

# **The Barr Family.**

**I.E. Steed**

**Corydon, IN  
1955**





Mrs. Bernice (Barr) Steed

# THE BARR FAMILY



## The Barr Family

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The surname Barr was probably of French origin. Some of the Barr (Barre) family were Huguenots who fled from France during the religious persecutions. Since many Huguenots went to western Germany, it is likely that the Barr family settled there at that time.

### JOHN BARR I

John Barr I, the immigrant ancestor, came to America from Germany some time before the Revolution, having been a soldier in that War, serving on the American side. According to tradition he ran away from home when only ten years old; he was the only one of his family to come to America & he never heard from his relatives in Europe after the War. After living in Pennsylvania & Virginia, he finally settled near New Market, Highland County, Ohio, where there was a German settlement at that time. Court records at Hillsboro show that he died in 1808 and that his wife's name was Mary.

#### Children of John Barr I

John II (1785-1835) married Jane Wilson.  
Thomas (1787-1854) married Elizabeth Landess.

Matthias (1797-1868) married Nancy Miller.  
Sarah married Michael Metzker.  
Elizabeth married Samuel Beaver.  
Mary Magdaline married Frederick Miller.  
Nancy died unmarried.

John Barr II was born 1785 in Pennsylvania; in Ohio he married Jane Wilson on March 3, 1813. They lived near Hillsboro until 1831 when they moved to a farm in Brown County, Ohio, located 2 miles from Westboro. He died August 11, 1835, while on a business journey on horseback to Frankfort, Ohio.

Jane Wilson was born August 28, 1789, in Pennsylvania, the daughter of James & Agnes (Henderson) Wilson. James Wilson moved from Pennsylvania to Ross County, Ohio, in 1798, where he helped organize the 3rd Presbyterian Church in Ohio and helped build the first Presbyterian Church house in the state. James was the son of John & Nancy Wilson, both of whom were born in North Ireland, John having come to America about 1739 & Nancy having come several years earlier at the age of 12, both of her parents having died on the voyage across. The Wilson family was originally Lowland Scottish.

Children of John & Jane (Wilson) Barr  
James (b 1813) married Eleanor Betterlove.  
Sarah married Joseph Hallstead.

John III (b 1817) married Lavina Waits.

Mary (b 1819) married Elihu Moon.

Mathias (b 1821) married Mary Leonard.

Wm Wilson married Rebecca Ferrell & Mary  
Dunham.

Esther (b 1827) married Marshall Gustin.

Jane (b 1829) married Esby Wright.

## JOHN BARR III

John Barr III was born April 26, 1817, in Highland County, Ohio, and married Lavina Waits, April 3, 1842, in Brown County, Ohio. They were active members of the United Brethren Church and upon moving to Jay County, Indiana, in 1856 were instrumental in organizing the Collett U.B. Church the next year. John Barr died January 29, 1870, and Lavina died November 8, 1908; both are buried at Liber.

## Children of John &amp; Lavina Barr:

William, born January 31, 1843; died September 24, 1844.

Martha, born April 10, 1844; married Jarvis Devoss; died 1905 Iowa.

Thomas, born January 26, 1846; married Lucy Steed; died 1907; Rogers, Kansas.

John, born December 4, 1847; married Jane Finch; Buckley, Michigan.

Tobitha, born January 9, 1850; married James Collett.

Jane, born December 11, 1851; married John Woods; Collett, Indiana.

Stephen, born February 17, 1854; unmarried; Collett, Indiana.

David, born May 26, 1856; married Susan Wood.

James, born April 13, 1858; married 1st Ellen Upp; Rock Island, Illinois.

Elmiretta, born May 18, 1862; married Willard Finch; Ottawa, Kansas.

Samuel, born July 2, 1867; married Francis Fleisher; Portland, Indiana.



