

Early Barnett Family History in the United States—a working document (December 2012 draft)

Preface: This short document is an early draft being prepared for posting on the Clarence and Lucy Barnett web site (chbarnettfamily.net) set up in December 2012. This document is intended both to provide information and to invite participation from family members who may be able to contribute to improvements in accuracy and completeness for future revisions. The website manager is identified in materials at this web site and will be generally be the right person to whom to direct correspondence and corrections. Only the website manager will be allowed to post new materials on the site, so items that family members desire to contribute must be submitted to the site manager. Details and instructions about where and how to submit corrections to this document as well as other corrections and documents for posting can be found at the top of the documents list provided on the “Family Trees and Stories” page.

Clarence Henry Barnett traces his Barnett roots back to the village of Wedmore, Somerset County, England. Lucy Minerva (Miller) Barnett traces her Miller roots back to Madison County in western North Carolina. Other family roots related to the maternal lines for Clarence and Lucy are a work in progress and will not be discussed in detail in this early draft. As far as we know, Elizabeth Frost lived with her parents in downtown London for much of her childhood. At least the family address on Elizabeth’s birth record is Chalton Street near the Church of Saint Pancras in London.

As far as we know, Jeffery’s parents were part of the Methodist movement and were therefore identified as religious “non-conformists” since they were not members of the Church of England. Although the Methodist movement was well established in England by the early 1800s, non-conformist birth and baptism records were treated by English authorities as illegal. So such records were not maintained in a consistent manner by non-conformist congregations. In fact, it was not uncommon to find only baptism records and no corresponding written birth record. This pattern seems to have been intentional as a means of providing a measure of safety for the children of non-conformist families. Jeffery and Elizabeth were married in the Wesleyan Chapel in Wedmore (see the photo below) on April 4, 1849, and soon thereafter departed for the U.S. on a small sailing vessel named the Shannon; there were only 111 passengers and perhaps some cargo aboard.



Following is a copy of the 1850 census record showing Jeffery and Elizabeth Barnett, their young son William, and Elizabeth's parents living in Orleans County, New York, about 20 miles east of the town of Royalton in Niagara County, where they would eventually settle and raise their family.

3233

SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in the Town of *Gaines* in the County of *Orleans* State *162*
of *New York* enumerated by me, on the *11* day of *Oct* 1850. *R. C. Farman* Ass't Marshal.

Dwellings—house & number of inhabitants.	Families numbered in the order of visitation.	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	DESCRIPTION.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate owned.	Place of Birth. Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year.			Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.
			Age.	Sex.	Color, or race.				10	11	12	
2296 2402		<i>Pittier Pasnelco</i>	43	m		<i>Farmer</i> ✓		<i>N.Y.</i>				
		<i>Mandana</i>	37	f								
		<i>Levi's</i>	17	m		<i>do</i>						
		<i>James</i>	15	m		<i>do</i>						
		<i>Wills</i>	14	m								
		<i>Luz</i>	13	f								
		<i>Robert</i>	11	m								
		<i>Ruben</i>	9	m								
		<i>Harrison</i>	7	m								
		<i>Jay</i>	5	m								
2302 2403		<i>Thomas Frost</i>	51	m		<i>Solvent</i> ✓		<i>England</i>				
		<i>Fanny</i>	51	f								
2403 2404		<i>Jeffrey Barnett</i>	27	m								
		<i>Elizabeth</i>	24	f								
		<i>Wm</i>	2 1/2	m								

