

Susannah Brown

*People of London Town, Maryland**

Very little information is actually known about Susannah Brown, William Brown's wife. We do not know where or when she was born. And we do not have a specific date for her marriage to William. What we do know is that she had married William by 1746 when their first recorded child, Jane was born in All Hallows Parish.¹ And though she was still alive and married to William as of 6 July 1789 when she acceded to a land sale by William, his 1793 will does not mention her.² Because William was involved with woodworking, building contracts, ferry keeping, and tavern keeping, it is a good bet that Susannah oversaw not only the domestic aspects of the Brown household, but also the tavern keeping (and maybe the ferry keeping) aspects.

During Susannah's marriage to William, she is recorded as having four children: Jane on 19 January 1746, Elizabeth on 21 April 1748, William in October 1751, and Margaret on 8 August 1759.³ Though these records state that these children are of William and Anne Brown, it seems that 'Anne' is a shortening of Susannah. Additionally, a 1778 transaction in the land records indicates that a fifth child, Willee Ann was born to the Susannah and William. In this record, the mother is listed as Susannah.⁴ These numbers work well because in the 1776 census, the Brown household is listed as having 4 white males (one being William Brown, Sr.), 1 white female (Susannah), 5 white children, 2 black males, and 1 black female.⁵

Other than these personal records, the only other times Susannah appears is when William Brown sells parcels of land. Though land titles were usually solely in the husband's name, the government almost always wanted to get the wife's consent to these sales because that could affect her personal property holdings if her husband were to die first. Because of this, we have Susannah's consent to William's indenture of the large brick building and town land in London Town and his sale to Joshua Mayo of six acres of land called the Great Philosopher's Neglect.⁶ There is no record of her death or burial.

* As the research into colonial London Town's inhabitants is an ongoing process, the caveat is offered that additional information may be found at any time and that a correction of information might also occur at any time.

¹ F. Edward Wright, *Anne Arundel Church Records of the 17th and 18th Centuries*.

² Maryland State Archives (MSA), *Anne Arundel County Land Records (AACLR)*, Liber NH4, Folio 314.

Anne Arundel County, Register of Wills; Wills, original; MSA C155-2, Box B, Folder 84; Location-01/04/13/008
³ Wright.

⁴ MSA, AACLR, Liber NH1, Folio 28.

⁵ Bettie Stirling Carothers, *1776 Census of Maryland*, 1970.

⁶ MSA, AACLR, Liber NH4, Folio 314 and 346.