

Barrett family

Researched by Ruth Ann Montgomery

Married, in Magnolia, on the 6th inst. by the Rev. O. J. Dearborn, Mr. Frederick Barrett to Miss Lucy Ann Warn, both of Magnolia.

October 15, 1853, Janesville Gazette, Janesville, Wisconsin

mad, and sealed his fate at Charleston.

MARRIED.

On Thursday, Jan. 20th, at the residence of A. K. Barrett, Esq., Mr. OLIVER BARRETT, of Magnolia, and Miss MARY HOWARD, of Union.

Also, at the same time and place, by the same, Mr. MARTIN HOWARD, of Union, and Miss IRENA L. BARRETT, of Magnolia.

January 28, 1860, Janesville Morning Gazette, p. 4, col. 6, Janesville, Wisconsin

Sales of Real Estate: Evansville. M. A. Hopson to J. H. Hopson, 1869, lot \$500. J. A. Pettigrew to J. C. Frederick, 1869, lot \$300. T. J. Edwards to W. Soden, '68, lot \$125. N. M. Slawson to W. Soden, '69, lot \$500. W. Soden to G. Barrett, '69, lot \$400. [Note: In 1869, lots without buildings usually sold for \$100 or less, those with buildings, \$300 or more.] Janesville Gazette, March 20, 1869, p. 4, col. 2, Janesville, Wisconsin

Rock County Murders by Ruth Ann Montgomery

"In 1859, Ogden Barrett made an attempt on the life of a Mr. Howard. Barrett was upset about a statement that Mr. Howard had made about him.

Ogden Barrett confronted Howard near the Magnolia store and demanded that Howard retract his words. Barrett had prepared a written statement for Howard to sign. When Howard refused to sign the retraction, Barrett pulled a Colt six-shooter and fired at Howard.

The bullet narrowly missed Howard's head, but he told newspaper reports that he could feel the wind of the bullet on his face. A bystander came to Howard's rescue. The gun was wrestled from Barrett and Mr. T. J. Edwards, the Magnolia storeowner, who also happened to be the village constable, arrested Barrett on the spot. Barrett had a seconded revolver concealed on him. After a brief inquest was held in the Magnolia store, Barrett was transported to jail in Janesville.

The Janesville Gazette reporter speculated “Barrett may consider himself fortunate that he failed in his murderous attempt on the life of Mr. Howard. Mr. H. is one of the most respected citizens of the town and if Barrett had killed him, we doubt whether his own life would have been spared by the neighbors of Mr. Howard. Murder or attempt of murder is not generally tolerated. Wisconsin is a different locality from California, as Barrett will find out before he gets through with this case.” Some believed that if Barrett had been successful in his attempt to kill Howard, the crime would have warranted a lynching.

Eight years later, another murderous incident occurred in Magnolia, again involving members of the Barrett family. On March 29, 1868, George Barrett murdered his older brother. The two brothers and their wives had lived in separate apartments in the same house near the village of Magnolia.

For nearly four years, George’s brother, Oliver, and his wife, Lydia, also lived in another part of the house. The two families shared the basement, but had been quarreling so much that they had placed a divider in the stairwell leading to the basement.

The two sisters-in-law had had a confrontation just a few days before the murder. They argued about who could use the stairwell and the basement and Oliver’s wife, Lydia hit George’s wife, Elizabeth, in the face and gave her a black eye.

Both brothers were drawn into the fight. Oliver and George had also been fighting about the money from the sale of a crop of hay.

On the fatal Sunday morning, Oliver had decided to tear down the barriers George had built on the stairwell. At the murder trial, Oliver’s wife Lydia described the scene: “Oliver took his axe and went into the hatchway and pried off the slat door which George had put up, then shut the board door, pinned it, and came out of the hatchway as fast as he could run. At the same time, George came round the corner of the house with a butcher knife in his hand, ran into the hatchway on his side of the partition, went down two steps, swung under the board partition, behind Oliver, and as Oliver turned and raised the axe, George Plunged the knife into his left side.”

The axe fell to the ground and Oliver ran out of the hatchway, around the house, through the gate, and into the field, and George went after him. Oliver fell in the field and George went back into the house.

Lydia ran to Oliver, but he was already dead. The father of the two men, lived nearby and heard the commotion and came to see what had happened. George told his father that he had committed the act in self-defense.

While all of this was happening, church services were being held in the Methodist Church in Magnolia, just a short ways from the Barrett house. The minister announced that there had been a serious fight at the Barretts and church services were halted.

