

saturday, june 7, 2008



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cousin connection

[cousin connection](#)

Fossil Fern on Slate



Fossil on slate.

In the 1910 US Census, Edward R. Byrnes is listed as having the occupation of a drayman. A dray, as listed in a wiki is 'a low horse-drawn cart, often without sides, and used especially for heavy loads'.

From the census too we learn that his father Thomas J. Byrne(s) is a hotel bartender, while Edward's older sister Emma was a hotel table waiter, another sister, Margaret was a milliner.

There was a shirt factory in Barnesboro but it didn't open until 1930 and a milliner is someone who manufactures hats, perhaps there was a hattery in Ebensburg?

Along with being a drayman, [Edward R. Byrnes](#) was also a survey man for one of the coal companies, his job was to mark (by drilling holes in the mine roof and inserting pegs) where the coal was to be mined.

He also surveyed above ground and during one of these surveys he found the fossil fern shown here. The fossil is about 5 inches long on the slate which is about 1.5 inches thick.

Edward R. painted one edge of the slate with gold paint and kept it in his living room behind the couch on the radiator. The radiator was in front of an east facing window, the window had shear curtains on it. It is a heavy keepsake.

The radiator was painted silver. There was carpeting and a dark shiny wooden desk in the corner of the room to the left if you were facing out the window.

You can see a picture of family members, the couch, window, and the living room of the Edward R. Byrnes household in the [family photograph from 1961](#).

Posted by [Edward Byrnes](#) at 11:08 | [No comments](#)

Last modified on 2009-02-21 08:51

thursday, june 5, 2008

Byrnesville and Lusterware



Lusterware creamer set.

This lusterware belonged to [Pauline Schrot Byrnes](#). According to a wiki entry, lusterware is a porcelain glazed with metal compounds to give the work an iridescent quality. You should be able to see this in the large picture. On the bottom of the sugar bowl and creamer it is stamped 22K Warranted. Before she died, my grandmother Byrnes put names of individual family members on a number of her household possessions and my name was on these two pieces.

I've only used them at a couple of very special gatherings, okay maybe one, and maybe it was a Thanksgiving. Pauline grew up on a big farm in Curwensville, one of the youngest of 14 children. Her parents Joseph Schrot(h) and Anna Baum were both German, Joseph from Ober Lindewieze and Anna from NiederLindweise. This information came from the Schrot (h) sisters although I haven't located the cities on a map yet.



Salt & Pepper shakers.

The farm and huge farm house in Curwensville really impressed me. There was an antique wagon in one of the barns. By the time I came around, the fields were rented out and planted by neighboring farmers. The Schrot's I knew from my visits to the Schrot homestead farm in Curwensville were Pauline's sisters Anna, Ruth, and Mary, the latter being a Catholic nun. I also knew one of the brothers, my great Uncle Rudy and his family. A son of Rudy, Rudy Joe always impressed me, he had degrees in the biological fields and had insect collections. On one of my visits they gave me a keepsake.

The keepsake was set of bright blue porcelain salt and pepper shakers from Japan. If there was a story surrounding the salt and pepper shakers I don't know it. My grandma Byrnes was a great shot with a rifle and put my buddies and I to shame one day. We had been out shooting a pellet gun all day. I shot a bird off some electrical wires up on the hill and I still fill a little bad about shooting that bird. My grandmother asked if she could take a shot and I thought it was kind of funny and didn't think she would hit anything. She aimed for the center back of one of the Adirondack chairs in the backyard and hit it dead center. I think my friends and I were lucky to hit the center piece of wood at all.

I remember my grandmother going down into the cellar and stoking up the coal in and adding coal to the furnace early every morning in the cold weather. She would also make the best beef and vegetable soup. After long afternoons of picking berries up on the hill, Grandma Byrnes would fix them up for us with sugar and milk. She would always make me kneel and say my prayers before bed.

After my grandfather died, my dad and my uncles got together and bought my grandmother a new color TV which was a big deal and also had a new oil furnace installed to replace the coal stove. There was a concrete shower in the cellar across from the furnace and I thought I was pretty tough to be able to take a shower down in that scary place. At the other end of the cellar was a door which came up under the porch. My grandparents stored canned goods and cases of soda under the porch. It was kind of cool down there in the semi-dark when the sunlight came through the lattice which skirted the front porch of the house.

Posted by Edward Byrnes at 13:18 | No comments

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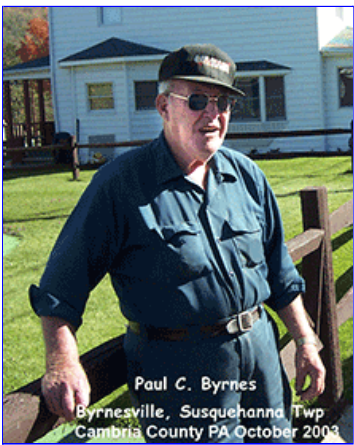


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Paul C. Byrnes
Byrnesville, Susquehanna Twp
Cambria County PA October 2003

My cousin Paul C. Byrnes was married to Mary D. Martucci (1920 - 1994), a daughter Karen Ann Harmon is a close second cousin.

I was glad to see Paul at his home in Byrnesville, near Barnesboro, now Northern Cambria Borough Pennsylvania in October of 2003. My wife and I had traveled to the area to enjoy the mountains with autumn color.

I found Paul with a rake in his backyard on James Street; he was filling in a small depression in the lawn. I said, "Hey Paul! Boy am I glad to see you!" Paul said he was glad to see me too. It had been 20 years since I last saw him or Byrnesville.

Everything had changed but Paul Byrnes still lived in Byrnesville, in the house he built and it meant a great deal to me to see him again.

Paul told my wife and I all about the little grocery stores which used to do business in Byrnesville, DeFazio's Grocery and Sampson's Grocery which later became Bunny Byrnes's Grocery Store.

We talked about the parties which used to go on in his large covered porch. At 13 I was allowed at the party for a bit before hitting the sack at my grandparent's house across from Paul's. I listened to the party, the music, and laughter, long into the night. (I know I was 13 because the song ♫ by Little Eva was playing which came out in 1962.)

A number of us Byrnes's gathered at Paul's house in July of 2005 in the few days before the Byrnes Family and Friends Reunion of 9 July 2005. It was the best of a small reunion there in Paul's front yard. Karen Byrnes, Jerry and Judy Byrnes, Edward A. Byrnes, his sister Diane Byrnes Carl, Maureen Byrnes wife of Wes and daughter Cynthia were in attendance.

One of my favorite memories of Paul was when I was about 10 years old. I loved to fish and so did Paul. Paul made an electrified metal rod which he could stick into a damp lawn. This pipe would apparently shock and induce night crawlers to come to the surface of the grass for easy collecting. Being ten and wanting to do everything (still do), I begged Paul to let me work the electric rod.

In my bare feet I'd take that rod and try to stick it in the ground but I'd get zapped every time and would have to give it back to Paul to operate. I asked him about it during the October 2003 trip, he said there was electrical tape on it which would keep him from getting shocked. We had a great time remembering!

Posted by Edward Byrnes at 12:15 | No comments

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