Kate) Flavin (11 February 1839 – 27 December 1912) in 1855 in Butler County, Ohio. Soon after their marriage, they journeyed to Iowa in search of land and a home, accompanied by Robert. Not finding land that appealed to them, Robert returned to Ohio, but Kate had made a new friend who urged Frank and Kate to stay through the winter. They ended up with a small farm and a home in Henry County, Iowa, and were joined a few years later, first by Robert and still later by John and his family who stayed behind in Ohio for a few years.

Following Robert’s example of simplifying the surname spelling, Francis sometimes went by *Britton*, whereas John and his descendants retained the *Brereton* pronunciation and spelling. Francis became a

Methodist Protestant minister. He was well known in the community as Rev. Frank Britton, but legal papers such as his naturalization record in 1859 in Henry County show him as Francis Brereton.

A newspaper was published in Mt. Pleasant, the county seat of Henry County, Iowa. It was probably this newspaper that on March 24, 1904 published a lengthy article about Frank that survives to this day. In it, Frank answers questions by his interviewer and expounds on them with much detail in his own words as well. A close study of this narrative provided enough details for Brereton descendants to launch a search for confirming records. And most of all, it captures the compelling desire of the siblings to care about and bring the family together again in America.

Frank and Kate lost their first three children in a period of three days in the 1860 diphtheria epidemic in Iowa. A son born the next year, died in 1903 of measles.

Both Frank and Kate are buried at Pleasant Hill Cemetery, 3 miles southeast of Mt. Pleasant in Henry County, Iowa.

Frank and Catherine had issue, but none of the children outlived their father:

Robert Washington Brereton (21 February 1856 – 21 September, 1860)

Anne Eliza Brereton (17 January 1858 – 2 October 1860)

Amanda Jane Brereton (2 January 1860 – 25 September 1860)

Francis Douglas Brereton (11 October 1861 – 5 May 1903)
Married Orië L. Gear and had one son, Roy Britton

1.8) MARY JANE BRERETON (born 1829, death data unknown) married at age 21, at Ettagh, King's Co., Ireland on 31 January 1850 to Thomas Benn (1820 - ?). Their marriage record shows the father of Mary Jane to be 'John Brereton', and the father of Thomas to be 'Fulmoth Benn'.

1.9) AMANDA BRERETON (birth and death data unknown)

Amanda is probably the daughter who remained in Ireland, due to frail health. She died at age 18 of tuberculosis during the Potato Famine.

Prepared by Beverly DeLong Whitaker
 4318 N Baltimore Ave.
 Kansas City, MO 64116

Beverly is a 3rd great-granddaughter of John (Thomas) Brereton

Lineage:

John (Thomas) Brereton
 Robert Brereton
 George Albert Britton
 Edna Pearl Britton
 Robert Newell DeLong
 Beverly May DeLong

Prepared by Beverly DeLong Whitaker
 Beverly may be contacted through contact@breretonhistory.ca