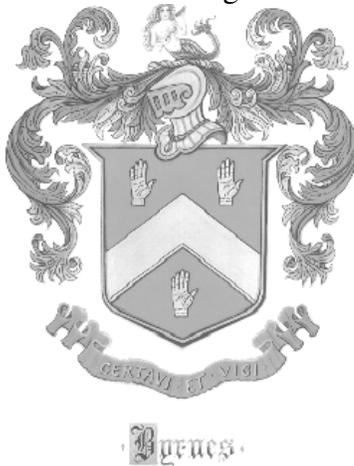


Byrnes Family History

Compiled by Ann Byrnes Alleman

The Byrnes Family that we know begins in Ireland. There are many Byrnes families in the various counties of Ireland and have been strong members of society there for many centuries. We think that our branch came from the Dublin or Wicklow area. We are still trying to find the Byrnes ancestors and descendants in Ireland. Some literature suggest that the name was "Byrne" until children added an "s" to their name in the mid 1700s when signing legal documents in the Delaware area. Much of the data from the early accounts of the Byrnes Family was obtained from the Delaware Genealogy Society in Wilmington, for this is where they first settled when they came to America about 1730 from County Wicklow in Ireland, just south of Dublin.

Byrnes Coat of Arms: Gules, a chevron between three dexter hands, coupéd at the wrist, argent. Crest: a mermaid in the dexter hand, a mirror; in the sinister, a comb, all proper. Motto: *Certavi et vici*. Latin. "I have fought & conquered." Livery colors, Red trimmed silver.



These are the arms of Byrnes of Timogue, Queen's County, and Cabinteely; a celebrated Irish Sept, for centuries one of the most powerful and distinguished in the province of Leinster. Frach Mac Hugh O'Byrne, chief of the name temp. Elizabeth, held a high command at the famous battle of Glendalough, in which the English, under the Lord Deputy Grey, were defeated. The present head of the Senior line of the family, the Byrnes of Timogue, is George, Lord de Tabley; the Byrnes of Cabinteely, the second branch, are represented in the female line by Miss Byrnes of Cabinteely, & the male by Robert O'Byrne, esq., was third son of John Byrn of Cabinteely, esq. From Burke's General Armory,

published 1844.

The root name from which Byrnes evolves, is the Gaelic word, *Bran*, a raven. The family origin started with Bran, son of Maolmorra, King of Leinster, who, according to the annals of the Four Masters, died at Cologne in 1052. The territory was that of Ui Faolis in Northern Kildare, whence they were driven by the Anglo-Normans, after which they went into the Wicklow Mountains, where they led the Wicklow clans in warfare against England for four hundred years. Their lands were called Crioich Branach, or "Burn's End", & comprised the Barony of New Castle and part of Arklow and Ballinacor. From the Ramalagh branch of the family cam Frach Mac Hugh O'Byrne, who so vehemently opposed Elizabeth I.

The *chevron* was never given for anything but military achievement, and is accounted the most honorary achievement of heraldic charges.

The *hand*, severed at the wrist, is used on many Irish shields. There is a legend about it. a raiding party, making an excursion by water, had been promised a great reward by the leader, to the man who first touched land. One soldier, seeing other boats drawing ahead of his own, quickly severed his hand at the wrist, flung it to shore, and so won the race.

The *mermaid* is found as a crest on arms of many distinguished Irish & Scottish families. She was a fabulous being, left from the myths of the Middle Ages. If you met one, she could foretell your future, of weal or woe!

Gules, red signifies deathless valor. *Argent*, silver, means innocence, purity. The moulting, red doubled silver, represents the Knight's cloat, torn & rent in battle. The crest rest on a wreath of livery colors, made of two strands of heavy silk, twisted together.

The *steel helmet*, set in profile, visor closed, is that of an esquire or gentleman.

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**Daniel Byrnes, Sr.:** our 5-great-grandfather, was born in IRELAND about 1695. He may have been from the Wicklow/Dublin area. He married a lady, born in SCOTLAND, **Rebecca Fitch**, about 1717 in IRELAND. They came to America because their Quaker faith was in conflict with their families' Catholic heritage. They had 6 children: 4 of which were born in IRELAND; the other 2: Daniel and Caleb, were born in America.

Daniel and Rebecca Fitch immigrated about 1730 to Philadelphia. They first lived in Philadelphia at the S. W. corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> and Spruce streets, according to Delaware Quaker Records: New Castle County, p. 74. They then moved across to Kent Co., DE along Jones Creek (we think). Their name was "Byrne" in Ireland, but the "s" was added in papers after they came to America. **Daniel**, their 5<sup>th</sup> child and our 4-great grandfather, was born perhaps in Kent Co., DE in late 1730; and his younger brother, Caleb, was born in New Castle County, DE in 1732. These areas were quite close in proximity to each other. According to these Delaware Quaker Records they later lived at Jones Creek, DE (October 13, 1764 Monthly Meeting Notes.)

I am not certain of Daniel Byrnes, Sr. profession, but he seemed to be well off. Daniel Byrnes, Sr. died in 1787 at Christiana Head, New Castle County, DE.

**Rebecca Fitch**, Daniel Sr.'s wife, daughter of James Fitch, was born in SCOTLAND about 1698. She was a Quaker, and was very devout in this faith. Her father, James Fitch, separated from the Catholic faith to become Quaker in Scotland and fled to Ireland. He and his wife had 2 daughters; Rebecca, who married Daniel Byrnes, and her sister married a Mr. Robinson. Both Byrnes and Robinson families immigrated to America about 1730. Daniel is thought to have come from a Catholic family, and it is not certain that he ever converted to the Quaker faith, although his children were raised in the Quaker faith. They married about 1717 in IRELAND. According to a grandson, Daniel, son of Caleb:

## How the Fitch family united with the Byrnes family

*'Anterior to the reminiscences of the Byrnes family, I may state that there lived in Scotland a person by the surname of **Fitch**, whitt it is believed was wealthy, and that he had a son who became convinced of the principles of Friends, I should suppose, prior to the year 1700. This so offended his father that he had to leave the parent roof, and he settled in Ireland; I believe he learned the glove-making business after he left his father's house.*

*While residing in some of the towns, it was impressed upon his mind, that in such a house he was to get a wife, and after visiting at this house where lived a female friend, in time they laid their proposals of marriage with each other before the meeting, and when the couple appeared in the meeting preparatory to passing, a Friend in the gallery got up and said that he no unity with those proceedings in orders of marriage with each other, for it appeared to him that a line of the ministry would come through the loins of the young man and he said the woman was too old to have children.*

*This stopped the proceedings and they were not married; this doubtless produced much trouble and anxiety of mind to the young man as he believed that he was rightly directed; but in the course of time the same impression was made that in the same house he was to get his wife, and on going there he became acquainted with a young woman, a daughter or niece of the woman he had proposed marriage with before. And to this young woman he was*

afterwards married, and by whom he had two daughters, one (**Rebecca**) of which Grandfather Daniel Byrnes married, and the other daughter was married to Francis Robinson.

*Both families removed to America pretty much on account of their connections being Catholics. This must have been about the year 1730....'*

Daniel and Rebecca's first residence in America in 1730 was in the City of Philadelphia, in a brick house at the southwest corner of Front and Spruce Streets. They then apparently lived in Kent County, DE then in various places in New Castle County, DE. As seen by the following letter he lived near Jones Creek. He died at Christiana Head in 1787 and is buried in the Christiana Meeting Cemetery. He wrote the following letter to his son, Daniel (our 4-great grandfather):

*'Jones' Creek ye 10 month, 18<sup>th</sup>, 1764*

*My Dear Daniel: I was much surprised when I heard of what the child (suffered) I suppose poor Dinah was in a crouwel fright do pray send me word by ye first opportunity and likewise how yu is and whether Rachel ever moved up the County, blessed be the Lord, we are all in good health here hoping that you are in the same, this is all at present but my love to ye both. Remember me Nicholas and Molly of ye.*

*I remain your loving Father until Death, Dan'l Byrne'*

The following data concerning the children of **Daniel Byrnes & Rebecca Fitch** was compiled in 1842 by Daniel Byrnes Sr.'s grandson, Daniel Byrnes, son of Caleb:

1. **Joshua Byrnes**, born April 1718 in Ireland and died July 29, 1777 in Stanton, DE. He married **Ruth Woodcock** in DE. They had 8 children. Some settled in Wilmington, Philadelphia and the Baltimore areas. He was a renowned sea captain who crossed the Atlantic over 70 times. He also ran a tavern and a ferry across the Schuylkill River in DE. Ruth kept the family together and taught school after his death. She later moved to Baltimore with their son Samuel and his family. This is where she died.

2. **Charles Byrnes**, born in Ireland in 1720 and died in Wilmington, DE May 2, 1794. Charles was blind from smallpox as a small child, and never married. He lived to be 74 and died May 2, 1794 in Wilmington. He is reported to have excellent hearing and could run the family gristmills by their sounds.

3. **Elizabeth Byrnes**, born in Ireland about 1722, married **William Woodcock**, brother of Ruth (wife of Joshua), about 1750. They died in New Castle Co., DE. They had several children. He was dismissed from the Quaker Faith for his "plain language" and for calling another Friend a liar in public.

4. **Rachel Byrnes**, born about 1726 in Ireland, married Benjamin Wilson, a miller of Wilmington, DE and died unknown. Unknown children.

\*5. **Daniel Byrnes**, (our 4-great grandfather) born about 1730, possibly in Kent County, DE. See separate biography and description of his life and work as a miller, a Quaker minister, and the part that he played in General Washington's planning of the Battle of Brandywine.

6. **Caleb Byrnes**, born in 1732 in New Castle Co., DE, Married Mary Davis at Plymouth MM on May 17, 1759 and died January 11, 1794 in Wilmington, DE. He and Mary had 6 children, most of whom settled in the Wilmington, DE and Baltimore, MD area. Some of his descendants settled in eastern Pennsylvania. He was a cabinetmaker. Some of his furniture is in a Historical Society Museum in Wilmington today.