A large crowd gathered to see the murderous scene at the Barrett house. Members of the Methodist congregation and neighbors who arrived at the scene of the murder were later called to testify at George's murder trial.

Oliver's body lay on the ground while the crowd waited for officials to arrive to take charge of the remains. An inquest was held in the afternoon and the body was removed.

The next day, Dr. John Evans performed a post mortem examination. The Oliver was buried in the East Magnolia Cemetery.

George's first trial was held in May 1870, but the first jury could not agree on a verdict. Because the case was so well know in Rock County, the jury trial was switched to Elkhorn. The second trial did not take place until 1873, five years after the murder.

Francis Howard testified that George had told him that he had heard Oliver in the cellar cutting down a door. George went to the door and saw Oliver running up with an axe and George stabbed Oliver with a knife.

Dr. John M. Evans, an Evansville physician, testified that he was called to the scene, but Oliver had already died. Dr. Evans had examined the body and determined that wound caused almost instant death.

The father of George and Oliver was also called to testify at the murder trial. He attempted to make a claim that George was insane and then went on to tell about the insanity on George's mother's side of the family. A. K. Barrett

told the jury: "George has shown frequent signs of insanity. George is at times very incoherent; again very moody and stupid, dull and stolid, will sometimes stand like a monument or pillar of salt and not answer when spoken to; will often burst out laughing without apparent reason. My daughter has been in an asylum in California for three years; my wife was insane for two weeks once; her mother was insane before her for several years and her brother, George's uncle also and one of the uncle's children."

George testified at his trial and claimed self-defense. The trial lasted four days and the jury, after a short deliberation returned a verdict of first degree murder and Barrett was sentenced to life in prison. He was committed to Waupun prison for life.

His wife petitioned several times for George to be pardoned and he was released from prison on June 30, 1875, after serving just two years."

—The case of Barrett convicted of the murder of his brother, was argued yesterday afternoon before Judge Lyon, and a new trial granted, on the ground that incompetent testimony had been admitted during the progress of the previous trial.
—*Rock Co. Recorder.*

September 7, 1870,

Evansville Review, p. 1, col. 2, Evansville, Wisconsin

pearance.
—Dr. Evans and Ex-Sheriff Johnson left for Elkhorn, Monday morning, as witnesses in the Barrett murder case, which is to be tried in Walworth county circuit court this week.

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September 17, 1873, Evansville Review,

p. 1, col. 2, Evansville, Wisconsin

Barrett, Edward L.
October 12, 1908 - August 12, 2007

(Published Monday August 13, 2007)

EVANSVILLE— Edward L. Barrett, 98, longtime resident of Center Township, died on Sunday, Aug. 12, 2007, at Evansville Inn Care. He was born in Center Township on Oct. 12, 1908, the son of Lawrence and Sarah (Ford) Barrett. Farming was his life. He lived on the farm for over 90 years. He is survived by his niece, Mary Jo (Paul) Leeder of Milton; a nephew, Lawrence (Shirley) Lebin of Mill Hall, PA; 4 great-nieces: Cynthia Leeder, Laura (Dan) Kane, Leanne (Mark) Schroeder, and Linda (Darrin) Gabriel; 2 great-nephews, Paul S. (Deanne) Leeder and Barrett (Patricia) Lebin; and many great-great-nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; 4 sisters: Mary Brovick, Edna Perleberg, Helen Barrett, and Ann Lebin; and 2 brothers, James and John Barrett. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2007, at ST. PAUL 's Catholic Church in Evansville, with Fr. Kevin Dooley officiating. A visitation will held on Tuesday from 10 until 11 a.m. at St. Paul 's Catholic Church . Interment will be in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Janesville. SCHNEIDER APFEL SCHNEIDER & SCHNEIDER FUNERAL HOME is assisting the family. For online obituary and registry:www.schneiderfuneraldirectors.com

Old Irish Blessing

May the road rise
to meet you.
May the wind be always
at your back.
May the sun shine warm
upon your face,
the rains fall soft
upon your fields and,
until we meet again...
May God hold you in
the palm of His hand.



In Loving Memory
Edward L. Barrett

Date of Birth
Monday October 12, 1908
Center Township, Wisconsin

Date of Death
Sunday August 12, 2007
Evansville, Wisconsin

Service
St. Paul Catholic Church
Tuesday August 14, 2007 11:00 AM

Celebrant
Fr. Kevin Dooley

Organist
Ruth Ann Montgomery

Interment
Mt. Olivet Cemetery

Schneider Apfel Schneider & Schneider