

The following is a suggested model for writing articles for the HERITAGE OF THE TOE RIVER VALLEY Series.

Articles may be submitted on paper (US Mail), on computer disk, or preferably by e-mail. Format should be Microsoft Word (not Corel Word Perfect or Microsoft Office).

In case you use the latter two, convert to (use "save as") to MSW for XP. DO NOT use special genealogy word-processing programs (such as "Brother's Keeper").

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JAMES AND SABRINA (PUTMAN) BYRD

James M. Byrd (5/5/1855-10/29/1917) was the son of "Broke Leg" George Byrd, the son of William Kimsey Byrd (for whom see Vol. I, Article No. 230), the son of Toe River Valley pioneer George William Byrd and wife Annie Hudson (for whom see Vol. I Article No. 82).

James was born in Yancey County, NC, and settled in Mitchell County, NC. There are few details available relating to his life other than he was a chimney mason by trade (as was his father) and that died as a result of spinal syphilis.

[Editor: The written account of his son George Sr. (see JAMES M. AND HARRIETT MATILDA (ELLIS) BYRD at child no. IV) says, "My Dad became ill waith some kind of kidney disease caused by a fall from a scaffold while he was laying rock on a high chimney. ... I can recall someone lifting me up so I could see my Dad for the last time."]

James' middle initial is uncertain. Some claim "B", some "M", and some "V". "M" appears on the only official document available, his death record. He is buried in the McKinney Cove Byrd graveyard near Bakersville, NC.

James M. first married Sabra Putman. (For his 2nd family, see JAMES AND HARRIETT MATILDA (ELLIS) BYRD.) Sabra

abandoned James and their children and went to Tennessee to live. According to family legend, a circus came to the town of Bakersville for an entire week. When the circus left, Sabra went with them, leaving her husband and five children behind.

Their son Marshall B. (see below) told his daughter Barbara that after Sabra Putman left the family, James M. would take him (Marshall, as an infant) to work with him and lay him on a pallet while he worked as a mason. [The Editor's heart is here filled with appreciation and admiration for good ol' cousin James. May he rest in peace!]

The children of James M. Byrd and Sabra Putman were as follows:

I. Hutson ("Hut," Jan 11, 1882 - Feb 28, 1942). He was a road builder by trade. He married Efe McKinney (Nov 9, 1885 - Feb 28, 1963) on Jan 11, 1902. They are buried in the McKinney Cove Baptist Church cemetery at Bakersville, NC. [Editor: The name "Hutson," traditional in the family, derives from the family name of ancestress Annie Hudson, wife of pioneer George W. Byrd.]

Hutson and Efe [Editor: Effie?] had one child: Edith. She married Bernard Reynolds and they had two children: Bobby and Betty.

II. Charles ("Charlie", Apr 18, 1879 - Apr 17, 1931). He married Ada Huskins (July 31, 1891 - May 20, 1982). They settled in the Pigeon Roost Area of Mitchell County, where Charles was a farmer.

Ada is buried in the Roselawn cemetery in Tennessee

[Editor: Unicoi Co.?]. Charles is buried in the McKinney Cove Byrd graveyard near Bakersville, NC.

Charles and Ada had three children: Marshall, Frank and Margie.

Margie moved to the state of Maryland with her husband Marloe Garland. They were divorced and Marloe moved back to Mitchell County, NC.

III. Marshall B. ("Marsh, April 15, 1888 - June 30, 1975). He married Geneva Mckinney (Nov 28, 1893 - April 10, 1984). Marshall was born and lived in Bakersville, NC, all of his life and was a stone mason by trade.

Marshall served in Co. E 26 Regiment INT.

Marshall and Geneva are buried in the McKinney Cove Baptist Church cemetery at Bakersville, NC.

Marshall and Geneva's children are:

A. Argie Lee, married Harry Ramsey. They had one son: Harry Byrd Ramsey.

B. Osie, married Paul Niles. They had one daughter: Mary Linda Niles and one son named Charles.

C. Pat, who did not marry. He served in WW-II and experienced the horrors of the bloody beaches of Normandy. He was known as "the bravest man that they ever served with" by his fellow fighters. He is buried in the McKinney Cove Baptist Church cemetery at Bakersville, NC.