**I. Children of Joshua Byrnes (April, 1718 in Ireland, died July 29, 1777 in Stanton, DE, and Ruth Woodcock (Born October 21, 1727 in Philadelphia, lived most of their lives in the Wilmington area. She died at her son's home in Baltimore in 1815.)**

1. **Sarah Byrnes**, born October 29, 1750; died in infancy.
2. **Rachel Byrnes**, born January 17, 1754 in Wilmington, never married, moved from place to place after her father's death. She lived in Fishkill and kept house for her cousin, William Byrnes, son of Daniel Byrnes, Jr. She was the Cousin Rachel that Joseph wrote to in 1830. She died March 30, 1833 in Wilmington.
3. **Joshua Byrnes**, born October 22, 1756. Not much is known about him. He was in Philadelphia in 1784.
4. **Betsey Byrnes**, born December 28, 1757. May have died in infancy.
5. **Sarah Byrnes II**, born April 25, 1760. There was no information on her.
6. **Samuel Byrnes**, born February 21, 1762, married **Hannah Woodnut** October 31, 1792, died unknown. He and Hannah had 6 children, dates unknown: Ruth, Caleb, Sarah, Elizabeth, Thomas, and Woodnut. They lived in Baltimore. His mother Ruth lived with them during her later years.
7. **James Fitch Byrnes**, born February 1, 1764. He never married. He was in Cornwall, NY in 1795 with his Uncle Daniel and cousin William according to Quaker Records.
8. **Thomas Byrnes**, born February 1, 1766, Married **Sarah Pancoast** September 16, 1795, and died August 7, 1798. Thomas was a silversmith and had first apprenticed to his Uncle Bancroft Woodcock. Some of his work is shown in the Delaware Historical Society Museum in Wilmington today. He and Sarah had two children: Hannah Pancoast Byrnes, born July 29, 1796, married Edward Louwes in 1813; and Thomas Byrnes born October 11, 1798.

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Daniel Byrnes: our 4-great grandfather, was probably born in late 1730 in perhaps Kent Co. DE. His family moved to New Castle Co, & Wilmington, DE area about 1751, as there are records of him being at the Wilmington Friends House in 1751. He married **Dinah Hichen**, about June 8, 1751 in Newark MM, DE records. We assume that Dinah Hichen was born in the 1730s in the Wilmington area of DE. They were certified from Cecil MM (Monthly Meeting in the Quaker Religion) in Cecil Co., DE to Wilmington MM February 11, 1759, to Kennett MM and had one child, William, at that time. All of these meeting places, as well as Stanton, mentioned below, are suburbs of Wilmington.

Daniel was quite successful with his gristmills. The account of his building a long race for a mill on White Clay Creek, near Stanton is mentioned in Wilmington Monthly Meeting notes. He purchased a house from Mr. Hale in 1773. He built on to this house for his growing family and had a mill there. This is the house that General Washington used to plan the siege on Brandywine in the Revolutionary War.

The following was an account of the **Hale-Byrnes House:**

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*From a news clipping, September 18, 1971 in a Wilmington Newspaper entitled: "Washington Met There" "Hale-Byrnes House Turned over to State" by W. Emerson Wilson:*

*'The Hale-Byrnes House, near Stanton, meeting place of Washington's generals before the Battle of Brandywine, has been turned over to the state by the Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities.*

*The society, under the leadership of Mrs. Harry Clark Boden IV, acquired the house when it was threatened by plans of the State Highway Department to widen Delaware 7 in 1960. During the next 10 years the society spent more than \$80,000 in restoring the historic house.*

*....The caretakers, a couple who live in an apartment in the restored house will be retained, and the present system of having them show visitors through the house will be continued. The house will also be available for community groups who wish to hold meetings there.*

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The house consists of two sections; one built around 1750 by Samuel Hale, a Quaker miller, and the later section by Daniel Byrnes, another miller, around 1770.

Alongside the house is a huge sycamore tree, believed to have been standing when Washington, Lafayette, Wayne, Sullivan and other generals met to discuss what to do to keep Lord Howe from advancing from his lines around Iron Hill where his British Army had remained since the Battle of Cooch's Bridge three days before.

Daniel Byrnes, a nephew of the first Daniel Byrnes, later wrote that at the time of the conference as many cannon as fit were placed in front of the house to defend the roads from Christiana and Ogletown which converged in front of the house.

The British were expected to advance up one or the other of these roads and possibly along both. The Byrnes family was prepared to take refuge in the cellar in case such an attack was made. The British, however, made a flanking maneuver, marching through Newark north to Kennett Square, causing Washington to move his troops northward and take up positions at Chadds Ford.'

After visiting the *Hale-Byrnes House* December 5, 2000 I (Ann Byrnes Alleman) gathered the following information:

The following article was originally published in 1968 by the Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities. The transcription is verbatim:

History of Hale-Byrnes House

By: W. Emerson Wilson

"In the hectic days before the Battle of Brandywine Daniel Byrnes, a well-to-do Quaker miller, his wife Dinah and their children, watched in awe as Continental soldiers marched back and forth in front of their substantial brick house.

"Their house was at the intersection of the Ogletown Road from Newark and the King's Highway from Christiana and since the British under Lord William Howe were only a few miles down both roads they knew a battle might occur at any time.

"General George Washington had ordered the Continental cannon to be placed directly in front of the house so that the artillerymen could cover both roads if the British came up either of them. Their guns extended wheel to wheel both east and west of the house.

"The first battle between the invading British and Hessians and the defending light infantry of the Continentals had taken place on September 3, 1777 at Cooch's Bridge less than five miles away and everyone was quite sure the enemy who had driven the Americans back would soon be advancing.

"Dinah Byrnes was ready, should the enemy appear, to take the children to the cellar where they could hide under the huge arch beneath the principal fireplace.

"The biggest thrill for the children came on September 6 when General Washington, the Marquis de la Fayette, General Anthony Wayne, General Nathaniel Greene and other high officers rode up to the house. Captain Robert Kirkwood of near Newark, who was thoroughly familiar with the countryside had arranged earlier in the day for Daniel Byrnes to make his house available for council of war.

"The British had made no move since the Battle at Cooch's Bridge. Washington had to guess at their intentions and decide whether he should advance on one or the other roads, or take up different positions if the British planned a flanking movement.

"It was a warm day so the Generals sat for a while under the sycamore tree near the front door before entering the house for the council of war. Dorcas (Lydia) Byrnes, 10, Joseph, 8, brought the generals large glasses of water from their nearby spring while Caleb, 6, looked on in awe.

"Finally General Washington called the council of war to order and after a full discussion of the situation it was decided to move picket lines a few miles closer to the British who were still south of Christiana.

"Then the generals rode off with the Marquis good-naturedly tousling the hair of tiny Caleb before mounting his horse.

“That night and the next day some troops moved down the Christiana Road and again the children were busy helping them get water from the spring as they passed.

“Several days later the Byrnes family awoke to find the cannon gone and only a few soldiers passing on their way toward Stanton enroute to Chadd’s Ford. This was the last the Byrnes were to see of the Continentals, but on September 11 the family listened anxiously to the distant sound of cannon fire as the British met and defeated Washington at the Battle of the Brandywine.

“The brick residence of the Byrnes family had been built in 1750 by Samuel Hale, a potter who had moved to the site along White Clay Creek from Philadelphia. The house had two stories and an attic, with a cellar opening at ground level in the rear. In this large cellar Hale stored his pottery and kept an office from which he made his sales. The landing directly in back of the house was described as one of the busiest for commerce on the creek which emptied into the Christiana River about a mile east of the house.

“Later Hale sold the house to David Finney, “gentleman” of New Castle, who rented it to different families until Byrnes bought it in 1772.

“Byrnes, a native of Kent County, married Dinah Hichen at the Monthly Meeting in Newark in 1751. He was a devout Quaker and was ordained a minister of that faith in Philadelphia in 1784. While living in Delaware, he helped to build a mill race along the Brandywine in Wilmington, then decided to have his own mill and therefore purchased the White Clay Creek site. The existing house was not large enough for his family so he built an addition to it. Local legend contends that he held Quaker meetings in his house. This seems likely since Byrnes was at the time becoming a Quaker preacher.

“His mill was built adjacent to the house on the side toward Stanton. At first merely a grist mill, he later developed a plan for drawing wire and was doing this when the generals visited the house in 1777. He also had a machine for spinning twine or flax thread, which was turned by the water power of the mill.

“In 1790 Byrnes sold the mill to Blair McClenahan, a Philadelphia merchant and ship owner, and moved to Philadelphia. During the 9th Century the house and mill were owned by a number of different persons including Andrew C. Gray, distinguished lawyer and Democratic leader. It was while he owned the property that the mill burned down in 1844....”

Another untitled article was written in the 1980s by Barbara McEwing, an employee of the Historical Society of Delaware follows:

“In any old house there are many memories... of happy times ... frightening times... sad times ... but always love and concern for neighbors. This was so in the Hale-Byrnes House.

“Built by Warwick Hale (who came to America about 1700). He willed the house to his son who was a potter and was busy in his trade, having an outlet for his wares from shallots, which plied the waters near his house. Upon his death the house was sold to David Finney in 1752. The deed for this is in the Historical Society of Delaware. It states it was 2 ½ miles from Christiana Bridge on the White Clay Creek. There is no evidence that Finney lived in the house except for the name Finney on a brick in the rear of the house. IT was Finney who sold the house to Daniel Byrnes January 15, 1773.

The Byrne family came from Wicklow County, Ireland about 1730. The “s” was added to the name after they came to America.

“The original Daniel Byrne married a Rebecca Fitch and they, with their family, came to America settling first in Philadelphia and later on Jones Creek, Kent County, Delaware, where “our” Daniel was born, also his brother Caleb who later was a carpenter and chair maker. The Historical Society of Delaware has a desk made by Caleb Byrnes for himself.

