

A History of the Juniata Valley and its People Under The Editorial Supervision of John W. Jordan, M.D. Librarian of Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa., Volume III, Illustrated, New York, Lewis Historical- Publishing Company, 1913

Barnett Family

Prior to the revolution came to Pennsylvania from Swabia, Germany, **Thomas Barnett**, who settled in Perry county, on the banks of the Susquehanna, where he became a land owner, engaged in farming and followed his trade of miller. Later he took up a tract and moved to what is now the site of the town of New Bloomfield. He lived there until his death, April 19, 1813, and is buried in the family burial plot set aside on the old Barnett homestead. He married and left issue, including a son **George**.

(II) **George**, son of **Thomas Barnett**, the emigrant, was born in Perry County, Pennsylvania, October 27, 1777. He there grew to manhood, and learned his father's trade of miller and engaged in farming. He became the owner of the old homestead, and there lived a quiet life of industry and prosperity until his death, February 20, 1860. He was a Whig in politics, and both he and his wife were members of the Presbyterian Church. He married **Jane Smiley**, born January 19, 1784, died March 15, 1877. Children: **Margaret**, born October 14, 1810, died April 11, 1857; **Sarah**, born November 14, 1812, died October 19, 1889; **Frederick**, born May 25, 1815, died April 30, 1820; **Mary**, born February 23, 1817, died January 10, 1905; **Jane**, born April, 1819, died March 2, 1909; **Susanna**, born April 22, 1821, died December 25, 1910; **Tahpenas**, born May 1, 1823, died September 4, 1891; **George S.**, born March 12, 1825, died April 26, 1900; **Charles A.**, of whom further.

(III) **Charles A.**, youngest child of **George** and **Jane (Smiley) Barnett**, was born at the Barnett homestead, near New Bloomfield, Pennsylvania, December 31, 1829. He received a good preparatory education in the Bloomfield schools, and then entered Marshall College, whence he was graduated, class of 1850. After leaving college he journeyed south and for a time; taught in an academy in Mississippi. He then returned to New Bloomfield, where he taught in the academy. He began the study of law under Judge **Benjamin F. Junkin**, continuing until his admission to the bar in 1857. He began practice in New Bloomfield, where he has successfully conducted a general law practice until the present date (1913). He was elected to the Pennsylvania legislature, serving one term during the civil war period. In 1867 he was appointed United States register in bankruptcy, serving until 1875. He continued in active practice until 1881, when his standing as a learned and able lawyer brought him forward as a candidate for president judge. He was elected in the fall of 1881, took his seat upon the bench January 1, 1882, and served with dignity and honor a full term of ten years. His career on the bench was marked by fairness and justice toward all, his chief desire being the proper enforcement of the law, with due regard for the legal rights of both parties to the controversy. After the expiration of his term in 1892 he returned to his private practice, which is both large and lucrative.

Judge Barnett married, November 15, 1866, **Mary J. McClure**. Born near Green Park, Perry County, December 18, 1843, died February 23, 1910. Children:

1. **Jean O.**, born January 11, 1868; married **Rev. James S. Ramsey**, whom she survives, a resident of New Bloomfield, Pennsylvania: children: **Corrine Barnett**, born May 3, 1895; **James McClure Barnett**, November 14, 1897.
2. **James McClure**, of whom further.
3. **Charles A. Jr.**, born October 15, 1873; now manager of a stock and poultry farm at Great Barrington, Massachusetts; he married **Lucy Kurtz**, and has a daughter, **Nancy Catherine**.
4. **Arthur Elliott**, born October 15, 1875, died May 13, 1911; he was a practicing attorney of Beaver, Pennsylvania: he married **Mary Cromleigh**, who survives him, with children: **James McClure**, **Laura Cromleigh** and **Arthur Elliott** (2).
5. **Ralph L.**, born September 17, 1879, now, after several years in New York City, residing in New Bloomfield, a magazine writer, unmarried.
6. **Bertha**, born March 3, 1883, died March 10, 1889.