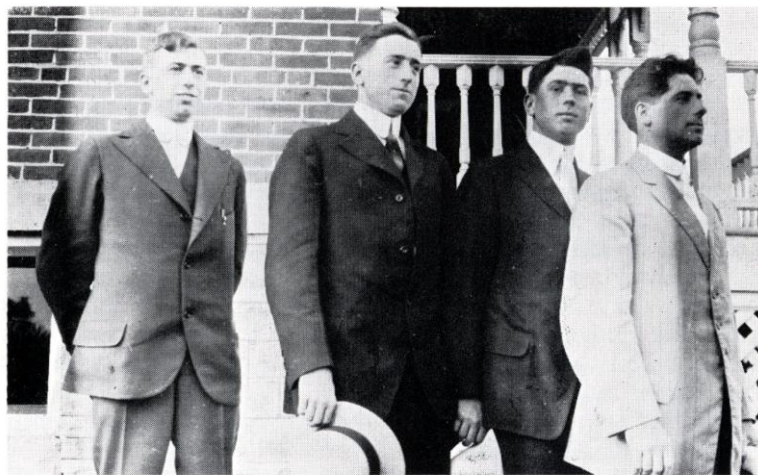
Thomas and Fanny Frost, for reasons that are not clear, moved to Michigan. Jeffery and Elizabeth purchased a small farm near the town of Royalton in Niagara County, only about a mile from the Erie Canal. Whether they purchased a home immediately or worked for a while first is not yet known. But they did settle in a nice home on Chestnut Ridge. Their home, as was the nearby Methodist Church they attended, was built of stone removed during excavation of the Erie Canal. There Jeffery and Elizabeth raised four sons and a daughter: William Thomas (28 March 1850 – 26 November 1930), John Franklin (27 June 1853 – 21 June 1874), Sarah Ann (17 December 1856 – 23 September 1891), Henry Richard (18 March 1859 – 18 March 1931), and Benjamin Franklin (16 May 1868 – 27 March 1845).

While all children of this family survived to adulthood, two of them—John and Sarah—died before their parents. As described rather dramatically in *Born to Serve: Henry R. Barnett—His Life and Family*, a book written by Jeffery and Elizabeth's great granddaughter (and a niece of Clarence) Ethel Elizabeth Barnett, John died in a drowning accident just one week before his twenty first birthday. Against family rules, he and some friends took off for a swim in the Erie Canal one Sunday afternoon. Whether he struck some debris in the water or had cramps is not known. But his friends were unable to revive him. No doubt this event was a tragic lesson to his siblings.

Sarah Ann married Norman Frank Keck (a neighbor) in 1880 and had a son who survived to adulthood. But Sarah died, probably of cancer, in 1891 at the age of 35 when her young son, Norman John Keck, was only four years old. She lived her final months with her parents at 61 East Avenue in Lockport. Sarah's son married and had one daughter who married a WW2 veteran and still lives in New York City.

The oldest of the children of Jeffery and Elizabeth, William T. Barnett, married a local girl. Apparently neither of them got along well with their parents so they moved to Pawnee County Nebraska and raised their family there. They did, however, maintain some contact with their families back in Niagara County.

Henry Richard married Della Bateman and purchased a home along Chestnut Ridge Road just a short distance from that of his parents. The original homestead was sold or transferred to the youngest, Benjamin, at the time when Jeffery and Elizabeth retired and moved to Lockport. Henry and Della had four sons: Wallace Franklin (1 November 1885 – February 1970), Glenn Elwood (May 1892 – 1915), Clarence Henry (29 April 1894 – 11 January 1973), and Howard John (March 1896 – 4 October 1917). All four lived to adulthood but two—Glenn and Howard—died in early adulthood. After obtaining his associate degree from Houghton Seminary, as it was then called, Glenn moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan, to work on his bachelors degree. While there as a student in 1915, Glenn became very ill, with a high fever, and died in the University hospital there just two years after the death of his grandmother Elizabeth. Then only two years later Glenn's younger brother Howard who worked at a Goodyear plant in Akron, Ohio, became very ill and died quite suddenly with Typhoid Fever. Once again, Henry took the train west to accompany the body of a deceased son back to Royalton for burial in the family plot.



GLEN, CLARENCE, HOWARD AND WALLACE

The youngest of Jeffery and Elizabeth's children, Benjamin, married a local girl, Augusta "Gusty" Kaderli and had two children, Gertrude and Elton. Unfortunately, Ben and Gusty didn't get along well together and eventually divorced. Benjamin was a financially successful livestock buyer in Lockport, but his personal life left much to be desired. Early in their marriage Benjamin, Gusty and family lived at the Barnett homestead on Chestnut Ridge Road. After their divorce, neither Benjamin nor Gusty remarried. He outlived her by three years. Gusty and her daughter lived together in a small house in Lockport. Benjamin eventually sold the home place and moved into a large house in Lockport. His daughter eventually married an elderly coworker and took care of him for his final years and then received their home as a place to live out her life. Their son was in the military and moved to North Carolina. Although Benjamin has a large gravestone near the Jeffery Barnett family plot in the Chestnut Ridge Cemetery in Royalton, not even his daughter who lived but a few blocks from her dad, knew of his passing and never took steps during the remaining 28 years of her life in Lockport to have his death date carved on the stone in the Chestnut Ridge Cemetery—a sad outcome for a man who knew the right way to live.