“Both men found their way to Wilmington – first mention of Daniel is listed in accounts of the digging of the mill race along the west side of Brandywine in Wilmington. He was minister and a prominent member of Friends’ Meeting in Wilmington. Later he became a miller. Daniel married Dinah Hichen at Friends’ Meeting in Newark and some time later they acquired the house on the White Clay Creek and he built a mill there and a millrace.

“He was ingenious in many ways, first building a works for drawing wire and a machine for spinning twine and strong flax thread. (This was turned by the water power from the mill race.) He was the first to pack a barrel of flour by water power. He also had a kiln for drying corn.

“Later he moved to Philadelphia and had a successful flour store near Pine Street and the wharf.. While there he invented an instrument for taking lunar observations... used in navigation. He returned a very successful man to live in his home on the White Clay Creek.

In 1771 Caleb, Daniel’s brother, moved to Wilmington with his wife Mary Davis and bought the Red Clay Mill at Stanton, formerly called Cuckelstown. He started building a millrace there. IT was between Caleb’s house and his brother, Daniel’s house on the White Clay Creek, about a mile distance, that George Washington and his army were resting on their way to Chadd’s Ford. The British had already landed below Elkton and were approaching Christiana Bridge. Both Caleb and Daniel Byrnes families were ordered to evacuate their homes, but refused. A neighbor drew a map for Washington showing him how to get to Brandywine Springs and on to Chadds Ford, which is what the arm did, and by morning when the British arrived there were no American troops.

“These were happy people, hard working but fun loving. The stories are told of how Daniel’s children and Caleb’s often slept together in one bed – all four of them. Also how the four would ride on an old gray mare and take turns being on the end so they could hang onto the horse’s tail. In the summer they swam in the milldam and in winter ice-skated on the creek between Caleb’s and Daniel’s houses.

“In reading Daniel Byrne’s diary he tells how one January there was 12” of ice on the Christiana.”

“Another member of the Byrne’s family lived nearby. Joshua, the oldest of the Byrne children to come over from Ireland, was a sea captain. He married a Ruth Woodcock while Joshua’s sister, Elizabeth, married William Woodcock. They were relatives of the famous early Wilmington silversmith, Bancroft Woodcock.

“Ruth Woodcock Byrnes and her son, Thomas, moved to near Christiana Bridge after Joshua’s death. Thomas went into the silversmith business with his uncle Bancroft Woodcock. The Historical Society of Delaware has several pieces of his silver.”

The children of **Daniel Byrnes** and **Dinah Hichen**, our four-great grandparents, were:

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1. **William Byrnes**, born July 22, 1759 in Wilmington, DE, died 1830 in Fishkill, NY. More details on William are to follow.
 2. **Rebecca Byrnes**, who was born March 6, 1761 and died in infancy.
 3. **Joshua Byrnes**, who was born July 3, 1762 and lived until after 1830. He never married but was close to his brother Joseph (our 3-great grandfather.) He was injured by a fall from a horse which left him with a swollen brain and some neurological dysfunctions for the remainder of his life.
 4. **Lydia Dorcas Byrnes**, their only daughter, was born July 19, 1767 and married John Poulteny, as his second wife, and they had several children. They settled in the Philadelphia area. Some of her children were removed from the Quaker religion in 1830s. More details to follow.
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5. ***Joseph Byrnes**, our 3-great grandfather, was born December 15, 1769, married **Rebecca Clarke**, of NYC on April 15, 1795, and he died January 11, 1841 in NYC. They had four children: Robert, Caroline, Walter, and Elizabeth who will be described in following paragraphs.
6. **Caleb Byrnes**, born September 21, 1771, was married and had one child, Caroline. The name of his wife is unknown. He mentioned as executor of his father's will in 1797. He managed his father's gristmills and affairs in NYC, after Daniel's death, for his mother. He later left America and went to Marseilles, FRANCE sometimes after selling the mills in 1803.

According to the NY Quaker Meeting Journal, "In April of 1781, Daniel Byrnes, Jr. was recommended as a Quaker minister by Wilmington Monthly Meeting. (He was probably ministering in the Quaker Meetings long before this date.) "He was certified to Philadelphia MM S District October 18, 1784 and received December 29, 1784." Daniel and Dinah sold the Boyce House (This is the Hale-Byrnes House that is on the Historical Registry) near Stanton, DE. Boyce purchased the house in 1805 – see the listing of owners of this property.) Daniel, Dinah, and some of their family, went to NY State about 1790. By June 21, 1791 he was received to New Cornwall MM. This area was his final move. Daniel had established several gristmills in Newburg, New Windsor and Cornwall of what was then Ulster Co., NY. He was in Ulster Co., NY, by 1792. By May 27, 1797 he died in New Windsor or Cornwall on Hudson, Ulster County (that portion of Ulster county was to become Orange Co. NY the year following his death.) Some of his records are in Ulster County; others of his descendants are in Orange County, NY, as New Windsor and Cornwall were annexed to Orange County in 1798. Caleb sold the gristmills in 1803. This makes one wonder if Dinah had died by then – the Cornwall Friends have scanty records at this time. We know that they were there and were probably buried at Cornwall Friends, but no markers were put in that cemetery until about 1850.

Joseph, our 3-great grandfather, and his brother William, were mentioned as having been given property earlier and were not added to Daniel's Will. Also, Daniel's daughter, Lydia, was mentioned and left personal effects to be inherited after the death of Dinah. She was married, lived in Philadelphia, and had children by the time that Daniel and Dinah had died. Only Joshua, who was given 4000 acres in VA and Caleb, who was to look after his mother Dinah and manage the mills, were left the properties by Daniel. Caleb sold the mills by 1803 and supposedly departed for France. No will or trace has been found for him. Caleb had a daughter named Caroline, but their records are probably in France. Joshua later lived in NYC and is probably also buried in the Houston Street Friends Cemetery.

William Byrnes, born July 22, 1759 in DE and died April 19, 1830 in Fishkill, NY. William also owned gristmills on Fishkill Creek, across the Hudson from his father in his later life. William married (1) **Anna Shipley**, born September 22, 1760 and died just after the birth of their son Thomas Shipley on September 14, 1786. Thomas died October 8, 1825 in NYC, leaving two small daughters. William married (2) **Sarah Townsend** at the Westbury Meeting House, N. Hempstead, Long Island, NY on December 4, 1794. They had one son, Joseph Townsend Byrnes, born about 1795 in Fishkill. **Joseph Townsend Byrnes** married **Letty (Alleta) VanWyck** and had 4 children by the time that William had died. Letty had apparently already died.

William owned gristmills at Fishkill and had a section of the town named "Byrnesville". These mills are described separately. When William died he left everything to his remaining son, Joseph T., who ran the mills for a few years. Joseph T. Byrnes died about 1853.

Joshua Byrnes, (son of Daniel and Dinah) born July 3, 1762 in Wilmington or New Castle Co., DE and died after 1830 in NYC. Joshua never married. According to his cousin Daniel Byrnes' 1842 account, Joshua had been injured as a young man when his horse fell and had had brain swelling. He was not the same afterwards. He may have worked with the import business with his brother, our Joseph. His father, Daniel, had left him 4000 acres in Virginia and other properties. According to family accounts he was a very likable person.

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**Joseph Byrnes, our 3-great grandfather**, was born December 15, 1769 as the son of Daniel and Dinah Byrnes of Cornwall, NY. He probably was born near Wilmington, DE. He had lived in Ulster and Orange counties along the Hudson River in 1790. He then went to Philadelphia until 1792. Joseph went to NYC and was married there in 1795.

Joseph married **Rebecca Pricilla Clarke**, on April 15, 1795 in the Friends Meeting House in NYC. She was the daughter of **Nathaniel and Mary Clarke**. Rebecca's mother was deceased at the time of their marriage. [Nathaniel, a 4-great grandfather, was the son of **John & Elizabeth Clarke**. According to the New York Monthly Meeting Quarterly, Nathaniel died August 22, 1809 at the age of 76 years and 11 months, which has him born in July of 1732.]

Joseph and Rebecca had 4 children:

1. **\*Robert Ralston (born 1796)** He was our great-great grandfather. He was a lawyer and a poet. He practiced law with Thomas Farrar McCaleb in New Orleans, met and married Thomas' sister, **Martha Araminta McCaleb** in 1822, had 2 children. Robert was removed from the Quaker Religion for marrying outside of his faith. Martha died in 1828, and Robert died in 1832. (See below for details).

2. **Walter** (born about 1798) in Charleston, SC, where he lived with his family until he was grown. He then came to New Orleans and up the Mississippi River to Vidalia, LA, where he remained the rest of his life. He never married but was a respected sheriff of Concordia Parish, LA until his death about 1853.

3. **Caroline** (born 1799), married a Mr. William Minturn, and had ten children. She was removed from the Quaker religion, much like her brother, Robert, for marrying outside of the Faith. She resided in Long Island, Flushing, NY. The Minturns were shipping merchants.

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4. **Elizabeth** (August, 1801-August 1802).

Robert was the oldest and our great-great grandfather. His parents, Joseph and Rebecca, apparently traveled to the Bush River area of SC and settled in Charleston, SC for a time. Joseph is found in the 1800 Census of Charleston, SC. Joseph and his brother, Joshua, had an import business, which failed, due to fault of others, we are told. He became a conditional Quaker when his business failed in about 1803. Their children were born While in NYC, before his jaunt to Charleston, SC. Elizabeth, their youngest lived about a year. The three older children survived to adulthood.

We do not have present records as to what Joseph did after the Bush River Import Business failed. Some accounts have him living in New Orleans for a time before returning to NYC. This apparently was after Rebecca had passed on. We next know of him visiting in the Philadelphia and Wilmington, DE area and being with his daughter, Caroline, in NYC as described by a letter that he wrote to his cousin Rachel in the year 1830.

