

# KATONAH

*THE HISTORY OF A NEW YORK VILLAGE  
AND ITS PEOPLE*

*by*

FRANCES R. DUNCOMBE

*and other members of the*

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

KATONAH VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY



KATONAH, NEW YORK

*The Society*

1961

ORREN;<sup>3</sup> NANCY;<sup>3</sup> HULDAH;<sup>3</sup> WOLSEY;<sup>3</sup> DAVID;<sup>3</sup> and LEWIS.<sup>3</sup> DAVID<sup>3</sup> married 1st Sally Heatherington and 2nd Mary Ann Seymour by whom he had: ELBERT,<sup>4</sup> a butcher in South Salem; CORNELIA,<sup>4</sup> mar. Marcus Knapp; JENNIE,<sup>4</sup> unmar.; and SARAH IDA,<sup>4</sup> mar. Leander Mead. SARAH<sup>4</sup> and Leander Mead had 3 children born in Cross River: CHARLES GRANT;<sup>5</sup> DAVID R.,<sup>5</sup> and IDELLA,<sup>5</sup> mar. Eugene Mead Hill. CHARLES G.,<sup>5</sup> a partner in Kellogg & Mead, a hardware store on The Parkway, married Emma Fisher (see Fisher genealogy). DAVID RUTHERFORD MEAD,<sup>5</sup> b. in Cross River Oct. 30, 1876, married Alsina Benedict (see Benedict genealogy).

*Compiled by K. B. Kelly.*

*The Barrett Family*

SAMUEL BARRETT,<sup>1</sup> of Wethersfield, Conn., settled at Vredeland, afterwards Westchester, Mar. 16, 1656. He married 1st Hannah Betts (1639-1686). They lived in Lower Yonkers and had one son, JOHN.<sup>2</sup> SAMUEL<sup>1</sup> married 2nd Leah. He died before Dec. 28, 1691.

JOHN BARRETT<sup>2</sup> married Martha and they had 2 sons: SAMUEL;<sup>3</sup> and ABRAHAM.<sup>3</sup> JOHN,<sup>2</sup> collector of Lower Yonkers in 1713, died before Oct. 23, 1722.

ABRAHAM BARRETT<sup>3</sup> married Martha Holmes. They had 5 children: JOHN BARRETT,<sup>4</sup> their eldest, b. 1720, removed to the Manor of Cortlandt.

SAMUEL BARRETT<sup>3</sup> removed to Bedford in 1681, one of the first to join the original settlers. He married Jemima and they had: JOHN;<sup>4</sup> ABRAHAM;<sup>4</sup> SAMUEL;<sup>4</sup> JAMES;<sup>4</sup> JONATHAN;<sup>4</sup> JOSEPH;<sup>4</sup> ISAAC;<sup>4</sup> and MARY.<sup>4</sup> SAMUEL<sup>3</sup> will was probated Sept. 13, 1759.

SAMUEL BARRETT<sup>4</sup> married Mary Moseman. Their 4 sons were born on Broad Brook Rd., Bedford. MARCUS<sup>5</sup> and REUBEN<sup>5</sup> moved to Carmel, Putnam County. JESSE<sup>5</sup> never married and SAMUEL<sup>5</sup> remained in the family home, which remained standing until it burned in 1914.

At 21 yrs., in February, 1776, SAMUEL BARRETT<sup>5</sup> enlisted as a private in the Westchester Militia under Capt. Hezekiah Gray, Col. Thomas's regiment. In 1777 SAMUEL<sup>5</sup> was under Capt. Marcus Moseman, his uncle. Capt. Hezekiah Gray was killed and his wife and 4 children managed a tavern across the road from SAMUEL's<sup>5</sup> house. In 1778 SAMUEL<sup>5</sup> married the widow Abigail (Waterbury) Gray (1743-1805), dau. of David and Mary (Sturges) Waterbury. They had 4 sons, all born in Bedford, 3 buried in Buxton Cemetery: JOSEPH;<sup>6</sup> FREDERICK;<sup>6</sup> JESSE,<sup>6</sup> d. at sea; and PHINEAS.<sup>6</sup> In October, 1832, SAMUEL<sup>5</sup> asked for and received his pension as acted upon by Congress June 7, 1832. He died Dec. 10, 1844, aged 89 yrs., 8 mos.

