

BRAVE BECKY  
By Nora Jones Steele  
Stray Leaves from Putnam County History  
by Mary Hopson  
pgs. 3 & 4.



During the Civil War, two men were passing through Buffalo Valley, Putnam County, Tennessee on their way to White County, for their families. They were going to move them to Kentucky where they had made new homes. Somewhere in the valley, they were shot and seriously wounded by two Rebel soldiers. The injured men were taken to the home of some people named Garner.

Annie Anderson Bartlett, my grandmother, heard of this and sent my mother (Rebecca Peranna Bartlett), who was about 15 years old at the time, to see if there was anything that they could do for the injured men.

The Garners lived near Thomas Anderson, Jr. and they didn't have bedsteads, just straw beds on the floor. The injured men, later identified as being named Dildine and Barclay, had been placed on two of these rough beds. As my mother entered the room, Mr. Dildine looked up and asked her for a drink of cold water. She started to the spring with a wooden bucket and a gourd dipper when the Garners told her that the Rebels had ordered them not to wait on the injured men and that any one that did would be killed. Mother hurried on and said, "Let 'em kill!"

She brought the water and gave Mr. Barclay a drink and he asked her to pour cold water on him as he was hot with the fever. Mr. Dildine had been shot in the head and by that time, was unable to talk. He died later on that first night. Mother stayed the whole night pouring cold water on Mr. Barclay. The wooden floors were old, so the water soaked right through the straw bed and went right through the floor.

The next day Mr. Barclay asked mother to write a letter to his wife. Mother wrote the letter and Mr. Barclay died that night.

About three weeks later, Mrs. Barclay came horseback with her six-month-old son to meet the people who had befriended her husband in his hour of greatest need. She was very thankful for all kindness shown her husband and told my grandmother that she would send the family a half uh-bushel of salt if they would let Rebecca go with her to bring it back. A horse was saddled for Rebecca, and she left on her long trip to get the salt. They had gotten about as far as Silver Point (about five miles), when Becky lost her courage and began crying. She just could not bear to think of going so far from home. She turned her horse home, the much needed salt was forgotten.

Forty years later, the fears and hates of the war forgotten, Mr. Barclay's son came to Buffalo Valley to find his father's grave. He wished to remove the bones and lay them at rest beside his mother. Riley Jones, my brother, told of hearing mother tell the story of Mr. Barclay's death and that she might know where Mr. Barclay had been buried. She knew the cemetery, but not the exact grave as there were few tombstones.

That cemetery is now under the mightily Interstate Highway which dissected the valley. That cemetery, with all its occupants, except Thomas Anderson Jr. and Louisa Anderson, whose remains were removed before the road covered the cemetery.

**Jones, Prettyman Sr.**

b. 22 February 1772, Sussex Co., Delaware

*Vital records of New Kent and Sussex County Delaware – page 101 entry:*

*He was christened on 6 December 1772 in St. George*

*Episcopal Church, Indian River Hundred Sussex County, Delaware.*

d. Between 7 February 1825 & 6 June 1827, Buffalo Valley, TN

*Veteran of the Battle of New Orleans – War of 1812*

**md - Sarah** – ca. 1792 – b. ca 1773 – d. ca. 1840/50, Buffalo Valley, TN

*Prettyman Jones Sr. started the first (trading post) store in Buffalo Valley*

...**Byrd S. Jones** – 14 February 1808, White, TN – 25 April 1864, Buffalo Valley, Putnam Co., TN - Buried: Putnam Co., TN

**md Hannah Johnson** – ca. 1833 - b. ca. 1815 – d. 23 July 1885

...**William Wade Jones** – 23 July 1838 – 11 November 1907

*C.S.A & Union Army – 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. C.S.A. Co F, 25<sup>th</sup> Inf; Capt. Co C, 1<sup>st</sup>*

**md Rebecca Peranna Bartlett** – d/o **Joshua & Annie (Anderson) Bartlett**

...**Nora Annie Jones** – b. 25 December 1880, Buffalo Valley, TN – d. 27 November 1975, Nashville, Davidson Co., TN - *Genealogist*

**md 26 December 1902, Nashville, Davidson Co., TN,**

**Miles Allen “Bud” Steele** – b. 29 October 1876 – d. 22 December 1964

Both Buried: Woodlawn Memorial Park Cemetery, Nashville, TN

“Did You Come After Fire?”

by Nora Jones Steele

Back in those days when people did not have matches, each family had to be careful and not allow the fire to die out, even in the summer. Even in the summer it was necessary to keep a little fire in the fireplace and with a coal from this fire, they could start a fire in a stove or in another fireplace.