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Letter from Joseph Byrnes to his cousin Rachel Byrnes at Wilmington, Delaware)

New York, 11th of July 1830

'Dear Cousin:

*Thy letter of the 6th of last month came to hand a few days ago - and be assured it gave me great pleasure to receive it. It is so long since I have seen any of my Wilmington friends or relations and so seldom that I have an opportunity of gaining any information about them that a letter from any of them is very acceptable, and it was particularly pleasing to learn from thy own pen what is so manifest from this letter and its contents, that thee is still active and enjoying the faculties which are blessings in advanced life -- There are indeed few of us left, and we are as thee observes scattered about-- Thee is kind enough to make inquiries about my children, I wish we were so circumstanced as that I might give thee more particulars about some of them, than I can -- my sons, thee knows, I presume are far away from us in Louisiana, it is now eight or nine years since I have seen either of them -- Robert married about six years ago, but has unhappily been a widower now two years with two children, a girl and a boy, they are all I believe with his father-in-law in Mississippi. Robert has been quite unsettled by his unhappy bereavement, he is in the practice of law and I presume makes a good living. Walter is near Natchez-- but in Louisiana he has been sheriff of the district for the last six or seven years, and is, I believe, doing very well-- Thee knows he was remarkable for his stability when a boy, the character sticks by him still, he is as steady and firm as a rock, a bachelor, and I fear will never be otherwise-- Both Robert and him have suffered a good deal by fevers, and probably are less healthy in general, than they would have been in this climate. My anxieties for them are revived with the return of every summer and I often feel as if I should never see them again. The next time I write Walter shall tell him about the piece of money thee mentions- it seems that it has been quite useless to thee, as it has procured thee nothing -- Our dear Caroline, enjoys my good health, she has now one daughter and two sons, the youngest about 16 months old -- They are fine healthy children and thee may reasonably suppose are great amusement to me, they are however interrupting me, all the time I am writing.*

*Brother William left a will--his son Joseph sole heir of all his property-- the amount of which is probably much overrated by many. There is however sufficient to make Joseph quite independent with due care and happily he appears to have a good share of prudence. He has lost a most amiable and excellent wife and has four children, the youngest but 2 weeks old at the death of its mother. Fishkill is indeed sadly changed within the last few months. Letty's place is as well filled for the children as it can be-- her sister Betsy having undertaken the care of them-- She is well qualified for the station. Brother Joshua is now here, is in pretty good health, his wants are few and small -- the provisions made for him by Thomas are comfortable--An equal provision for thee from the same source, would have been equally proper in my opinion. Thomas's widow and his 2 children are very well- as is also Mary Wood, but poor Walter his son is no more. Give my love to Cousin Joshua and Martha and to Jonathan and David. I should indeed like to go to Wilmington, but my duties confine me so closely that I have very little hope of accomplishing my wishes. Caroline was indeed much pleased to hear from thee and she requests me to present her love and good wishes to thee, which are accompanied with those of*  
(Signed) Joseph Byrnes.

*I shall be pleased to hear often how you all are -- Philadelphia 25th July 1830. Meeting with no private conveyance from New York I brought this so far myself, got here yesterday and shall return tomorrow, must reach Wilmington on the next occasion. Nothing material has occurred since the date of the within -- I had a letter from Walter a few days ago. He was very well-- Robert Byrnes not quite so well.'*

Joseph supposedly outlived Rebecca. We think that she died about 1820, although information on her death and burial has yet to be found. We have a copy of a letter that he wrote in 1830 to his cousin Rachel, (his Uncle Joshua's daughter) and he does not mention her, but does mention his three living children.

Robert, at the time of this letter, was with his brother Walter in Vidalia, LA. Robert was unwell and grieving over the loss of his wife, Martha Araminta McCaleb. Joseph never saw his son Robert after

this letter was written, for Robert died February 25, 1831. Robert and Martha are buried at Cold Springs, Claiborne Co., MS.

Walter is thought to have migrated towards New Orleans then to Vidalia, LA in the early 1800s. He was a sheriff in Concordia Parish by the 1820's. He was a stable influence to Robert. I do not believe that Walter ever married. He died about 1853 in Vidalia.

Caroline lived in NYC and was happy with her family. She had married a Mr. William Minton, on November 5, 1823 and was disowned from the Quaker Friends in 1825 when the certificate was not sent. They had 3 children – one daughter and 2 sons (according to Joseph's letter.) Later information found shows that she had 10 children. She died in 1886.

**Joseph** lived until January 11, 1841 – almost 10 years later than Robert. He died in NYC and is buried in the Quaker Cemetery on Houston Street.

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Robert Ralston Byrnes: our great-great grand-father, was born in NYC in 1796. His family moved to Bush River and Charleston, SC when he was small. There his siblings were born. His mother brought them back to NYC.

The next we know of Robert is that he has migrated to New Orleans, studies and practices law with Thomas Farrar McCaleb in New Orleans, possibly Baton Rouge, LA and Vidalia, LA. He meets Thomas's sister, **Martha Araminta McCaleb** and marries her at McCaleb Cold Springs Plantation in Claiborne Co. MS on November 12, 1823.

Robert and Martha have two children: **Emily Caroline Byrnes**, born August 5, 1824, and **Charles Ralston Byrnes**, born October 30, 1826. Both children were born at Cold Springs, Claiborne County, MS. Sadly, Martha dies when Charles is under 2 years old on March 31, 1828. They were at the home of her parents, David and Matilda McCaleb at the time. She is buried in the Cold Springs Cemetery in Claiborne Co., MS. Robert was to be buried beside his wife at Cold Springs Cemetery just a few years later on February 25, 1831. David and Matilda then have the responsibility of rearing their grandchildren.

Robert is so saddened and ill after Martha's death that he has difficulty practicing his law or writing his poetry. He goes to his brother, Walter, in Vidalia, LA where he dies on February 25, 1831.

We do not know if, or how much contact, these two little Byrnes children had opportunity to know their Byrnes side of the family. I would suspect that the McCalebs did make some efforts, since Charles studied up in Maine for a time as a young man. More research is needed here.



Emily Caroline Byrnes, portrait as a young woman.

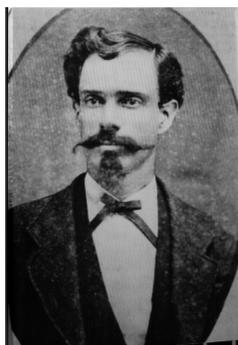
Emily Caroline Byrnes: born August 5, 1824; died March 6, 1852. Emily is the beautiful sister of Charles Ralston and daughter of Robert Ralston and Martha Araminta McCaleb Byrnes. She was reared by her McCaleb grandparents, David and Matilda McCaleb. Her portrait, shown, hangs in the home of Katherine Anne McCaleb Bilbro today.

Emily married **William H. McCardle**, a newspaper editor from Vicksburg, MS about 1841 when she was about 17-18 years old. His portrait now hangs in the Old Courthouse Museum in Vicksburg. Early marriages were the custom of the day. They had 5 children:

1. **William Henry McCardle:** April 14, 1843 born in Claiborne Co. He married **Annie Ford**, born 1844 from the Church Hill area. He died and was buried at Christ Church, Church Hill, Jefferson Co. MS December 28, 1881. Annie died in Vicksburg in 1913. I do not know if they had children.
2. **Charles Ralston McCardle**, born September 3, 1845 in Vicksburg. He married **Cornelia Garland**. I believe that they had children but do not have access to their names. He died November 15, 1887. He is buried at Cold Springs Cemetery.
3. **John Guion McCardle** was born November 21, 1847. I believe that he died in infancy and is buried at Cold Springs.
4. **Fredrick Farrar McCardle**, born April 23, 1850 in Vicksburg, confirmed at Christ Church April 22, 1877 by Bishop Greene; married **Aleen Holmes** at Springfield by Christ Church minister from Church Hill on January 1, 1879. He served on the vestry at Christ Church, Church Hill for several years. Where he is buried is unknown.
5. **Emily Caroline McCardle**, born February 29, 1852 and died June 11, 1852. She is buried at Cold Springs near her mother.

Emily died shortly after giving birth to little Emily and the baby died just a few months later of the fevers that plagued so many then.

William McCardle, Emily's husband, was quite a person, a distinguished CSA officer and a journalist. He was editor of the "Whigg" Newspaper in Vicksburg, MS and co-authored books. He later married Mary E. Brown and had one daughter.



Charles Ralston Byrnes as a young man.

Charles Ralston Byrnes: Great-grandfather: (October 30, 1826 -February 17, 1898) was the son of **Robert Ralston Byrnes (1796-1831)** and **Martha Araminta McCaleb (1805-1828)**. He and his sister, Emily Caroline Byrnes, were orphaned at an early age. Both parents died during his early childhood. His mother died when he was 2 and his father when he was under 5. He and Emily were reared by their grandparents, David and Matilda McCaleb. He was sent to study under Sergeant Prentiss in Maine about 1842 and then was further educated at Oakland College 1842-? (presently Alcorn University). He was privileged to a superb education and was experienced in the art of farming the land. He worked for his grandfather and showed promise as a planter.

He married **Catherine Pricilla Smith** in September 18, 1850. She was the daughter of **Benijah Osmond and Eliza Forman Smith** who had recently moved near Cold Springs from Adams County, MS. Upon their marriage, David McCaleb gave them a nearby plantation of about 1000 acres. They named this *Belvidere*.

In addition to his farming he was a Confederate Private during the Civil War with the Mississippi 4th Division, Company D, 4th Cavalry, Army of Mississippi and Tennessee under Capt. McLean and returned to his home and family to continue his interests. He was known as an honest and honorable friend. He and Catherine built their plantation, raised their children, and took care of their servants and the community in education, religion and community activities.

They had 14 children, 7 of which survived to adulthood. They farmed the family land and persevered after the Civil War to raise their children, start a school and give to their community. Of these children, **Augustus McCaleb** was our grandfather, and **Florence Undine** was Katherine Anne McCaleb's grandmother.