JOSEPH BARRETT<sup>6</sup> (1779-1863), a farmer, married Deborah St. John Dec. 24, 1799. He was very active in the Bedford Presbyterian Church. He died at 83 yrs., 6 mos. JOSEPH<sup>6</sup> and Deborah had 11 children: ASENETH;<sup>7</sup> JONATHAN SMITH;<sup>7</sup> ABIGAIL;<sup>7</sup> ELOISE;<sup>7</sup> MOSES ST. JOHN;<sup>7</sup> JESSE;<sup>7</sup> RUFUS KING;<sup>7</sup> ANNA;<sup>7</sup> EMILY;<sup>7</sup> CLARISSA;<sup>7</sup> and PHEBE.<sup>7</sup>

FREDERICK BARRETT<sup>6</sup> (1781-1856) married Polly St. John, sister of Deborah. They lived on the Bedford-Pound Ridge road and had 8 children.

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SONS, HIRAM<sup>7</sup> and HARVEY,<sup>7</sup> were local farmers. HERBERT ST. JOHN BARRETT<sup>9</sup> (1875-1933) (Frederick,<sup>8</sup> Hiram,<sup>7</sup> Frederick,<sup>6</sup> Samuel,<sup>5</sup> Samuel,<sup>4</sup> Samuel,<sup>3</sup> John,<sup>2</sup> Samuel<sup>1</sup>) owned and lived in the homestead. He was killed by a hit-and-run driver in front of Bedford Court House Dec. 22, 1933. His widow and only child, SHIRLEY ST. JOHN BARRETT,<sup>10</sup> sold the farm. SHIRLEY<sup>10</sup> is now MRS. ERNEST FREDERICK KRUG, JR.,<sup>10</sup> and lives in New York City.

FREDERICK IRVING STARBUCK,<sup>10</sup> head of Young and Halstead in Mt. Kisco, is a grandson of JOSEPH BARRETT MOGER,<sup>8</sup> who in turn was a grandson of FREDERICK<sup>6</sup> (1781-1856).

PHINEAS BARRETT<sup>6</sup> (1787-1857) married Sally Palmer and had sons: SAMUEL;<sup>7</sup> STEPHEN;<sup>7</sup> GEORGE WASHINGTON;<sup>7</sup> BENJAMIN FRANKLIN;<sup>7</sup> SAMUEL H.;<sup>7</sup> and ISAAC NEWTON;<sup>7</sup> and 5 DAUGHTERS.<sup>7</sup> They owned a large farm on Hook Rd. and helped lay out and build Girdle Ridge Rd. in 1852, connecting their farm and Cantitoe Corners. Their homestead is now owned by A. Ross Jones.

GEORGE WASHINGTON BARRETT<sup>7</sup> left Bedford in 1835 for New York City. He was very active in the antislavery movement. He was one of ten to organize the New York Republican Club and was a great admirer of Horace Greeley. He is buried in Buxton Cemetery, Bedford. One of his sons, GEORGE PHINEAS,<sup>8</sup> was a banker and his great-grandson, OSCAR R. BARRETT, JR.,<sup>10</sup> is an insurance broker in New York City and a resident of Bronxville. OSCAR<sup>10</sup> is very interested in Bedford and its history and is a member of the Founders of the Patriots, Sons of the Revolution, and the Bedford Historical Society. He has two grandsons who carry on the family names, JOHN<sup>12</sup> and SAMUEL BARRETT,<sup>12</sup> and a granddaughter, ABIGAIL BARRETT BOWER.<sup>12</sup>

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BARRETT<sup>7</sup> (1831-1907) married Sarah Shove, dau. of Dr. Seth Shove of Cherry St. After their marriage they lived in their home on Cherry St., now owned by John Rogge. She taught school and they had one son, SETH BARRETT,<sup>8</sup> who was a wonder on electrical and telegraph equipment.

MOSES ST. JOHN BARRETT<sup>7</sup> (1809-1865) married 1st Elizabeth Mary Edwards Nexsen in the Presbyterian Church in Bedford Village May 11, 1835. They had: ELIAS;<sup>8</sup> ELIZABETH;<sup>8</sup> and JOSEPH.<sup>8</sup> MOSES<sup>7</sup> married 2nd Sarah Newell from Ossining and they had: HARVEY;<sup>8</sup> GEORGE;<sup>8</sup> MOSES;<sup>8</sup> and EDWARD NEWELL.<sup>8</sup> EDWARD,<sup>8</sup> a graduate of Lafayette College in Easton, Pa., wrote for a New York paper, and farmed as a hobby. He married Elizabeth K. Hunt, dau. of Charles A. Hunt of Katonah (see Hunt genealogy). No children.