Sometimes however, they forgot or perhaps were too busy and let the fire die out. When this happened, one of the children had to go to a neighbors for a coal of fire to relight their own fire. Ned Anderson, my mother's uncle, lived about a mile from us and it was his house that we were sent “for fire,” when our fire died

out. We carried an iron kettle in which to bring home the coals to restart our fire. This interesting method of starting a fire was called, "borrowing fire.:

To this day, if a neighbor comes in and says that he doesn't have time to "sit a spell," he may find himself asked "Did you come after fire?"

Some Anderson Notes  
By Nora Jones Steele  
11 March 1954

My great great grandfather William Anderson came from Scotland and his wife came from England. They settled in Cumberland County, Virginia. Two of their sons, Thomas and Joel, came to Jackson County, Tennessee, and settled near Gainesboro near a stream called Blackburn Fork. Joel Anderson was a preacher.

Thomas Shirley Anderson Sr. married Judith "Judy" Robinson, and their children were seven boys and three girls. The boys were Billy, Thomas, Gallant, Ned, Paul, Silas, and Francis. The girls were Fannie, Annie, and Katie "Katy". Fannie married a Reynolds, Katie married a Mahoney, and Annie married Joshua Bartlett.

Before the Civil War, three of the sons, Thomas Shirley Jr., Ned, Gallant and Joshua, the son-in-law, came to Buffalo Valley to buy land from the government for which they paid thirty-five cents an acre. It is said that their father, Thomas Shirley Anderson Sr. sat down at a table and divided out gold to give them to pay for the land.

Buffalo Valley was a country of buffalo and cane thickets. The last buffalo to be killed in the surrounding country was killed in Buffalo Valley, and that is how Buffalo Valley got its name. The exact place where the buffalo was killed was at Ned Anderson's spring. The house Ned built is still standing and can be seen from the road.

My great grandfather, Thomas Shirley Anderson Sr. owned several slaves. Seventeen were sold after he died. Once he sent word to his daughter, Annie Bartlett, who lived in Buffalo Valley, to come over to Jackson County and he would give her a slave or two. She went horseback and no doubt took an extra horse for the "slave or two" to ride back, a distance of twenty-five or thirty miles. She selected a wench, as the women slaves were called, named Ailsey. Ailsey had several children but was to bring only the baby. Before leaving for home Annie noticed that Ailsey was crying. She was grieving because she was going to have to leave her other children. My grandmother, Annie Bartlett, quickly changed her mind and selected another slave, Aunt Rainey. Aunt Rainey had only one boy, and she brought him with her to Annie's home in Buffalo Valley, Putnam Co., TN.

Poor Ailsey was sold after her master's death and was taken down south and sold. She and her baby brought \$1,400.00. After Thomas and Judy died all of the slaves were sold at auction. One slave named Ike had been a kind of body servant for his master. The family did not want him sold and sent down south. They told Joshua Bartlett that if he would bid on Ike they would help to pay for him. Ike tried to make the debt lighter by pretending that his ankle was in bad condition. In spite of his pretending, he brought \$1,500.00. He was brought to Joshua's home in Buffalo Valley. He married Aunt Julia Ann. After the death of Ike, Aunt Julia Ann lived at my mother's house.

This information was given to me by my mother's first cousin Silas Anderson soon after I returned to Tennessee from Missouri.

Byrd Jones Notes  
By Nora Jones Steele  
13 March 1966

Grandpa Byrd Jones was quite religious and was a devout Methodist.

He had a sister (Mary ?) who came with them from North Carolina. She married a Tucker and bore sons: John, Bill, and Doc. who married Liza "Eliza" Garrison. Doc and Liza had but one child, a daughter Mary. Due to Doc's naming his only daughter Mary, we believe that his mother, Byrd's sister was also named Mary.

Byrd Jones died before the end of the Civil War of smallpox, a dreaded disease of the day and time.

The wife of one of Byrd's tenant farmers was a bad one to curse which much distressed Byrd, a very religious man. He tried to explain to her the evil of taking the Lord's name in vain and thus to made her quite the sinful practice of cursing. She is said to have replied that she'd quit if she didn't have such a "God-damn, God-damed set to deal with. What a kink this must have thrown into Grandpa's efforts to redeem her.

Byrd Jones did not believe in having slaves and did not own any, though slavery was not uncommon in the area.

Byrd Jones had a brother named Prettyman who was shot and killed on election day back in North Carolina, probably before the boys migrated to Tennessee.

Hannah Johnson, wife of Byrd Jones, was not a very religious person. She remarried after Byrd's death but was still buried next to him when she died on 17 July 1995, the same day Luke Price Jones was born. I, Nora Jones Steele, was five years old when she died and had seen her but once.