Charles Ralston (Ross) died February 17, 1898. He had a Masonic Honors Burial. Both he and Catherine (Kate) are buried at Cold Springs Cemetery, Claiborne Co., MS. He preceded his wife in death by about four years.



Catherine Priscilla Smith Byrnes, wife of Charles R. Byrnes, portrait as a young woman.

Catherine Priscilla Smith: (Our Great-grandmother Byrnes) --
December 9, 1832- October 1, 1902: Born to **Col. Benijah Osmond Smith**
and **Eliza (Elizabeth) Forman**.

She was born on **Springfield (Smithland) Plantation** in Adams Co.
Her Smith ancestor **Rev. Henry Smith** immigrated to America in the late 1630's. Catherine's great-grandfather **Rev. Jedediah Smith** had come to Mississippi from Massachusetts in 1776. Her grandfather was **Calvin Smith** the planter and original owner of "Retirement Plantation" among other places. Her father, **Col. B. O. Smith**, was a legislator for the State of Mississippi as well as an officer in the Mexican War. Her mother, **Eliza Forman**, was the daughter of the **Joseph Forman** family who settled near Washington, MS in the late 1790's. The Formans had immigrated to America to Long Island, NY and on to Elizabeth, NJ in 1639.

Catherine was reared in the Southern aristocratic culture of the times and was well read as a bright student in literature, politics, philosophy, economics, history, music (she played the harp and pianoforte) and religion.

About 1848, when Catherine was 16 years of age, her parents removed themselves to Claiborne Co. and settled on the David McCaleb property and purchased lands there. Catherine named the place "Insmore". Upon this move she soon met **Charles Ralston Byrnes**, the son of the late **Robert Ralston & Martha Araminta McCaleb Byrnes**, who lived with his grandparents: **David and Matilda McCaleb**.

Charles Ralston Byrnes and Catherine Priscilla Smith married **September 18, 1850**. --While this was a happy event, two profound events had taken place this particular year: (1) Benijah O. Smith, Catherine's father, had died on February 20, 1850 and (2) David McCaleb, Charles Ralston's grandfather and guardian, had died on March 4, 1850.

Charles Ralston Byrnes inherited 1000 acres on the north side of Bayou Pierre and 20 slaves from his grandfather, David McCaleb, in 1850 as stipulated in David McCaleb's will. On this property they built *Belvidere* which Catherine named the home for its *beautiful view*, much like the Palace near Vienna, Austria. They also inherited a secretary (now in the possession of Aline Byrnes Nicholson) a bureau, and some parlor chairs. (The bureau is in possession of Jonathan H. Byrnes.) In addition he also inherited certain other bequests from both David McCaleb and Jonathan McCaleb wills. This property is in part owned today by William H. Byrnes and Mary Byrnes Ireland (two of the grandchildren of Augustus McCaleb Byrnes). Another portion of Belvidere is owned by Katherine Anne McCaleb Bilbro (granddaughter of Undine Byrnes McCaleb.)

Catherine concentrated on her family, her community and education and religion. She was a prominent figure within the area in accomplishing these goals. She was a writer, musician, and journalist who shared thoughts of the times. She wrote under the name **B-Empty**. She played the harp and the square piano. She was a loving and protective parent. She kept the family together in spite of the hardships of war, illnesses, and death of 6 of the 7 children who died during childhood that she lost during the 1860's. (Burton died during the 1870's).

She was an astute business woman who kept the plantation productive throughout the Civil War and following as long as she lived. She furthered the education of the community in starting the Byrnes School and educated all of the young people nearby. She lived by her integrity and moral standards. They were examples for all to follow.

She was very active in Epiphany Episcopal Church through both prosperous times and the lean times before, during, and following the Civil War. She often was hostess to Bishop Mercer Greene, the ministers of Epiphany and their families. She made certain that family and servants (or slaves) alike were baptized, confirmed and brought up in the church. This is evident from the early records of Epiphany Episcopal Church. She persevered throughout trying times and insisted upon Christian doctrine throughout her life.

Catherine and Charles Ralston had 14 children. Seven survived to adult life. The children of Catherine Priscilla Smith and Charles Ralston Byrnes were:

- (1) **Charles Ralston Byrnes II** - born December 4, 1851 at Cold Springs. He was baptized at Epiphany in 1852, according to Church Records. He married **Helen Gillespie Metcalfe**, a third cousin, on February 1881. Helen was the granddaughter of Susan Smith and John Field Gillespie, a daughter of Calvin Smith and brother to Benijah Smith, Charles's mother's father. Helen's parents were: Dr. Orin Metcalfe and Helen Catherine Gillespie.

They lived their early married life on the *Shamrock Plantation*, which was a portion of the original Belvidere and is located next to the portion of Belvidere known as *Byrnemore* today. He later became a banker in Natchez, MS where he became secretary and treasurer of the bank. He died July 19, 1919 in Natchez. He was named for his father. Their children were:

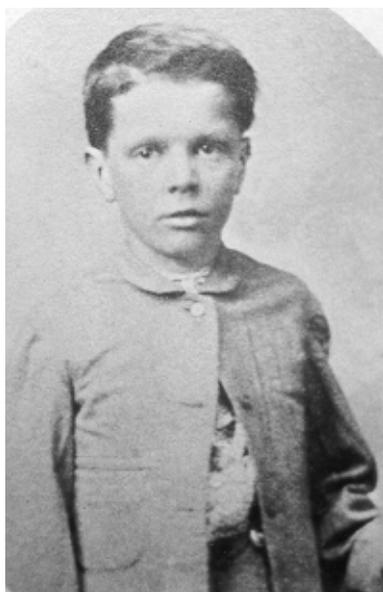
1. **Charles Metcalfe Byrnes**, born November 4, 1881 at Shamrock, became a neurosurgeon at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, MD. He married several times and had only one daughter, Louise who is deceased. He died in 1962
 2. **Annie Metcalfe Byrnes**, born August 21, 1883 and died later that year in KY.
 3. **Helen Metcalfe Byrnes** was born February 10, 1886 at Shamrock. She married Keith Palmer Lanneau, Jr. on July 16, 1921 in Natchez and had 3 children. He was the son of Keith Palmer Lanneau and Emily Martin. He died August 16, 1928 leaving her with 3 small children. Helen was an astute businesswoman in the insurance and real estate field and supported her children well. She was quite a remarkable woman with much integrity. She died May 13, 1972 and is buried in Natchez. Her children are:
 1. **Keith Palmer Lanneau III**, born December 21, 1925 in Natchez, MS. Married Roseland Joy Gaudet on February 4, 1950. He is a honors graduate of MIT and in the Navy V-12 program. He earned a MBA at Harvard and is a physicist for Exxon Research Lab in Baton Rouge, LA and president of Micro-Tek Instruments and Engineering Corp. dealing with Genetic Engineering. They had no children. Joy died March 1998. Keith has since re-married.
 2. **Bazile Rene Lanneau**: born April 20, 1927 in Natchez. He graduated from LSU. He was in the Navy for 18 months. He is a representative for Penn Mutual Life Insurance and chairman of the Board of Natchez First Federal Savings & Loan. He also raises cattle. Bazile is known as an expert tennis player. He married Anne Rose Metcalfe, a cousin June 30, 1951. They were King and Queen of the Natchez Prilgrimage in 1948. They have 4 children:
 - a. Bazile Lanneau IV, born May 6, 1952, married Jeri Jean Miller September 26, 1977 and have children.
 - b. Anne Renee Lanneau, born May 25, 1953, married (1) Derek Wyatt had children, then married Philip Alan Letard on January 21, 1974 and had a son.
 - c. Martin Metcalfe Lanneau, born April 29, 1971 and is not married.
 - d. Rose Metcalfe Lanneau, born July 1, 1955 and died of cancer June 2, 1972 as a teenager.
 4. **Helen Lanneau**, born September 2, 1922 in Natchez. She received her AB & PhD at Chapel Hill NC in ancient languages and taught at Rice University, Houston, TX. She was married to Francis Aldridge Moore and had one child, Andre Calvert Moore who graduated from Rhodes University, Memphis and is married and has two sons, Jay and Daniel. Her first husband died, then she married Jay Gordon Eaker, who teaches English at Rice University in Houston, TX.
 5. **Catherine Byrnes**, born August 27, 1887 at Faircake Plantation in Natchez. She died March 16, 1964 in Glendale, CA. She was married to William Martin Balfour on December 11, 1916 at Trinity Episcopal Church in Natchez. Their children were:
 1. **Catherine Balfour** who married Lyman Aldridge
 2. **Jane Balfour**
- (2) **Laura Augusta Byrnes** - born September 10, 1852 at Belvidere, died September 15, 1862 Belvidere plantation, buried at Cold Springs. She was named for her great-aunt Laura McCaleb and for her aunt Augusta Smith and the Forman great-aunt Augusta.
- (3) **Lissa (Elizabeth) Forman Byrnes** - born March 5, 1853. She married **Charles Kent Regan** in 1872 at Belvidere. She died at Belvidere December 7, 1885 and is buried at Cold Spring

Cemetery. She was named for her grandmother Eliza Forman Smith. They lived in a nearby community, Rocky Springs, Claiborne County, MS. The children of Lissa Byrnes and Charles Regan were:

1. **Cornelia Frances Regan**, born April 18, 1873 and died May 10, 1962. She first married Henry Clay Drexler in September 1899. They had one son Charles Regan Drexler, born April 2, 1902 and married Lottie Mae Coleman. Charles Regan Drexler died July 7, 1941. They had one son Charles. Charles Clay Drexler died September 22, 1910 then Cornelia married (2) Walter Addison Clarke on April 27, 1923. They had no children but she reared his: Roy R. Clarke, Theodore Clarke, Gertrude Clarke, Ruby Clarke. Cousin Cornelia is known for her journalism. She wrote for the Port Gibson *Reveille*, a weekly newspaper for Claiborne County, MS, for many years.
2. **Ralston Byrnes Regan**, born January 31, 1875 and died July 4, 1938. He married Elizabeth Cummings. They had 3 children: William Cummings Regan, Ralston Byrnes Regan, Elizabeth Alice Regan.
3. **Nellie Alice Ellen Regan**, born March 23, 1884, married William McCay on January 3, 1906. They had one child: Agnes Lisa McCay born February 19, 1907. Cousin Nelle died March 2, 1962. Mr. McCay died December 20, 1942.
4. **Walter Byrnes Regan**, born November 5, 1878, married (1) Saphrone Riley (2) Susan Foster. He had no children but served in the military. He died in Mobile and is buried in the National Cemetery there in June, 1936.
5. **Augusta A. Regan** born and died 1880.
6. **Lissa Kate Regan** born March 23, 1884 and died April 3, 1919. She married Virgil Rush September 5, 1904. Their children were: 1. Linton Virgil Rush, born September 4, 1905; 2. Cornelia Alice Rush born September 9, 1907, married Allison Killingsworth, and died October 14, 1984 buried at Red Lick 3. Katherine Rush born January 12, 1910; 4. Paul Rush born November 12, 1911; 5. Virginia Rush born March 11, 1913; and Benjamin Rush.