JOSEPH BARRETT<sup>8</sup> (1840-1910) attended Bedford Academy and graduated from Lafayette College in 1861. Feb. 13, 1867, he married Emma Robertson, dau. of Henry and Huldah (Fanton) Robertson, in the Baptist Church, Bedford Center. They lived at Cantitoe in the Robertson homestead. He was a farmer, school commissioner, supervisor of the Town of Bedford, and cashier of the New York Custom House. From Cantitoe they moved to Cross River Rd. and Rte. 22, and when the City took this property, they built in 1898 a new house on Edgemont Rd., now owned by the Presbyterian Church. He was a student of local history and wrote chapters on Bedford, New Castle and North Castle for Scharf's *History of Westchester County*, 1886. He was interested in the Village

Improvement of the Women's Sunday School. She had a general Assembly. She deliberated, Barrett accepted and she succeeded. She had a her influence. 16, 1933. NEXSEN;<sup>9</sup>

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Improvement Society, Choral Club, Farmers' Club, and was treasurer of the Women's Reformatory. He was superintendent of the Presbyterian Sunday School for many years, elder for 31 years, and attended the General Assembly in Portland, Ore., representing our local church. He was deliberate, thoughtful, kind, and his judgment was most accurate. Mrs. Barrett acquired her political interests early from her supervisor father and the successful career of her brother, Judge William H. Robertson. She had a deep interest in all local people, faith in the joy of living, and her influence was great. She died in her Katonah home at 92 yrs. Nov. 16, 1933. Children of JOSEPH<sup>8</sup> and Emma Barrett were: ELIZABETH NEXSEN;<sup>9</sup> HENRY R.;<sup>9</sup> WILLIAM G.;<sup>9</sup> EDWARD P.;<sup>9</sup> and ROBERTSON T.<sup>9</sup>

ELIZABETH NEXSEN BARRETT<sup>9</sup> attended school at Cantitoe and Bedford Academy and was a graduate of Blair Academy in Blairstown, N.J. She spent her life in Katonah, living for others, with humility and unselfishness, working untiringly for a better community and world. She was a brilliant writer and noted pen acquaintance. She had great interest in the Presbyterian Church and foreign missions. She taught Sunday School until she was 85. She held many offices in the District Nursing Association, was president of the Village Improvement Society, helping to build the new library, and was active in the Red Cross. She did enough personal welfare work to be remembered for many generations and was always the first to welcome a new family into the village with a plate of cookies. She had great force and warmth and gave encouragement to all. She died on her 91st birthday, Nov. 17, 1958.

HENRY R. BARRETT<sup>9</sup> (1869-1940), educated at the Cantitoe school, Bedford Academy, Blair Academy, and Lafayette College, was admitted to the bar in 1892 and joined the law office of his uncle, William H. Robertson. He was a power in Republican politics in Westchester County for almost 50 years. Among offices held in White Plains were: director of the Citizens Bank, president of the Publishing Company of the *Daily Reporter*, counsel for 20 years to the sheriff of Westchester County, and president of the Chamber of Commerce. He was a member of the Delta Kappa Epsilon Club, Elks Club, Westchester Hills Golf Club, and Sons of the American Revolution. He lived in Katonah for the first 30 years of his life and then in White Plains for 40 years as one of its leading citizens. In December, 1900, he married Anna Parker. Their children were: HENRY R., JR.;<sup>10</sup> EMILY;<sup>10</sup> DONALD;<sup>10</sup> IONE;<sup>10</sup> and DOROTHYANNA.<sup>10</sup> After his wife's death in 1914, the children came to their grandmother's home and grew up in Katonah. He married 2nd in 1925 Mrs. Elizabeth Endriss.

HENRY ROBERTSON BARRETT, JR.,<sup>10</sup> a White Plains lawyer, married Lillian E. Daniel in 1929. Children were: HENRY ROBERTSON BARRETT, III,<sup>11</sup> b. 1931, also a lawyer in White Plains; and JEAN ELIZABETH,<sup>11</sup> who mar. John B. Dolan and has children, SUZANNE ELIZABETH,<sup>12</sup> b. 1956, CATHERINE ANN,<sup>12</sup> b. 1958, CAROLYN LOUISE,<sup>12</sup> b. 1959, and JOHN PETER,<sup>12</sup> b. 1960.