## JOHN BARR IV

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John Elbridge Barr was born December 4, 1847, in Brown County, Ohio, and after moving to Jay County, Indiana, he enlisted as a soldier on the Union side in the Civil War. He married Matilda Jane Finch September 15, 1870, and farmed for a living. They moved to Grand Traverse County, Michigan, in 1900, where they lived in Grant & Mayfield townships. Jane died August 26, 1905, & John died June 26, 1937; both are buried at Grant in Grand Traverse County.

Children of John & Jane (Finch) Barr:  
William Riley Barr, born May 29, 1871;  
died June 13, 1871.  
Ennis Ozro Barr, born April 23, 1872;  
died September 3, 1872.  
Irven Ellsworth Barr, born November 23,  
1873; see page 6.  
Thomas Esker Barr, born August 7, 1875;  
died July 30, 1880.  
Ruth Ann Barr, born December 11, 1877;  
see page 14.  
Cora Lavina Barr, born July 17, 1883;  
died young.  
Oren Elbridge Barr, born September 11,  
1887; see below.

## OREN E BARR

Oren Elbridge Barr, retired mail carrier, was born September 11, 1887, in Jay County, Indiana, & came to Michigan in 1900. On December 24, 1907, he married Clara Seymour; they have no children. Address: R 1, Grawn, Michigan.

## IRVEN BARR

Irven Ellsworth Barr, farmer, was born November 23, 1873, in Jay County, Indiana, & married there Annie Foltz on November 10, 1894. They moved to Michigan in 1899, settling first in Wexford township, Wexford County, but soon to Grant township, Grand Traverse County, and then in 1925 to Mayfield township of the same county. Annie died April 29, 1945, & Irven died September 10, 1955; both are buried at Downs in Grand Traverse County, Michigan. Five children: Opal, Bernice, Orpha, Garth & Dorothy.

## OPAL (BARR) KIME

Opal Eudocia Barr was born December 26, 1895, in Indiana. On October 3, 1917, she married Earl F. Kime, farmer of Wexford County, Michigan. In 1940, they moved to Illinois, finally settling in Bourbonnais. She died May 5, 1949, & is buried at Cornell, Wexford County, Michigan. One child: Letha.

## Letha (Kime) Hammond

Letha Virgie Kime was born August 27, 1922, in Wexford County, Michigan. At Bourbonnais, Illinois, she married John Hammond January 22, 1943. Address: 713 Warrior Court, Round Lake, Illinois. 3 children:

Newal Oliver Hammond was born October 20, 1943, at Chicago; died August 22, 1946.

William Earl Hammond was born October 23, 1951, at Kankakee, Illinois.

Patricia Ann Hammond was born June 2, 1953, at Kankakee, Illinois.

BERNICE (BARR) STEED

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Bernice Ruth Barr was born September 8, 1897, in Jay County, Indiana; came to Michigan with her family in 1899 & later married Ralph W. Steed, farmer, December 12, 1917. Address: R 1, Buckley, Michigan. Two children: Ivan & Virgil.

Virgil Ralph Steed

Virgil Ralph Steed was born October 18, 1922, in Grand Traverse County, Michigan. Address: R 1, Buckley, Michigan.

Ivan Eugene Steed

Ivan Eugene Steed, minister of the Evangelical United Brethren Church, was born August 2, 1920, in Grand Traverse County, Michigan. On August 28, 1942, he was married to Dorothy Chipman in Jay County, Indiana. Address: R 1, Corydon, Indiana. Four children:

James Oliver Steed, born July 23, 1945, at Wabash, Indiana; died December 12, 1945, at Lafayette, Indiana; buried at Pennville, Indiana.

John Andrew Steed, born September 21, 1947, at Danville, Illinois.

Stephen Virgil Steed, born October 23, 1949, at Danville, Illinois.

David William Steed, born March 5, 1955, at Corydon, Indiana.

## ORPHA BARR

Orpha Gunita Barr, grocerer, was born January 24, 1899, in Indiana. Address: Grawn, Michigan.

