

ALBERT BROWN, CARD ROOM OVERSEER

By Clarence Crocker



Albert A. Brown, a Glendale native, began working as a laborer in Glendale Mills card/picker room at a young age. Being a hard conscientious worker, he became a slubber operator in his early twenties. At thirty six he had already been promoted to picker room Overseer and by his mid-forties, had become Overseer of the entire Carding department.

Albert was a quiet, non-pretentious, kindly individual. What you saw was what you got. He was a real gentleman with a strong community spirit. Albert, along with his son Joe, Harold and Roy Davis and George Lindsey, all Glendale Residents, formed a string band and performed from time to time in the Community building as well as outdoor performances. Albert and his family lived on Broadway Street directly in front of the Community building, three doors from the mill office, for as long as I can remember. The Browns were an honorable and appreciated family of the community.



Left to Right - Harold Davis, Joe & Albert Brown, Roy Davis, George Lindsey

Born January 10, 1874, Albert was the son of Joseph A. (Joe) and Margaret Elizabeth (Mollie) Crocker Brown. Joe was Postmaster of the Glendale Post Office in the early

1900s. Albert's sister, Blanche Crocker served as Postmaster for a short period following the death of their father. Census records show that Albert had 8 siblings, 2 unnamed dead, 6 living; William C., Eddie F., Mintie, Mallie, Nellie Blanche and Jessie Furman Brown

Census dates and names were listed as the writer understood the informer which led to gross errors. I have tried to record the data as listed in the census, adding grave marker dates for accuracy. An asterisk indicates more information regarding the individual follows.

The 1900 Glendale Census shows that Albert had been married to Margaret R. (Maggie) Mabry 7 years and they were the parents of two children.

The household was listed as;

Albert A. Brown 26, husband, born January 1874. Wife; Maggie 24, born June 1876.

Children; Ila 6, born October 1894. Joseph 3 mos., born September 1899.

The 1910 Glendale Census listed the household as;

Albert 36, husband, Picker Room Overseer.

Wife; Maggie 34.

Children; Ila 16, cloth room employee. Joe 10.

Horace 8.

The 1920 Glendale Census listed the household as;

Albert 46, husband, Card Room Overseer.

Wife; Maggie 44.

Children; *Joe 19, card operator. * Horace 16, mill employee

*Ila Brown Black 22. Husband; *Elbert Black 22, transfer Co.

*Elmer Black 4 yrs. 7 mos., grandson.

Excerpts from the obituary of Margaret "Maggie" Brown published Saturday 26, 1932; "Mrs. Maggie Brown, 55, wife of Albert. A. Brown, died at her home yesterday following a brief illness. Services will be held in the Glendale Baptist Church conducted by Revs. C.P. Holland, J.T. Farr and J. W. Miller. Interment will follow in the Glendale Community Cemetery.

Survivors are; her husband; two sons, Horace and Joe Brown; one daughter, Mrs. Ila Black; three brothers, Nim, Dub and David Mabry; two sisters, Mrs. Annie Crocker and Mrs. Fannie Mabry."

Following the untimely death of Mrs. Maggie Brown, Albert married the widow, Mrs. Alta Gosnell, of Glendale.

The 1940 Glendale Census lists Albert's household as;

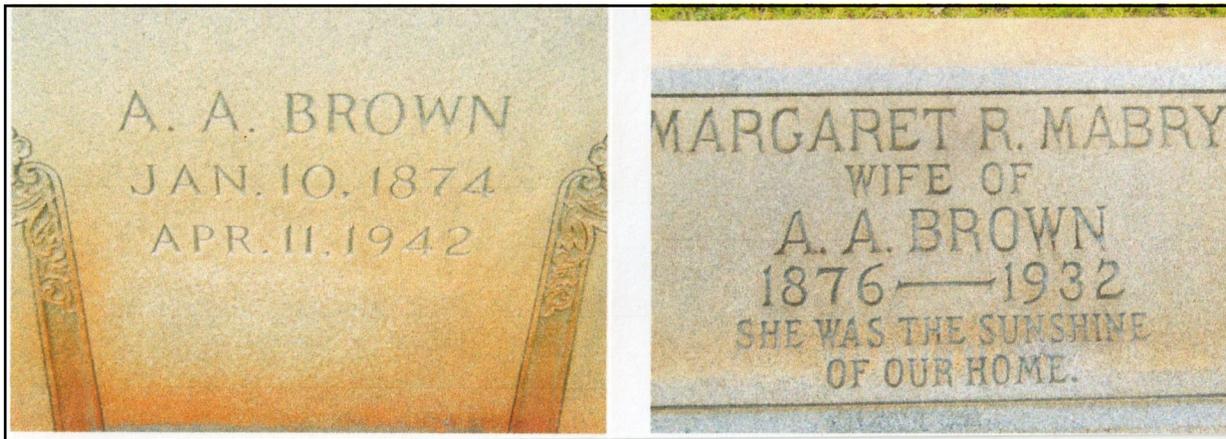
Albert A. Brown, 66, husband.

Wife; Alta 44.

Children; James Gosnell 15, stepson.

Jessie Gosnell 7, stepdaughter.

Grave markers;



Alta Blackwell Gosnell Brown died at the age of 84, August, 1978. No records of burial.

1;The Family of Ila Brown Black, daughter of Albert and Maggie Brown;

Ila Brown married Elbert Black who was with a trucking company at the time of their marriage but later became a trolley motorman on the Spartanburg/Glendale route. They became the parents of 2 children.

The 1940 Glendale Census lists the household as;

Elbert Black 48, husband, bus driver. Wife; Ila 42.

Children; Elmer 24. Margaret 11.

Elbert and Ila are buried in the Glendale Community Cemetery.

Grave markers;

Grave markers;

Elbert J. Black, 1894=1948.

Ila B. Black, 1895=1953.

Elmer Black married Alice Shropshier. No children to this writer's knowledge.

Elmer Black died at age of 81 in December of 1996.

Margaret Black married Calvin Dupree Seals. (this writer's brother in-law) They had no children.

Margaret Black Seals died at the age of 61, December 1990 and is buried in Greenlawn Memorial Gardens, Spartanburg, S.C.

Calvin DuPree Seals died at the age of 75 in December, 2006. He is buried in Greenlawn Memorial Gardens.

2;The Family of Joseph E. Brown Sr., son of Albert and Maggie Brown

Joseph E. Brown Sr., husband/head of house Wife; Addie
Their Children; Robert Louise Carolyn Joseph E. Jr.

Joseph Sr. drove a Glendale Trolley car then drove a bus after the Trolley was stopped. He also worked in the carding department of Glendale Mills while living on Chapel Street in the village.

The Family of Joseph E. Brown Jr., son of Joseph Sr. and Addie Brown

Joseph E. Brown Jr., husband/head of household. Wife; Frances
Their children;
Joseph E 3rd. David A. Lynda
Thanks to Joseph Jr. for supplying this information about his own and his father's family.

3; The Family of Horace Brown, son of Albert and Margaret (Maggie) Brown

Horace married Mae Ward and they became the parent of one daughter.

The 1940 Glendale Census listed the household as;

Horace Brown 39, husband, section man. Wife; Mae 39
Daughter; Nancy Brown 5.
A Step daughter, Miss Margie Ward was living with them also.

Census records and Spartanburg Herald/Journal obituaries, courtesy of the Spartanburg County Library.

Albert Brown's mother, Margaret Elizabeth "Mollie" Crocker Brown, was this writer's great Aunt which makes Albert my second cousin.

Clarence E. Crocker, July 2012