EMILY EUNICE BARRETT<sup>10</sup> married Elmer Jamison Gray. They live in Detroit. Their dau., ELIZABETH ROBERTSON GRAY,<sup>11</sup> married Robert Dean Allison. Their son is ROBERT GRAY ALLISON,<sup>12</sup> b. 1959.

DONALD P. BARRETT,<sup>10</sup> unmar., lives in White Plains. His twin, IONE P. BARRETT,<sup>10</sup> known as "Jill," has law offices on Katonah Ave., Katonah.

DOROTHYANNA BARRETT<sup>10</sup> married Edwin Kellogg Bertine (1897-1960). Their children are: JOAN BARRETT BERTINE,<sup>11</sup> who mar. Roy Edwin

Olson II and has children, SANDRA LEE,<sup>12</sup> b. 1959, and CHERYL ANN OLSON,<sup>12</sup> b. 1960; and PETER EDWIN BERTINE,<sup>11</sup> a lieutenant, J.G., in the U. S. Navy stationed in Hawaii.

WILLIAM G. BARRETT<sup>9</sup> (1873-1933) lived in Katonah until World War I. He married in Old Katonah in 1897 Ella Maude Williams, dau. of James H. and Elizabeth Miller Williams. Their 6 children were: MARGARET;<sup>10</sup> JOSEPH;<sup>10</sup> MARIAM;<sup>10</sup> JAMES;<sup>10</sup> WILLIAM;<sup>10</sup> and ELIZABETH.<sup>10</sup> All were born in Katonah. He was elected school commissioner in 1899 and register of Westchester County in 1901, and was interested in the Y.M.C.A. and Lions Club in White Plains.

MARGARET BARRETT<sup>10</sup> married 1922 David Field Griffen. They made their home in Katonah 1947-1958. Their only child, MARGARET NEXSEN GRIFFEN,<sup>11</sup> b. 1932, lives in New York City.

JOSEPH WILLIAM BARRETT<sup>10</sup> (1899-1956) married Gladys Stocum of Bedford Hills, who makes her home in Miami, Fla. Their sons are: RICHARD WILLIAM,<sup>11</sup> who lives in Washington, D.C., with wife Shirley C. Patterson and sons, CHRISTOPHER JOSEPH,<sup>12</sup> b. 1949, PATTERSON HALL,<sup>12</sup> b. 1953, and ROBERT WILLIAM,<sup>12</sup> b. 1958; and PHILIP GERARD,<sup>11</sup> a paratrooper in World War II, who is married to Joyce A. Christian, and has dau. BEVERLY JOY,<sup>12</sup> b. 1948. They live in Bedford Hills and he is in the advertising business in New York City.

MARIAM BARRETT<sup>10</sup> married Paul William Miller, an insurance broker. They make their home in Rye, N.Y. Their only child, DONALD BARRETT MILLER,<sup>11</sup> married in 1959 Joan Marie Griffen and is associated with the American Felt Co., Glenville, Conn. They live in Port Chester, N.Y.

JAMES HENRY BARRETT,<sup>10</sup> mar. Katharine Brown, lives in N.Y. City. Their daughters are: LINDA JEAN,<sup>11</sup> an actress; and KATE ROSS,<sup>11</sup> who is teaching in England.

WILLIAM HURD BARRETT<sup>10</sup> was with the 11th Airborne in World War II. He married Mary Grace Filkins, a former French teacher in Katonah High School. They live in Newark, N.Y.

RACHEL ELIZABETH BARRETT<sup>10</sup> makes her home in Greenwich Village in New York City.

EDWARD PERCY BARRETT,<sup>9</sup> b. at Cantitoe June 25, 1875, received his early education in our local schools. Admitted to the bar in 1900, he joined the Robertson & Barrett law firm, later known as Barrett & Buckbee. In 1916 he opened his own law offices in Katonah and still is active. He was supervisor of the Town of Bedford for 45 yrs., retiring at 78. He was a leader of the Bedford Republican Party, resigning in 1959. He was an old-fashioned down-to-earth farmer. In World War I he raised enough food to run a canning factory on his farm on Cherry St. He still keeps and cultivates his own garden on Huntville Rd. He has helped and operated a number of side businesses, among them: a woodworking mill in White Plains; a gas-producing electric plant on Katonah Ave.; the electric plant on Bedford Rd.; Country Service Store; Northern Westchester Electric Co.; and Sports Store. He has fine local Indian relic and mineral collections. He worked on the Building Committee of the Katonah Village Library, and was a moving spirit in the Katonah Memorial Park Association. Mr. Barrett is known as the dean of the County Republican politicians. In November, 1901, he married Estelle A. Travis, daughter of