## GARTH BARR

Garth Irven Barr, farmer of Mayfield township, Grand Traverse County, Michigan, was born March 26, 1902, in Wexford County. He married Gladys Schroder of Traverse City, Michigan, in 1942. He died June 14, 1952, & is buried at Downs. Two children: John Barr was born September 13, 1943. William Barr was born March 27, 1949.

## DOROTHY (BARR) GORE

Dorothy Doretha Barr was born February 2, 1905, in Grand Traverse County, Michigan; married Russell D. Gore, cherry grower, in 1930. Address: R 1, Traverse City, Michigan. One child: Reva.

## Reva (Gore) Greilick

Reva Caroline Gore was born February 24, 1933, at Traverse City, Michigan; married Donald E. Greilick, soldier, November 27, 1953. One child: Laurel Anne.

Laurel Anne Greilick was born June 30, 1955, Nürnberg, Germany.

## THE WAITS FAMILY

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The Waits family was traditionally of Scottish descent.

1. John Waits of Washington County, Pennsylvania, may or may not have been the immigrant.

2. James Waits (1762-1855), probably son of John, was a Ranger on the Frontier during the Revolution. He married Margaret Levengood of German Swiss descent; settled in Brown County, Ohio, in 1802.

3. David Waits married Ann Eve Levengood, daughter of George Levengood in 1818. The relationship of George & Margaret Levengood is unknown.

4. Lavina Waits, probably daughter of David, was born July 20, 1820, in Brown County, Ohio. She married John Barr (see page 4).

## THE FINCH FAMILY

Traditionally two brothers came from England & settled in Maryland. These appear to have been John & Thomas Finch of Frederick County, Maryland.

1. William Finch (1784-1863) was born in Maryland & married Amelia Jackson (1789-1855) of Welsh descent. They settled in Jay County, Indiana, in 1836, being among the early pioneers of the county.

2. James Jackson Finch (1825-99) was born in Carroll County, Ohio, & married Ruth Carley in Jay County, Indiana.

3. Matilda Jane Finch was born October 16, 1850, in Jay County; married there John Barr in 1870 (see page 5).

1. Cornelius Melyn, a Fleming, came to America in 1638 & became Patroon of Staten Island under the Dutch. In the interim between Governors Kiefft and Stuyvesant, he was president of the Council of Eight Men which ruled New Netherland.

2. Maria Melyn married Mathias Hatfield who was of English descent.

3. Cornelius Hatfield (1666-1718) lived in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

4. Mary Hatfield (d 1794) married George Badgley, whose father Anthony came from England.

5. George Badgley (1726-94), soldier of the Revolution, married Charity Noe, great-granddaughter of Pierre Noe who was a French Huguenot refugee on the ship "De Bonte Koe" in 1663.

6. Aaron Badgley (1771-1855) married Joanna Hedges; moved to Ontario County, New York, in 1807, where he served in the War of 1812; moved to Gallia County, Ohio, in 1817, and finally to LaSalle County, Illinois, in 1850.

7. Ruth Badgley (1792-1855) married Elijah Carley who was born in Ontario, Canada, & was traditionally of French descent. They moved to Jay County, Indiana, where they died and are buried in the Finch Cemetery.

8. Ruth Ann Carley was born in Gallia County, Ohio; married James Jackson Finch 1847 in Jay County, Indiana.

9. Matilda Jane Finch was born October 16, 1850, in Jay County, Indiana; married there John Barr in 1870 (see page 5).

1. Joseph Foltz (Voitz) came from Germany on the ship "Anderson" in 1751 to Pennsylvania & later settled in Virginia. He was a soldier in the Revolution, during which he helped guard the Hessian prisoners held at Winchester, Virginia.

2. George Foltz (1767-1847) lived in Shenandoah County, Virginia. His wife & three of their four children died during the plague of bilious fever which struck the Valley during the unusual autumn of 1804.