(4) **Benijah Smith Byrnes** - born May 4, 1854 at Belvidere. He married **Willie V. Smith** of Memphis TN on October 30, 1886. She was a daughter of a Judge in Memphis. (He became a dentist pioneering orthodontistry.) He died in August 22, 1944 in Memphis, TN. He was named for his grandfather Col. Benijah Smith. He and Willie V. Had the following daughters, all of whom remained in Memphis:

1. **Helen Hunt Byrnes** born August 3, 1887 married Mr. Acree and had a son, William.
2. **Willie V. Byrnes** born January 21, 1890.
3. **Julia Catherine Byrnes** born January 26, 1892 married Emmett Reed
4. **Martha Macon Byrnes** born March 29, 1893. She never married but often visited in Carlisle. She worked in Memphis.



(5) **Walter Stephen Byrnes** - Born July 8, 1855 at Belvidere and died September 24, 1869. He is buried at Cold Spring Cemetery. He was named for his great-uncle Walter Byrnes and his uncle Stephen F. Smith.

(6) **Emily Catherine Augusta Byrnes** - Born November 4, 1856, died October 23, 1860 at Belvidere and is buried at Cold Springs Cemetery. She is named for her aunt, Emily Byrnes McCardle, and aunt, Augusta Forman Smith Aby.



Percy Shields Byrnes - born at Belvidere March 10, 1858. Records show that he was confirmed at Christ Church, Church Hill on April 22, 1877 along with his first cousin, Fred Farrar McCardle, rather than at Epiphany. He married **Eliza Berry Jeffries** (born in 1866) on May 20, 1891. They lived behind Belvidere for several years and he farmed and ran Cotton Gins. He and Aunt Berry had 7 children. They moved to the Mississippi Delta near Rolling Fork, MS where he ran cotton gins there also. He died June 16, 1935 in the Delta and is buried at Wintergreen in Port Gibson. Aunt Berry died April 29, 1947 in Port Gibson and is also buried in Wintergreen Cemetery. Their children were:

1. **Rebecca Byrnes**, born March 17, 1892 and died young
2. **Catherine (Kate) Byrnes**, born June 20, 1893, married **William Edwin (Willie) Regan**. He worked for the railroad as a stationmaster. They lived many places, including Birmingham, AL. They had several children, of whom I need information on this line. Willie died May 27, 1966; Kate died December 1, 1980 in Birmingham, AL. They are buried at Wintergreen in Port Gibson.
3. **Nellie Metcalfe Byrnes** born October 31, 1895, married **George McCaa Russum** on January 17, 1917. They had no children and moved to the Delta where he managed a farm. He died January 27, 1950. She then moved to Port Gibson and opened a Children's Clothing Shop. She was the Guardian Angel to all of the cousins who lived in the country and needed a place to stay when we had school activities after school and was a wonderful friend and confidant to all of her adult cousins. She died April 1, 1982. They are buried at Wintergreen Cemetery in Port Gibson.

4. **Percy Shields Byrnes, Jr.** born September 7, 1897 at Belvidere, died December 14, 1937. He was married to Annie Sue Jarrett (sister of the family Pediatrician) born May 29, 1895 and died May 19, 1940. They had a son Percy Shields Byrnes III and there is a Percy IV. They are buried in Port Gibson at Wintergreen Cemetery.
 5. **Shelby Jeffries Byrnes** born June 12, 1900, married **Margaret Parker**. (Born January 24, 1900), married on October 19, 1922. He worked with banana boat imports. They lived in Gulfport, MS. They had one son, Hartwell who was killed in WW II. Shelby died January 8, 1984; Margaret died February 15, 1989. They are buried in Wintergreen Cemetery in Port Gibson.
 6. **Pricilla Jeffries Byrnes** born March 11, 1903 and died June 20, 1969 in Port Gibson. Pricilla married **Sidney Regan**, (born June 5, 1895) was the brother of Willie who married her sister Kate. They married October 14, 1922. They had one child: **Berry Regan** who married Bob Farr and had 2 children: Robbie and Sidney who now have children and live in the Jackson, MS area. Bob Farr is a noted architect. Pricilla and Sidney retired to Port Gibson after he left the railroad stationmaster. Pricilla was in poor health for several years until her death in 1969. Sidney died February 12 1980. They are buried in Wintergreen Cemetery in Port Gibson.
 7. **Benijah Smith Byrnes** born February 13, 1906 near *Belvidere*. He married **Marie Eustia Jeter** (born April 29, 1907) on November 18, 1926. They lived at Estill, MS where he managed a plantation. They had one daughter, **Marie Elizabeth Byrnes**, born February 1, 1945. She married a Thomas Arnold Courtney but had no children. Thomas died September 21, 1989. Benny and Maria were divorced after 36 years of marriage when Betty was 19. He moved back to Claiborne County during his later years. He died in Rolling Fork in early November 6, 1982 and is buried in Wintergreen Cemetery in Port Gibson. Maria died and is buried near Anguilla. Betty lives in Vicksburg, MS but is in poor health.
- (7) **Martha Kate Byrnes** - born at Belvidere June 3, 1860 and died August 24, 1863. She is buried at Cold Springs Cemetery. She is named for her grandmother Martha McCaleb Byrnes and her mother, Catherine.
- (8) **Etoile Kate Byrnes** - born at Belvidere February 17, 1864 and died September 29, 1864 at Belvidere. She is buried at Cold Springs Cemetery.

(10)



Robert Lee Byrnes - Born at Belvidere June 26, 1865. He was born shortly after the Civil War. I am certain that his father wanted to honor his General Robert E. Lee. He married **Helen Catherine Ferriday**, a third cousin, September 25, 1889. They lived in Natchez, MS. They had 6 children. His death date is in 1922. Helen died in 1926. Their children were:

1. **Charles Ferriday Byrnes**, born August 14, 1890 in Natchez. He worked in Natchez and was a short stout man with a great sense of humor and was the husband of **Roane Fleming** who was the matriarch of the Natchez Trace and did much to have the Parkway built. Ferriday died February 5, 1956. Roane was borne in Natchez August 11, 18990 in Natchez. She died October 3, 1970. She had her “war room” in her home in developing the Natchez Trace Parkway and was often the “hostess” of Natchez. Their home is “*Revenaside*”, which now is a Bed & Breakfast.
2. **Robert Lee Byrnes**, born October 19, 1891 and died August 7, 1895 in Natchez.
3. **Helen Byrnes**, was born August 20, 1895. She married **Hyde Dunbar Jenkins** (born June 7, 1894) on February 15, 1914. She was a dancer. They lived at “Hawthorne” one of the Natchez, MS Pilgrimage homes. She died in November 19, 1980. Hyde died March 12, 1973. Their children were:
 1. **Helen Louise Jenkins**, born April 29, 1919, married Robert D. Kuehnle on November 14, 1945. They had 2 children: Robert J. Kuehnle, August 11, 1946 and Lawrence Byrnes Kuehnele, September 16, 1947. I have not found information on their spouses and descendants. Helen Louise died November 19, 1980. She was a dancer.
 2. **Annie Ferriday Jenkins**, born April 14, 1922. Annie married Walter DeJarnette Coleman, who became a Judge in Natchez. They had five children: Helen DeJarnette Coleman, born September 21, 1941; Ann Hampton Coleman, born January 14, 1947; Katherine Carmichael Coleman, born April 4, 1948; Pendleton Hyde Coleman, born March 9, 1949; and Kelly Coleman.
 3. **Hyde Dunbar Jenkins, Jr.**, born August 24, 1925, married Betty McGehee (born September 28, 1926) married on December 20, 1947. He was a judge. Their children are: (1) Hyde Rust Jenkins, born December 21 1949; married Beverly Phillips and have a son, Lemuel Phillips Jenkins, born July 22, 1978. (2) Stella McGehee Jenkins, born October 15, 1954, married Philip Carby on July 14, 1979 and have two children, both of whom were in the 2001 Natchez Pilgrimage: Edgar Hyde born February 15, 1980 and Betty Jane, born May 45, 1983. (3) Carla Elizabeth Jenkins, born July 1959.
 4. **Kate Denver Jenkins**, born November 20, 1927, married William Slatter, born November 20, 1927, married on May 8, 1948. Their children are (1) Ellen S. Sattler, born April 21, 1949; (2) Katherine Denver Sattler, born November 6, 1951; (3) William Albert Sattler, born January 7, 1956 (4) Ira Winchester born September 17, 1961 and (5) Hyde Jenkins Sattler born June 21, 1963. They lived in New Orleans where William was a Broadcast Journalist. Kate died of cancer November 28, 1995. She is buried in Natchez Cemetery. They had retired and moved back to Natchez where she created Biblical gardens for the Natchez Pilgrimage. He now works with the library.
 5. **Abigail Stockton Jenkins**, born July 25, 1935. She married George William Healy, III, born March 8, 1930, married December 20, 1954. They have four children: (1) George William Healy, IV, born December 24, 1955; (2) John Carmichael Healy, born February 4, 1959; (3) Floyd Alford Healy, born June 12, 1960; (4) Hyde Dunbar Healy, born July 10, 1961. I do not have information on their spouses and descendants.
4. **Annie Byrnes**, born about 1898, married Lawrence Murphy. They had at least one son, Lawrence, Jr. I do not have information on their spouses or descendants. They lived in Greenville, MS.
5. **Charles Ralston Byrnes II**, born May 23, 1899, married **Viola Smith**, died January 7, 1952. He is buried in Natchez Cemetery.
6. **Hyde Byrnes**, dates unknown.