Clarence Barnett's mother, Della (Bateman) Barnett, was part of a large family that lived near the town of Newfane a few miles north of Lockport. Her father, Henry Burdett Bateman, was born in Connecticut. When and why he came to Niagara County remains unknown. Della's mother, Hannah (Mead) Bateman, was born and raised in Niagara County. Henry and Hannah had 12 children; Della was #8. Of the ten children who lived past 30, only three married. The other seven not only remained single but lived together in a large house in the town of Newfane for the rest of their lives. For their living they operated the homestead farm together. George died in 1918 at age 52. Five of the seven died between 1932 and 1936; the last (Mary) died in 1943. The 1930 Federal census of Newfane lists the following siblings (ages in parentheses) at the same address: Ezra (84), Vernon (83), Thomas (79), Elizabeth (75), Flora (69), and Mary (65). One daughter, Belle, died in her teens and one son Franklin died at the age of 26. The three that married were Henry Ervin (1849 – 1918) who lived with his family in Orleans County, Della (1857 – 1939) who married Henry Barnett, and Alice (1855 – 1913) who married William A. Wilson and lived in Lockport. Only Henry E. Bateman and Della (Bateman) Barnett left descendants.

Lucy Minerva (Miller) Barnett

Lucy was one of ten children born in Sandy Mush Township of Madison County, North Carolina, to James Patton and Candy (Plemmons) Miller. Both of her grandfathers served in the Civil War and both had rather large families. Lucy's father, James Patton Miller, was one of seven children (two sons and five daughters) born to Andrew B. Miller (1830 – 1891) and his first wife Minerva Clara Parham. After Minerva died in 1872, Andrew remarried to Kiziah Jane Webb and had 8 more children. Andrew Miller died in 1891 and his will was probated in 1892. As far as we know, his wish was honored for his body to be laid to rest in the Gap of the Mountain Cemetery next to the Methodist Church just south of the town of Spring Creek. There is no inscribed stone to mark the place of his grave and burial records from that period are sketchy at best; so the search for documentation continues.

Lucy's maternal grandfather, Andrew Plemmons, Sr., also had two families but with a 30-year time gap between. Andrew and his first wife Mary Bailey had 7 children between 1812 and 1828. They first lived in Buncombe County, part of which later became Madison County. Mary died in 1849. By 1860 we find Andrew (age 69) living with his second wife Lucinda (Woody) Plemmons (age 25) and their first daughter Sarah (born in about 1858). Together Andy and Lucy Plemmons had 5 daughters between 1858 and 1873: Sarah, Laura, Candy, Martha, and Harriett. We do not have an exact death date for Andrew but believe that he died around 1876 (at the age of 85), leaving Lucy with the heavy responsibility of raising her daughters. Civil war records show Andrew enlisting in the confederate infantry at about age 70 but soon left this responsibility due to illness. In fact, he and his son Andrew Plemmons, Jr., served in the same unit together. As far as we know, only Sarah was married by the time of Andrew's death.

The ten children born to James Patton and Candy (Plemmons) Miller were, in order of oldest to youngest: Harley Andrew (1886-1967), Wiley Herman (1888-1975), George Barnett (1890-1979), William Byrder (1892-1964), Roy (1893-1962), Walter McKinley (1896-1967), Lucy Minerva (1898-1989), Troy (1900-1982), Nettie Dora (1903-1991), and Nellie Mae (1906-1993). All children were born in Madison County in the area near Spring Creek and were probably born at home with the assistance of a midwife.

Patton and Candy were married on July 5, 1885, in Madison County by Justice of the Peace R. H. Hipps in the presence of Joe Woody, one of Candy's many cousins living in the area. The family is found in the 1900 census living and farming in a rural area of Sandy Mush Township near Spring Creek.