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Byron and Margery Putney Travis. They built a home at 27 Bedford Rd., where their children, DOUGLAS LANGLEY,<sup>10</sup> b. 1902, and EMMA ROBERTSON BARRETT<sup>10</sup> (1906-1907) were born. In 1907 they built at 51 Bedford Rd. Here KATHARINE ELIZABETH BARRETT<sup>10</sup> was born. A son, EDWARD P. BARRETT, JR.<sup>10</sup> (1915-1915), was born at the farm on Cherry St. Mr. and Mrs. Barrett now reside on Oak Hill, having celebrated their 58th anniversary. DOUGLAS L. BARRETT,<sup>10</sup> Supervisor of the Town of Bedford, his wife, Margaret G. Fowler, and daughter, MARGOT LOUISE BARRETT,<sup>11</sup> live on Harris Rd. KATHARINE E. BARRETT<sup>10</sup> married William A. Kelly, a building contractor, and they live on Oak Hill with children: DAVID AUSTIN,<sup>11</sup> b. June 24, 1938, and KAREN ELIZABETH KELLY,<sup>11</sup> b. Aug. 15, 1944. Their son, EDWARD WILLIAM KELLY,<sup>11</sup> b. Aug. 27, 1935, married Madelyn Sue Weisenbarger of Lima, Ohio, June 26, 1960. They make their home in Pound Ridge.

ROBERTSON T. BARRETT,<sup>9</sup> b. at Cantitoe, attended local schools, Blair Academy, and Lafayette College. He was admitted to the bar in 1909. After a sample of law with his brothers, he turned to writing. He was editor of the *Yonkers Daily News*, then joined American Telephone & Telegraph Co. in 1921 until his retiring age. In 1913 he married Mabel Backus and they had: WALDO,<sup>10</sup> d.y.; LAURENCE;<sup>10</sup> ROBERTSON T., JR.;<sup>10</sup> and ADELAIDE.<sup>10</sup> Mrs. Barrett died in 1943. He remarried in 1944 Frances J. Weber. After his retirement they ran the *Katonah Record* for a time. Mr. Barrett wrote a book to commemorate the 275th year of the Town of Bedford in 1955. He has devoted his time to the Fire Department, Presbyterian Church, Village Improvement Society, and the Westchester County Historical Society. He was president of the Bedford Historical Society and historian of the Town of Bedford. LAURENCE NEXSEN<sup>10</sup> is head of the English Department and dean of curricula at Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, Michigan, where he lives with his wife, Ruth C. De Yoe, and children TIMOTHY DE YOE,<sup>11</sup> b. 1950; LAURENCE MICHAEL,<sup>11</sup> b. 1953; and BARBARA CHASE BARRETT.<sup>11</sup> ROBERTSON T. BARRETT, JR.,<sup>10</sup> is an air captain with a Texas company. He married Margaret Sloat, daughter of Clifford H. and D. Barbara Schultz Sloat of Katonah. Their children are: MARTHA ELIZABETH,<sup>11</sup> b. 1942; ROBERTSON SLOAT,<sup>11</sup> b. 1943; JOHN DAVID,<sup>11</sup> b. 1945; and BRUCE EDWARD,<sup>11</sup> b. 1948. ADELAIDE E.<sup>10</sup> is married to Dr. Geoffrey A. Corson of Dauphin, Pa. They have: ALAN BARRETT,<sup>11</sup> b. 1952; LINDA BELL,<sup>11</sup> b. 1954; BARBARA ELIZABETH,<sup>11</sup> b. 1956; and MARGARET ANNE CORSON,<sup>11</sup> b. 1958.

*Compiled by K. B. Kelly.*

### *The Benedict Family*

THOMAS BENEDICT,<sup>1</sup> b. 1617 in Nottinghamshire, sailed from England in 1638. He settled first in the Massachusetts Bay Colony where he married Mary Bridgum. In 1640 the couple moved to Southold, L. I., thence to Jamaica, and in 1665 to Norwalk, Conn. In 1684 Thomas helped "plant" the town of Danbury. There were 5 sons and 4 daughters. The girls mar-