(11) **Florence Undine Byrnes** - (Kay's grandmother) born at Belvidere July 18, 1867. She married her third cousin (both descended from David McCaleb), **Dr. James Foulhouze McCaleb** December 18, 1900. They lived first at Cold Springs on land that he inherited from his father, then moved to *Byrnmore* about 1922, the portion of Belvidere that she inherited from her parents. She was a devoted mother and wife. She played the organ at Epiphany for many years following her Aunt Augusta. She is the mother of **William Howard, James Ralston, and Katherine Byrnes McCaleb** and the grandmother of Katherine Anne McCaleb Bilbro. She died in Vicksburg, MS October 10, 1950 and is buried at Evergreen Cemetery, Port Gibson, MS.

(12) **Claude Remsen Byrnes** - Born at Belvidere Plantation July 21, 1869, died 1869. Buried at Cold Springs Cemetery. He was named for his great-grandfather Remsen (Eliza Forman's father.)

(13) **Augustus McCaleb Byrnes** - (Our **grandfather**) was born July 21, 1871 at Belvidere. He married **Katherine Bennett Ogden** on January 24, 1900 at *Retirement Plantation* in Adams County, MS. He was a farmer, dairyman and Community Leader and a State Senator. He died March 22, 1939 at the New Hermitage Plantation near Belvidere and is buried on the Hermitage Plantation near his Revolutionary War ancestor, Captain William McCaleb. He was named for a Frederick Augustus McCaleb, a great-uncle.

(14) **Burton Osman Byrnes** - Born at Belvidere December 16, 1873 and died 1879. He was buried at Cold Springs Cemetery. He was probably named for Rev. Burton of Epiphany and the Osman from his grandfather Benijah O. Smith.

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**Catherine Priscilla Smith Byrnes** died at the home of her eldest son, Charles R., Jr. October 1, 1902 and was brought home to Claiborne County Cold Springs Cemetery to be laid to rest beside her husband, who had died in February 1898. Her grave marker was not found. She had lived a full and productive life and shared so much with so many.

Catherine was certainly the "matriarch" of the Byrnes family who has influenced so many even a century later than her demise.

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This brings us to the 1900's. In this year, the parents of Augustus McCaleb Byrnes, Jr., Burton O. Byrnes, and William Howard McCaleb: married: both Augustus McCaleb (McC) Byrnes to Katherine Bennett (Katy) Ogden on January 24, 1900, and Florence Undine Byrnes to Dr. James Foulhouze McCaleb on December 18, 1900.



Florence Undine Byrnes as a young woman

Florence Undine Byrnes (Undine) was born July 18, 1867 at Belvidere Plantation. She was the younger daughter of Charles R. and Catherine P. Byrnes. She was a brilliant student, musician and a cultured religious person. Her brother, Dr. Benijah S. Byrnes, straightened her teeth with his pioneer orthodontistry practice when she was a young woman.

Undine and Dr. James F. McCaleb were married in the home of her brother, Charles R. Byrnes, Jr. in Natchez on December 18, 1900. They lived at Insmore, Cold Springs then later at *Byrnmooore* where she reared her family and he practiced medicine.

She and Doctor had three children, **James, William Howard, and Katherine Byrnes**. They and their families will be described in the McCaleb Chapter of this Family History.

Undine was an accomplished musician and was organist of Epiphany Episcopal church for many (over 50) years after her Aunt Augusta Aby retired. We remember her still playing in the 1940's.

William Howard (Bill) McCaleb, their son, built their *Byrnmooore* home in 1920, when he was 17. They lived there the remainder of their days. Bill farmed the land. His father wrote journals and practiced medicine. Undine helped in taking care of her granddaughter, Katherine Anne when Kay was small. A cousin, Cornelia Regan Clarke, lived with her and was the primary nanny. (Cousin Cornelia is described under Eliza Forman Byrnes and Charles Kent line.)

Undine died October 10, 1950 in the hospital in Vicksburg. She was buried in Wintergreen Cemetery in Port Gibson. She is remembered for her cultured ways, her religious teachings and her music.



Undine Byrnes McCaleb & Doctor J.F. McCaleb about 1942.

Dr. James F. McCaleb: born November 26, 1866 was the oldest son of Edwin Howard and Marie Idalie Collens McCaleb. He studied in New Orleans and obtained degrees from Spring Hill College in AL. Later, he received a degree in Chemistry from the University of VA and a Doctor of Medicine from Tulane University in New Orleans. After medical school he grew oranges in Plaquemine Parish, LA. He married **Florence Undine Byrnes**, born July 18, 1867 at Belvidere Plantation in Claiborne County, MS. They made their home at Insmore in Claiborne County for several years, then moved to part of the Belvidere

Plantation, called Byrnmore about 20 years later. They were third cousins descended from David McCaleb. (Edwin Harred and Martha Araminta McCaleb were siblings.)

Dr. McCaleb practiced medicine and wrote for Journals. He was elected honorary member of the Field Society of St. Louis. He collected much of the family history and family stories. Many cute stories have been told on Doctor about his wit, his doctoring, and his story telling.

Dr. and Undine had 3 children. He was Roman Catholic and attended St. Joseph Parish in Port Gibson. Undine and the children belonged to the Episcopal Church and attended Epiphany, Hermanville, the church that their great-grandfather David McCaleb had helped to built at St. Elmo. She was organist of Epiphany for many years while her son, William, pumped the Erben Organ in order for her to play the hymns.

Doctor died of cancer at Byrnmore July 25, 1943. He is buried at Wintergreen Cemetery in Port Gibson. (See McCaleb line for further information on this family.)



Granddaddy: Augustus McCaleb Byrnes (McC) as a young man.

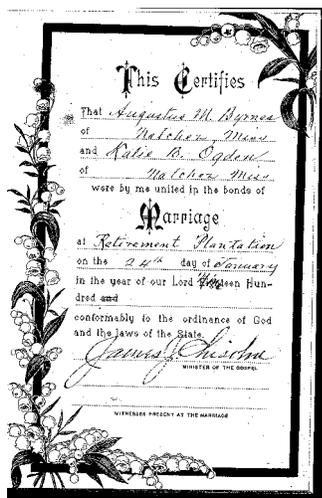
13. **Augustus McCaleb Byrnes: (Grandfather)** was born at *Belvidere Plantation* July 21, 1871 as the 13th of 14 children of Charles Ralston and Catherine Priscilla Smith Byrnes. He was schooled in the Byrnes School started by his Mother. He was a person of dry wit and a keen political mind. McC was the youngest son to survive to adulthood and often full of pranks.

One tale is told on him as how he tormented his fellow students with having them touch his glasses that he had just pulled out of the stove fire. He often played jokes on people and was quick to keep jokes from being played on him.

He was, like his father, a planter (farmer) and a dairyman by profession.

McC married his third cousin **Katherine Bennett Ogden** on January 24, 1900 at her home, *Retirement Plantation* in Adams County.

Marriage Certificate of Augustus McCaleb Byrnes & Katie B. Ogden: 1900



The young couple first lived near Afton, LA where McC managed a prison farm. Two of their four sons were born there: A. McC. Byrnes, Jr. (November 13, 1900) and Lucian Ogden Byrnes (October 24, 1903). Meanwhile, McC's mother died and her estate was settled. He inherited part of the old place, Belvidere and the home site.



McC, Katy with their sons, McC Jr. and Lucian: about 1904

About 1908 they moved back to *Belvidere*. There Granddaddy farmed the land and raised his family. They had two more sons: Burton Ogden Byrnes (Daddy) in 1915 and Charles Ralston Byrnes in 1917. They lived at Belvidere until about 1922 when he built a new house on the old *Hermitage Plantation* lands. They lived there the remainder of their lives.

Granddaddy farmed and had a dairy and hog business. He was a community leader and a State Senator from 1928-1932. Granddaddy was known for his quick mind and dry wit. He often sparred with the Governor and other politicians who wanted non-practical things for the State of Mississippi. He worked hard and long for honesty and thrifty government by the people. He abhorred waste of tax payers' money and too much free welfare. He served on many committees while serving as a Senator. Due to a bad heart condition, he did not seek re-election.

He died in his home of a heart attack March 22, 1939. He and Grandmother are buried in the Hermitage Cemetery near his great-grandfather, Captain William McCaleb, the Pioneer who settled the Hermitage.



Burton (Daddy), McC III, Grandmother Katy, Granddaddy McC I, about 1936

Katherine Bennett Ogden: (Grandmother) Born May 10, 1878 at *Retirement Plantation* to **James Nicholson Ogden and Mary Louise Bennett**. She lost her father when she was about 4 years old and was reared by her Mother, Grandmother, and her Uncle Calvin Bennett and Anna Carey Bennett. She was schooled and passed a teacher's exam to teach school in 1898. She married Augustus McCaleb Byrnes on January 24, 1900 in her home, Retirement. They had four sons: Augustus McCaleb Jr. 1900, Lucian Ogden Byrnes 1903, Burton Ogden Byrnes 1915, and Charles Ralston Byrnes 1917.