Age	Name	Sex	Mar.	Color	HT.	WT.	Prof.	Place of Birth	Place of Birth	Place of Birth	Occupation
35	Miller, James P.	M	Mar.	Wh.	5'6 1/2	138	Farmer	North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina	Farmer
	Candy, P.	F	Mar.	Wh.	5'2	120		North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina	
	Harley A.	M	Mar.	Wh.	5'7	150		North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina	At School
	Wally H.	M	Mar.	Wh.	5'8	140		North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina	At School
	George B.	M	Mar.	Wh.	5'10	160		North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina	At School
	William B.	M	Mar.	Wh.	5'8	140		North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina	At School
	Roy	M	Mar.	Wh.	5'6	120		North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina	At School
	Patton M.	M	Mar.	Wh.	5'4	110		North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina	
	Lucy M.	F	Mar.	Wh.	5'0	100		North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina	

Probably sometime around 1910 the family moved from the Spring Creek area to Greenville, South Carolina, probably to find employment in the cotton mills since farming (share cropping) in North Carolina didn't provide enough income to support the family. So far, only Harley and his new bride (married in 1907) and young daughter have been found in the 1910 federal census, living in North Canton, Haywood County, North Carolina. Based on his WW1 draft registration card, Byrder was also living in Haywood County, NC, in 1917 and was married with 2 children. Several members of the Miller family—J P, Candy, Lucy, Troy, Walter (and presumably Nettie and Nellie Mae)-- are next found in a 1917 city directory of Greenville, living at 15 Traction Street in the Brandon Mills Company housing district in West Greenville. Roy and wife Beulah are living nearby at 127 Traction Street. Below is a picture of the Brandon Mills area showing some of the company housing.



Records showing that George married his wife Essie in Greenville in 1912 and Roy married his wife Beulah in Greenville in 1913 imply that the entire Miller family had probably relocated to the Greenville area by 1912. Although they were not found in the 1912 Greenville City Directory, it seems likely that the family was living in the Greenville area by 1910 or earlier. Neither George nor Wiley was listed in the 1917 Greenville City Directory so were probably gone from the area by then. In 1920 we find Wiley and family living with his inlaws in Hamblen County, Tennessee, and Lucy in Houghton, NY, attending college. Also by 1920 Harley and Roy and their families had joined their brothers Harley and George in Massillon, Ohio, where the four brothers worked for a steel products manufacturing company. Byrder and family were also recorded in the 1920 census living nearby in the town of Perry, Stark County, Ohio. Based on the 1921 Greenville City Directory, James and Candy as well as Walter, Nettie and Nellie were still living in Greenville, working at the Judson Mills Company and living in house #30 on 6th Street in the Judson Mills community.

By 1930, only the families of George and Roy remained in Ohio. Patton and Candy had retired to Lawrence County, Tennessee, living for a while with the family of their daughter Nettie Styles and then moving to Hamblen County. Harley had moved to Talbott, near Morristown (Hamblen Co., TN) where his brother Wiley lived, but later moved to Illinois. Harley passed away in Morristown in 1967 and Sallie in Waukegan, IL, in 1981. They are both buried in the Martha Sunderland Cemetery in Morristown. Patton and Candy are buried in the nearby Pleasant View Baptist Church Cemetery. Byrder and family also moved to Tennessee settling in Erwin, Unicoi County, about 50 miles east of Morristown and just a few miles from the North Carolina boarder. Byrder and his first wife Mamie had three sons. After Mamie died in 1929, Byrder married Ora Willis and had one daughter. In about 1935, the Styles family moved from western Tennessee to the town of Bates, South Carolina, near Greenville. Troy moved around quite a bit, staying with various family members as his interests and opportunities dictated. He died in 1982 and is buried next to his brother Walter in the same cemetery where Phillip and Nettie Styles are interred. Troy's wife Viola is buried in the same cemetery as Harley and Sallie. Some details of Walter's path remain unclear. How long he lived in the Chicago area is presently unknown. In his later years, Walter probably lived in the vicinity of Greenville, South Carolina, near the Styles family. Additional research should eventually answer these questions.

This is the current and very incomplete draft of a rather complicated family history. There are, with little doubt, factual errors in this document that need to be corrected. If you find errors or have additional information that would improve the value of the document to those who may be interested, please feel free to contact the website manager with your corrections, comments and additions. And if you have documents that you would like to submit please send them to the site manager. However, before you send items for posting, please be sure to read the "CHBarnettfamily.net website guidelines" (document filename "siteguidelines.doc") posted on the documents page. Because this is a public web site, please do not compromise the identity of living individuals or submit stories that might be inappropriate. All submitted information and documents will be filtered through the site guidelines before being posted. PLEASE NOTE: This is a draft document that will be changed as needed to improve its accuracy. Each revision will include a revision date and should be considered as a replacement for previous versions.

Date of this revision: Draft1 (12/25/2012)