3. Balthes Foltz (1789-1855) was born in Virginia as was his wife, Margaret Humrickhouser, granddaughter of Johannes Humrickhouser, who came from Germany to Pennsylvania on the ship "Judith" in 1748. Balthes Foltz settled in Fairfield County, Ohio, about 1822.

4. Peter Foltz (1814-1874) married Elizabeth Powell & settled in Hancock County, Ohio, where their son, Jacob, was born. After Elizabeth's death he married Amanda Hisey.

5. Jacob Balthes Foltz was born January 2, 1846. In 1867 he settled in Jay County, Indiana, where he married Cynthia Ann Gillespie, March 10, 1870. They had one child: Annie. After the death of Cynthia Ann, Jacob married Nancy Ellen Starr October 16, 1875; 3 children: Orie, Vernon & Virgie. He died September 26, 1927, & is buried at Green Park.

6. Annie Elizabeth Foltz was born February 6, 1875, at Portland, Indiana; married Irven Barr there in 1894 (see page 6).

The name Powell is a contraction of ap Howell, meaning son of Howell in the Welsh language.

1. William Powell came from Wales in 1685 to Pennsylvania where he bought 1250 acres of land & ran a ferry on the Schuylkill River.

2. John Powell of Lancaster County, Pa.

3. Philip Powell (1743-1821) of Berks & Mifflin counties, Pennsylvania. In 1769 he married Julia Ann Miller, a native of Germany.

4. Philip Powell (1781-1849) married Elizabeth Radebaugh (1787-1862), daughter of Nicholas Radebaugh (1752-1850), a native of Germany who died in Ohio in his 98th year.

5. Elizabeth Powell (1817-1850) was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, & married there Peter Foltz in 1835 (see page 11).

\* \* \* \* \*

Children of Peter & Elizabeth (Powell) Foltz: Noah, Lavina (Wagner), Daniel, Perry, Lucinda (Edwards), Jacob, Peter & George.

Children of Peter & Amanda (Hisey) Foltz: Amos, John, Elis, Jenny (Moore), Oliver, Emma (Moore), Silas, Aaron & Lewis.

#### OLIVER FOLTZ

Oliver Foltz (1861-1923) married Hattie Himrod; one child: Elmend.

Elmend Foltz, R 1, Portland, Indiana, married Edna Steed; children: Bernice (Fraze), Esther (Kerns), Iva (Beals), Chester, Carl, Sarah (Fields), John & Clyde.



The name originated in the Scottish Highlands & means "bishop's servant" in the Gaelic language. The family was a sept of the MacPherson clan.

Our family settled for a time in northern Ireland, from whence they came to America.

1. Thomas Gillespie, possibly the immigrant, settled late in life in Harrison County, Kentucky. In 1810 he moved to Clinton County, Ohio, where he died in 1816.

2. Thomas Gillespie married Hannah, daughter of James Egnew, March 28, 1803, in Harrison County, Kentucky. With his father & brothers they settled in Ohio in 1810.

3. Thomas Gillespie was born June 4, 1812, in Clinton County, Ohio. He married Nancy Hearn, April 14, 1839, & they moved to Jay County, Indiana, the same year. He died April 28, 1878, & is buried in the Hearn cemetery.

4. Cynthia Ann Gillespie was born August 10, 1848, in Jay County, Indiana; married there Jacob Foltz March 10, 1870; died March 18, 1875, from childbirth; buried in Hearn Cemetery. One child: Annie Foltz (Barr). (page 11 & 6)

#### THE HEARN FAMILY

Two books have been published on the Hearn family, of which that by Randle is best on our branch, although it contains errors back of John & Nancy (Morris) Hearn.

Ruth Barr was born December 11, 1877, in Jay County, Indiana. After coming to Michigan with her parents in 1900 she married Bert Flavel; they had one child: Lelia. Ruth later married Frank Acker; they had 4 children: Gardner, Granville, Forrest, & a child who died young. Ruth resided on a farm near Shelby, Michigan; she is now deceased, having died July 27, 1939.