Grandmother was a wonderful conversationalist and enjoyed writing. She wrote a booklet on *The First Natchez Pilgrimage* and often wrote to newspapers, etc. She loved to make scrapbooks of information and people that she knew. Her penmanship was not easy to read, but she wrote much.

She was a helpmate to her husband and loved people. She kept up an avid correspondence with many friends and family. Once she told me that she loved men and understood men better (as she had 4 sons and was close companion to her brothers). However, she was a wonderful friend to her 2 daughter-in-laws and her granddaughters and nieces, etc. She was loved by all that knew her. One of the big treasures that she collected were news clippings and cartoons. She enjoyed the fact gathering and wit around her.

After her husband's death, she was cared for by her son, Lucian Ogden Byrnes.

Grandmother Katy was a large woman in her elder years; but was small at the time she married and wore only a size 3 shoe in 1900. She often wore black, a black hat, carried a white hankie and a cane. She would use her cane to direct people to place objects at certain places for her.

Grandmother loved company and often had grandchildren visiting. She enjoyed her Natchez family visits and the many others who would come. She always had cake and custard ready for refreshment. Grandmother was always kind and considerate. Even after arthritis kept her from moving about a great deal, she wanted people to come visit.

She had a stroke during the fall of 1953 and was bedridden thereafter. She died on May 5, 1954 in her home and is buried next to her husband in the Hermitage Cemetery.



Mac Byrnes, Jr. as a Senior at Miss. State, 1922

Augustus McCaleb Byrnes, Jr. (Mac): born November 13, 1900. Mac was born in Afton, LA where his father managed a Prison Farm. They moved to Belvidere Plantation about 1808. This is where Mac and his brothers grew up. He attended CHA in Port Gibson then graduated with honors from Mississippi State in 1922 in Agriculture. While at Miss. State he was called “Flossie” and known for his diligent and conscientious work. He was in ROTC, Co. “L” and member of Dialectic Literary Society. After college, he taught school and managed a farm in Arkansas. This is where he met and married his first wife: **Arleen Trawek** on June 16, 1923. They lived at Belvidere, where he grew up, and had one son, Augustus McCaleb Byrnes III. They were later divorced.

Mac then married **Pearl Moulder** on May 3, 1932. He and Pearl had two children: William Herschel Byrnes, July 15, 1934 and Mary

Byrnes, January 11, 1939.



Mac with his son, Billy, 1938.

Mac farmed the land that his grandfather was given in 1850. He enjoyed his children and worked to make the land better. He died suddenly on April 28, 1944 and is buried in the Hermitage Cemetery.



Lucian Ogden Byrnes, 1938.

Lucian Ogden Byrnes : Born October 24, 1902 in Afton, LA. He grew up at Belvidere and lived there until 1922 when his parents moved to *The Hermitage*. He farmed with his father. He was a delightful and fun person to be around and a favorite uncle to all of us. He played the mandolin, loved to dance and was known for wearing his white suits. He took care of his mother after his father’s death and never married; although, he was admired by many ladies. He dated Miss Mae Furr for 25 years. She was like an aunt, though they decided

they were too old to adjust to life together after their Mothers died.

Lucian suffered from respiratory diseases and a bad heart. He died New Year's Eve of 1964 and is buried in the Hermitage Cemetery near his parents and 2 brothers: McC, Jr. and Charlie.



Charles Ralston Byrnes, 1938.

Charles Ralston Byrnes: Born July 31, 1917 at Belvidere. Charlie was the baby brother. He never had very good health. He was loved for his jolly nature and playing with nieces and nephews. He loved to hunt with neighbors. He was hospitalized a great deal during his last 10 years. He died in his sleep on Christmas Eve, 1962 and is buried at The Hermitage Cemetery.

Burton Ogden Byrnes, Sr. (Daddy) December 3, 1915 - December 13, 1986



Burton Ogden Byrnes, the way his grandchildren remember.

Burton Ogden Byrnes, Sr. (Daddy) was born December 3, 1915 at *Belvidere Plantation* in Claiborne Co., MS to Augustus McCaleb Byrnes and Katherine Bennett Ogden Byrnes (Katy). He was the third son, with McC, Jr. being 15 at the time and Lucian Ogden being 13. He also had a younger brother, Charles Ralston, who was 2 years younger than Daddy. He grew up at Belvidere with his brothers and under the care of the servants and his parents. His father was a farmer, dairyman and a State Senator.

Daddy was always an independent thinker and a brilliant man. He attended Hermanville School through high school and graduated in April 1934. He then attended LSU for a little over a year studying geology. At that time he decided that he would rather farm and came home to work with his father and older brother, Lucian.

Daddy met Mother, **Anna Margaret (Marguerite) Heidel**, through his cousins, Katherine, Viola and Carol Farris. They married December 23, 1937 in her parent's home with her grandfather, Rev. George Edward Heidel, officiating. They moved into their home and farm across Bayou Pierre from his family home. There they lived and worked the land for the rest of their days.

Daddy farmed beans, corn, cotton, clover, oats; raised hogs and cattle and timber. He especially enjoyed digging in the dirt and building lakes.

Mother and Daddy had 5 children: **Burton Ogden Byrnes, Jr.**, September 26, 1938; **Margaret Ann Byrnes**, January 10, 1940; **Alfred Augustus Byrnes**, November 2, 1944; **Katherine Aline Byrnes**, December 3, 1915 (born on Daddy’s 30th birthday); and **Jonathan Heidel Byrnes**, July 23, 1955. They worked with the schools, community and churches. We went to the Methodist Sunday School then to Epiphany Episcopal Church in Hermanville. Daddy was a deeply religious man and read his Bible regularly. He was a member of the Episcopal Church but often disagreed with the National Council of Churches; therefore, much of his religion was self-taught. He enjoyed politics and kept the dinner conversation going in both of those realms. He had a brilliant mind.

Daddy worked hard and long hours – often having to work on Sundays as well in order to beat the rain to harvest a crop or to feed the livestock. He was supportive in his children’s school events when he could. He chaperoned school dances and attended the plays and recitals that we were involved in.

By the time he had grandchildren he had slowed his pace enough to really enjoy them. Most of us have pictures of him giving grandchildren a ride on a tractor or reading to them. He always wanted as many of the grandchildren together as could be there at one time, for he enjoyed watching their play. He did not like disagreements and would quickly have them settle their disputes or, like us as children, he would separate them. There always seemed to be a house full whenever those of us from far away would visit. He was very proud of his family and so happy to see them educated and happy with each of their families. He was especially proud of his family and the citizens that each was becoming. While he knew the grandchildren who lived near by better than the rest, he and Mother helped each of them with their education through the land or giving them cattle money. He would make trips from time to time to visit the various grandchildren. This continued until his health prevented him from very much travel. He mellowed a great deal in his later years.

He suffered from allergies and emphysema during his later years and retired from farming in the early 1980’s. He never lost interest in the land and never stopped digging in the dirt until the last. He contracted pneumonia and died December 13, 1986. He is buried in Wintergreen Cemetery in Port Gibson, MS.

Daddy can always be remembered for his love of land, a strong faith and his family. He worked hard, upheld the highest of moral and ethical standards for himself and his family. Although somewhat shy to those outside his immediate family, he led his family with authority as the patriarch. He is missed.



Burton with his toys, about 1917.



Anna Margaret Heidel Byrnes: (Mother) April 21, 1917 - November 2, 1995.



Marguerite Byrnes, the happy Grandmother 1987.

Anna Margaret Heidel (Marguerite) was born to Alfred Lorenzo Heidel and Mary Edna Abel Heidel on April 21, 1917 in Cleveland, Boliver County, MS. She was the third of four children and the oldest daughter. They lived in the Delta and managed a farm. Later they moved near Benton, in Yazoo County MS where Mother grew up. She and her siblings and cousins live near were very involved in activities together. They were a close-knit bunch.

She was a bright child and an avid reader. The family all worked hard and often had to pick a bale of cotton to buy shoes and clothes before starting the school year. Mother graduated from Benton High School in 1935 and entered Street Clinic School of Nursing in Vicksburg. She met our Daddy, Burton Ogden Byrnes while a student there. They married on December 23, 1937. Great-grandfather George Edward Heidel officiated the ceremony which took place in Mother's home. Daddy had just purchased a farm near his parents and wanted to settle immediately; therefore, Mother did not complete her nursing training. That is not to say she never used her training, for she certainly did. They then moved to Carlisle, where they lived the remainder of their lives.

Mother was a person of many talents. She used her nursing skills in the community caring for the ill and helping with new life. Her sewing, needlework, and her cooking was always an inspiration to all of us who followed. She worked particularly hard on the farm, often helping Daddy harvest the crops, feeding the other workers, keeping the home and garden, and canning many jars of food each year. She always had time for with love and patience with us 5 children. She often read to us and played many games. She was involved in Sunday School, both at Carlisle Methodist and later at Epiphany. She was a room mother for school activities almost all of her 38+ years of PTA. Mother loved her children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was always our inspiration and mentor.

After grandchildren were born, Mother and Daddy looked forward to their visits. She always made something special out them being there, and she took as many opportunities as she could to visit them for special events, etc.

Thanksgiving was always Special Time for all of the families to try to come back and visit the farm. We often had 30-35 present for this Festive Dinner. Mother always coordinated the food and all had fun bringing some of it to share. We often included neighbors and cousins as well as immediate family. There are many pictures in albums documenting the occasions.

Mother had diabetes in her later years as did her brothers and sister and her mother. She managed well in spite of losing an eye. She suffered a cerebral hemorrhage on October 11, 1995 and died November 2, 1995 after only 3 weeks. She is greatly missed and revered by so very many.



Roy, Marguerite, and Henry Heidel, about 1918.

This brings us to the present and living generations of the Byrnes Family. In the following chapters of our Family Histories we will follow the various Families that gave us our present heritage.