Mary Jane (McClure) Barnett was a daughter of **James** and **Rachel Oliver (Patterson) McClure**, granddaughter of **William**, and great-granddaughter of **Robert McClure**, born 1734, of Irish parentage, and became a farmer and miller of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. He married **Margaret Douglass**, of Scotch parentage. Both were members of the Presbyterian Church. Children: **William**, see forward ; **Alexander**, died before 1792; **Margaret**, born 1765, married **James Sterrett**; **Jane**, married **James Laird**; **Agnes**, married **Arthur Graham**; **Mary**, married **Samuel McDowell**; **Robert** and **Elizabeth**, died young.

William, eldest son of **Robert** and **Margaret (Douglass) McClure**, was born at Newville, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, near McClure's Gap, March 31, 1759, and although young served in the revolutionary war. Afterward he came to Perry County, settling on a large tract he had inherited from his father, on which he resided until his death in 1823. He married (first) **Ganes McKeehan**, (second) **Margaret McKeehan**; all were members of the Presbyterian Church. Children by first wife: **Margaret**, born December 25, 1786; **John**, born July 1, 1788, moved to Ohio and later to Iowa; **Elizabeth**, born February 5, 1791, died September 5, 1863, at Laporte, Indiana, married **Joseph Divven**; **Robert**, born April 21, 1794; **Alexander**, born January 20, 1796, married **Isabella Anderson**; **William**, born December 15, 1798, died February 9, 1872, married (first) **Eliza G. Kelly**, (second) **Phoebe Patterson**. Children by second wife : **Mary**, born February 2, 1800, died August 27, 1866, unmarried; **James**, see forward; **Nancy**, born June 1, 1804, died March 29, 1848, unmarried; **Jane**, born December 28, 1806, died July 17, 1863, unmarried; **Samuel**, born April 9, 1809, died April 19, 1819; **Joseph M.**, born September 25, 1812, died June 18, 1855, joined the "Gold Seekers" in 1849 and died in California; **Susanna**, born February 20, 1815, died April 20, 1834, unmarried; **Ann L.**, born March 31, 1817, married **Ross Lynn**, and died in the west.

James, son of **William McClure** and his second wife, **Margaret McKeehan**, was born in Perry County, Pennsylvania, March 12, 1802, died March 6, 1866. He was a farmer and miller; was prothonotary of Perry County, and held many offices of trust, serving as administrator of estates, and guardian of minor children, being a thoroughly upright man, trusted and honored by all. He was also prominent in the Presbyterian Church, and served many years as trustee. He spent his last days in New Bloomfield, where he purchased a home now owned by a daughter. He married (first) **Martha Lynn**, born in Juniata County. Children: **William** and **John L.**, died young, unmarried; **James M.**, married **Minnie Lyon**, and resides in Nebraska, the only survivor of his

family; **Martha A. R.**, died in infancy; **Samuel**, died in youthful manhood. **James McClure** married (second) **Rachel Oliver Patterson**, born in Juniata County, Pennsylvania; children: **Alexander** and **Nancy L.**, died young; **Joseph**, born December 28, 1838, married **Alice A. Hammersly**, and died in Bradford, Pennsylvania, October, 1907; **Mary Jane**, married **Charles A. Barnett**, of previous mention; **Martha A.**, married **Wesley Gottwalt**, and died in New Bloomfield.

(IV) **James McClure**, son of **Charles A.** and **Mary Jane (McClure) Barnett**, was born at New Bloomfield, Perry County, Pennsylvania, May 24, 1870. He was educated in the Bloomfield schools, prepared for college at the academy, and entered Princeton University, whence he was graduated, class of 1890. He prepared for the practice of law under the preceptorship of his honored father, and in August, 1892, was admitted to the Bar of Perry County. He began practice alone, but later was admitted to a partnership with his father and so continues. The firm transacts a large business in the county, state and federal courts of the district and is highly regarded members of the Pennsylvania bar. **Mr. Barnett Jr.** is a member of New Bloomfield Lodge, No. 319, Free and Accepted Masons; the Independent Order of Odd Fellows; and is a member of the Presbyterian Church. In political faith he is a Republican, and in 1911 was the unsuccessful candidate of his party for president judge. Both members of the firm **Barnett & Son** are members of the State and County Bar associations.

James McClure Barnett married, October 29, 1910, **Rosalie Sully Harper**, born in Tenafly, New Jersey, daughter of **William** and **Rosalie Sully (Wheeler) Harper**.

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