D. Barbara, married Paul Power. Barbara was born and raised in Bakersville, NC. She attended Berea College at Berea, Kentucky, where she met Paul. They spent most of their

adult life as staff members of Berea College. Their children are: Kevin, Heather and Andera.

IV. Lillie Mae (Sept 12, 1889 - ?). She married Hutsell Calvin Wise.

Lillie and Hutsell were born and raised in Bakersville, NC. They left NC soon after their marriage and moved to Lincoln, Nebraska, where their five children were born. Lillie and Hutsell finally settled in Conway, Arkansas. When they moved to Conway they lived in a two-room shack with an attic. Lillie was a most industrious lady that loved her children and worked hard to provide all that her family needed.

Lillie and Hutsell's children were: Lucy Edith, James I., Howard Charles, Clyde E., and Birdie Ella.

A. Lucy Edith married I.Z. Hackler, Sr., and their children are: [1] Wanda [Long] who settled in Rogersville, TN; [2] Barbara [Fricke] who settled in Rogersville, TN; [3] Carolyn [Ray] who settled in Conway, Arkansas; [4] I.Z. Hackler, Jr.; [5] James Hackler, and [6] Paul Hackler

Lucy and Hutsell are buried in the Crestlawn Cemetery at Conway, Ark.

V. Lucy (June 20, 1887 - July 31, 1972). She married Fonzer A. Ayers (1877-1963). They are buried in the Roan Valley cemetery in Mitchell County, NC.

Lucy and Fonzer's children were: Marshall, Cecil, Nathaniel and Rex.

A. Marshall married Mattie Ellis and they had two

children: Wayne and Joann. Marshall, Wayne and Joann's families are Christmas Tree Farmers in the Roan Valley of Mitchell County, NC. They were privileged to have been selected, among all the growers in the United States, to provide the main Christmas tree for the White House one year during President Clinton's administration. President and Mrs. Clinton invited the entire family to the White House where they were honored for providing the tree.

Submitted by Bob Byrd, 225 Edgewood Road, Statesville, NC 28625 (704-871-2464); bobbyrd@conninc.com. [Editor: Bob is the son of William Byrd, a son of James M. by his second marriage (to Harriett Matilda Ellis).]

Byrd, James M., *

Byrd, George W. (Broken Leg), *

Byrd, William Kimsey, *

Byrd, George William, *

Hudson, Annie (Byrd), *

Putman, Sabrina (Byrd), *

Ellis, Harriett (Byrd). *

Byrd, Hutson B., *

McKinney, Effie (Byrd), *

Byrd, Edith (Reynolds), *

Reynolds, Bernard, *

Reynolds, Bobby, *

Reynolds, Betty, *

Byrd, Charles, *

Huskins, Ada (Byrd), *

Byrd, Marshall, *

Byrd, Frank, *

Byrd, Margie (Garland), *

Garland, Monroe, *

Byrd, Marshall B. *

McKinney, Geneva (Byrd), *

Harry Ramsey, *

Byrd, Argie Lee (Ramsey), *

Ramsey, Harry Byrd, *

Byrd, Osie (Niles), *

Niles, Mary Linda, *

Niles, Charles, *

Niles, Paul, *

Byrd, Pat, *

Byrd, Barbara (Power), *

Power, Paul, *

Power, Kevin, *

Power, Heather (Schofield), *

Power, Andrea, *

Byrd, Lillie Mae (Wise), *

Wise, Calvin Hutsell, *

Wise, Lucy Edith (Hackler), *

Wise, James I., *

Wise, Howard Charles, *

Wise, Clyde E., *

Wise, Birdie Ella, *

Hackler, I.Z. (Sr.), *

Hackler, Carolyn (Ray), *

Hackler, Wanda (Long), *

Hackler, Barbara (Fricke), *

Hackler, I.Z. (Jr.), *

Hackler, James, *

Hackler, Paul, *

Byrd, Lucy (Ayers), *

Ayers, Fonzer A., *

Ayers, Marshall, *

Ayers, Cecil, *

Ayers, Nathaniel, *

Ayers, Rex, *

Ayers, Marshall, *

Ellis, Mattie (Ayers), *

Ayers, Wayne, *

Ayers, Joann (Beudel), *