

# Thomas J. and Sarah Miller Byrnes

Byrnesville, Barnesboro, Northern Cambria, Cambria County, Pennsylvania

< [Founder of Byrnesville](#) | [Byrnes Family Picnics](#) >

wednesday, january 21, 2009

## Thomas J. and Sarah Miller Byrnes

Thomas and Sarah had a wonderful wedding on the 19 th in the cold, snowy month of January 1875. Their first baby was a boy, Gilbert Valentine Byrnes (1876-1935). The children following Gilbert were John Amandus Byrnes (1878-1935), Herman James Byrnes (1881-1911), Mary Jane Elizabeth Byrnes (1881-1881), Marcellus Augustine Byrnes (1884-1955), Emma S. Byrnes (1887-1974), Margaret Viola Byrnes (1891-1972), Edward Raymond Byrnes (1893-1966), William Henry Byrnes (1895-1983), and the baby Ella Mae Byrnes (1900-1984).

Thomas and Sarah each had Irish and German blood, they had been married just about one month shy of 44 years when Sarah died in 1918. From all accounts Thomas and Sarah were great parents and grandparents. Sarah was said to be a caring mother and Thomas J. was a wonderful (along with strict and stern) father.

The following is from William R. "Dick" Byrnes of his grandfather Thomas J. Byrnes: Good father but very strict. He was a big man. Required children to attend catechism on Saturdays and Sunday School on Sunday at Holy Cross Church in Spangler. Thomas J. Byrnes donated a stained glass window that is still in Holy Cross church with his name on it. He raised 9 children and had no hobbies.



Sarah & Thomas J.

From Edna Byrnes Lantzy: Granddad was a farmer and tavern keeper, he lost his leg first from blood poisoning and gangrene in his toe, then in his lower legs caused by non-professional treatment of corns and toe nails. The toes were removed first, then the leg below the knee. The Byrnes Hotel was built about 1902. A man by the name of Peters helped Thomas J. Byrnes with construction. Earth for excavation was removed by wheelbarrow and scoop pulled by horses. (Ed. Note: I've included this information for the stories below.)



Stained Glass at Holy Cross

The following is from Herman Jerome "Jerry" Byrnes concerning his dad and granddad, Edward R. Byrnes and Thomas J. Byrnes. Received October 20, 2003: I don't think that I ever saw my grandpa Byrnes---I think that I was too young. I do remember the big long bar in the hotel first floor.....the bar was closed and we kids played there sometimes. The bar closed during prohibition and never reopened. My father told me the story of the keg of whiskey that arrived at the train station in Barnesboro, several months after prohibition started. My father (your grandpa) drove a horse and buggy to the train station, picked up the keg and brought it to Byrnesville. My father asked your great grandfather what to do with the keg of whiskey and was told to open it and pour it on the ground---and--he poured out the whole keg.

From William R. "Dick" Byrnes. Received 4 November 2003: This sure does bring back the memories. Re the comments from Jerry Byrnes, I too remember the bar on the first floor of the old hotel. I also recall the back room where they stored the wine and beer. In particular, I remember the smell of "booze". I also remember helping Granddad Byrnes in the garden. He had a big patch of horseradish and, although this sounds like a fairy tale, he used his peg leg to make holes in the soil to plant peas and beans. The garden was located directly across the street from the hotel near Paul Byrnes' house today.

Edna Byrnes Lantzy loved her grandfather and knew how to get a ride on his horse: Now granddad had a beautiful horse and that horse did lots of work in the gardens and everything for granddad. I used go up (the hill to where he was working) about 4 o' clock, I'd wait till they were finished with their plowing or whatever they were doing, doing the plowing, the garden and I would always wait and I stood there until they were done around 4 o' clock in the afternoon, because I wanted to wait, and I could get a ride on the horse down around to where the water pond was so that the horse could have a drink and then he went back to his penned place next to the dog house. In Edna's words:



### related websites

- [Cambria County Genealogy](#)
- [Life of a Sm Town Photographer](#)
- [Northern Cambria PA Website](#)
- [Po's Peek at the Past Magazine](#)

### Byrnesville Web Visitors

since June 2008:



### byrnesville contents

- [Poor Raphael Byrne](#)
- [Down Home in Clearfield, Pennsylvania](#)
- [Descendant's of Edward R. Byrnes](#)
- [Pauline's Poems](#)
- [Byrnes Family Picnics](#)
- [Thomas J. and Sarah Miller Byrnes](#)
- [Founder of Byrnesville](#)
- [Shucking Beans](#)
- [Byrnesville Recorded Recollections](#)
- [The Byrnes Hotel](#)
- [The Byrnes Hotel II](#)

### cousin connection

#### cousin connection



### DANE CASTLE


Collections of Arms and Armor  
 Medieval Equestrian Combat  
 Royal Guests and Castle Tours  
 Great Hall and Grounds Rental  
 Strongstown, PA 15957  
 (814) 749-7341

<http://www.danecastle.com>

Paul C. Byrnes talking to me in October of 2003 in Byrnesville: Your great grandfather (Thomas J. Byrnes) used to live right over there in the first floor of the Byrnes Hotel. Paul pointed across the street. When he wasn't working you could find him sitting on the front porch. He made his own peg leg from a small tree. Paul makes a circle with his hands about six inches in diameter. He carved it himself. He had a garden across from the hotel, the same place your grandad Edward R. Byrnes had his. If he saw me, he'd holler, 'Paul, go pick some of those onions and sell them', and I would.

Posted by [Edward Byrnes](#) at 15:47 | [No comments](#)

Last modified on 2009-03-11 10:54

Karma for this article:  
  
Current karma: none, 0 vote(s) 264 hits



Maureen Hardegree  
AUTHOR

Stories of the South  
Old and New

<http://www.maureenhardegree.com>

## Trackbacks

Trackback specific URI for this entry

No Trackbacks

## Comments

Display comments as ([Linear](#) | [Threaded](#))

No comments

## Add Comment

Name

Email

Homepage

In reply to

Comment

Enclosing asterisks marks text as bold (\*word\*), underscore are made via `_word_`.

Standard emoticons like :- ) and ;- ) are converted to images.

We need to make sure you are a human. Please solve the challenge below, and click the I'm a Human button to get a confirmation code. To make this process easier in the future, we recommend you enable Javascript.



I'm a Human

Remember Information?

Subscribe to this entry

Submit Comment

Preview

creative commons



Edward A. Byrnes

my [LinkedIn](#) profile

Send your Byrnesville & Barnesboro area memories, facts, stories, & anecdotes directly to:

**Ed Byrnes**  
412 Taylor Street  
Rochester, MI  
48307-1848

or email them to:  
[edwardbyrnes@comcast.net](mailto:edwardbyrnes@comcast.net)