Lelia married Sutton & is now deceased. Her family live near Shelby, Michigan.

The Ackers live in and about Muskegon, Michigan. Gardner Acker lives at 1865 Wood St., Muskegon, Michigan.

(Data from Oren Barr)

#### THE PARSONS LINE

1. Peter Parsons, probably of Welsh descent, came from London, England, to Maryland in 1649.

2. Peter Parsons (b 1681) married Ursula Jenkins.

3. George Parsons (b 1708) married Hannah Stevens.

4. Jonathan Parsons (b 1739) married Sarah Mills.

5. Nancy Parsons (b 1763) married Isaac Hearn.

6. John Hearn (b 1788) married Nancy Elizabeth Morris, daughter of Jethro Morris. They first moved from Maryland to Ohio, & then in 1839 to Jay County, Indiana.

7. Nancy Hearn (b 1823) married Thomas Gillespie (see page 13).

ORIE (FOLTZ) LAWRENCE 15

Orie Foltz (b 1878) married Elmer Lawrence. Address: 964 N Audubon Rd, Indianapolis 19, Indiana. One child: Merrill.

Merrill Lawrence married Mabel Baldwin. One child: Phyllis.

Phyllis Lawrence married Robert Shaffer. One child: Lawrence Robert Shaffer.

VERNON FOLTZ

Vernon Foltz (b 1883), 1710 N West St Rd, Lima, Ohio, married Anna Gagle; three children: Harold, Minnie, & Irven. He later married Dora Piper & Edna Young; no children by either of these.

Harold Foltz (deceased) married Marjorie Strohl; 2 children: Vivian (deceased) & Harold Jr. Harold Jr (b 1934), 1757 Cliff Ave, Cincinnati 5, Ohio, married Peggy; no children.

Minnie Foltz (b 1904) married John McKee Sr; 3 children: John Jr, Maxine (deceased) & Eugene. Address: 651 E Votaw St, Portland, Indiana. John McKee Jr married Shirley; 4 children: Dixie Kay, Stephen, Barbara & Carol. Eugene McKee married Genette; 3 children: Michael, Mark & Milton.

Irven Foltz (b 1905), 107 Barr Drive, Ventura, California, married Marie; three children: Lois, Iris & Arthur. Lois Burns, 12900 York Blvd, Garfield Hgts 25, Ohio, has 3 children. Iris Chopac, 12802 Twin-tree Lanes, Garden Grove, California, has 2 children.

VIRGIE (FOLTZ) LOY

Virgie Foltz (b 1892) married Dick Loy; no children. Address: Portland, Indiana.

This booklet is published by Ivan Steed, Corydon, Indiana, 1955.

Chief sources of unpublished family records:

Oral Barr, Portland, Ind: records of Samuel Barr & John Newton Wright; data on Barr & Waits families.

Sarah McDowell, Wooster, O: records of John Newton Wright, Emily Wright, & Fannie Gustin Ball; data on Barr family.

Ralph Steed, Buckley, Mich: records from Mandeville Finch & Jacob Foltz; data on Finch, Carley, & Foltz families.

Mrs George Hyde, DeKalb, Ill: records of Edna Johnston & R B Hedges; data on Badgley family.

Orie Lawrence, Indianapolis, Ind: records of Jacob Foltz & Balthes Foltz; data on Foltz family.

Chief Published Sources:

"Maxwell History & Genealogy" by Houston, 1916; data on our Wilson family.

"History & Genealogy of the Powells in America" by Powell, 1935; data on our Powell family.

"Patterson, Wheat & Hearn Families" by Randle, 1926; data on our Hearn, Gillespie, & Barr families.

"Hearne Family History. Addenda" by Hearne, 1912; data on our Hearn family.

(Data was drawn from many other sources, both published & unpublished, which are not mentioned for lack of space.)