

John Carson and Susan Bargo

By John Hutchinson – November 2022

John Carson and Susan Bargo are my great³ grandparents. This document describes what I know about the Susan Bargo and the Bargo branch of the Connor family. A Connor family document gives the wife of John Carson as Susan Barnett. Their children are given as James, John, Frank, a sister, Mary Elizabeth, and David (youngest). The unidentified sister is probably Dulcina. According to all documents that I can find, Susan Barnett was really Susan Bargo. In the 1880 US Census, Susan (a widow at the time) lived (along with her son David Carson) with her nephew George Barnett. Bargo is also spelled Bargoe in some documents.

There is an issue with David Carson. In all source documents he is listed as born on March 12, 1865 and Susan Bargo as his mother born in 1816. This would make his mother about fifty years old when David was born. The birthdates for both David and Susan are well documented. A more likely explanation is that David is actually a grandchild or nephew raised by John and Susan Carson.

There is also an issue with Dulcina Carson. In the 1850 US Census she is listed living in the John and Susan household as 2 years old. All other documents have her as born in 1835, which would make her 15 years old in 1850. The 1850 census is probably incorrect here.

The female line from me to Susan Bardo is as follows:

1. Ella Gertrude Connor 5/27/1914 to 2/16/1999 – Mother
2. Mary Elizabeth Dagnia 11/29/1884 to 11/30/1972 – Grandmother
3. Mary McGrath 11/2/1859 to 7/15/1936 – Great Grandmother
4. Mary Elizabeth Carson 11/16/1840 to 8/22/1912 – Great² Grandmother
5. Susan Bargo 1816 to about 1880 – Great³ Grandmother

What follows is more of the story of the Connors, Carsons, Bargas, and Bennetts. Our story begins in Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky when Susan Bargo was born to John Bargo (1795-1817) and Elizabeth Wise (1792-1877). On August 1, 1838 John Carson married Susan Bargo in Trimble County, Kentucky.

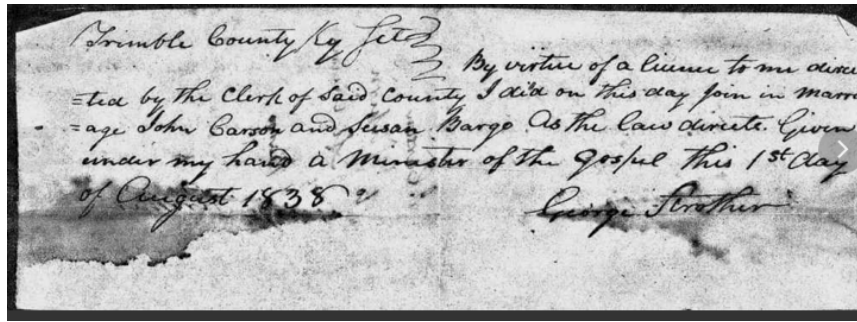
Marriage of John Carson and Susan Bargo - Trimble, Kentucky record.

Know all men by these presents that we John Carson & Coleman Perkins ~~are~~ and firmly bound unto the Commonwealth of Kentucky in the sum of \$50 to be made and paid by our respective executors, administrators and assigns for the use of the Commonwealth upon the condition that there is no lawful cause to obstruct the marriage of Susan Bargo & John Carson Given under our hands and seals this 1st day of August 1838

Attest
James Lott CR
John Carson
Coleman Perkins

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In 1850 the John and Susan Carson family lived and farmed in Henry County, Kentucky. Note that Dulcena is listed as 2 years old here.

1850 US Federal Census – Kentucky, Henry County, District 1. August 27, 1850.

435-439	Carson John	35	M		Farmers
	Susan	34	F		
	Mary E.	10	F		
	James T.	6	M		
	John L.	4	M		
	Dulcena	2	F		

John Carson	35
Susan Carson	34
Mary E. Carson	10
James T Carson	6
John L Carson	4
Dulcina Carson	2

John and Susan Bargo Family

1. John Carson, born 1813 in New Castle, Henry, Kentucky, died April 1, 1877 in Jackson County, Missouri.
2. Susan Bargo, born 1816 in Gallatin County, Kentucky, died 1882 Jackson, Missouri.

John Carson and Susan Bargo had the following children:

1. Dulcina Carson was born May 30, 1835 in Henry, Kentucky and died November 1, 1881 in Ash, Monroe County, Missouri. She married William M. Pierce on September 9, 1853.
2. **Mary Elizabeth Carson** was born on 16 Nov 1840 in Frankfort, Franklin, Kentucky. She died on 22 Aug 1912 in Kansas City, Missouri. She married **Daniel Joseph McGrath**, son of Thomas McGrath and Mary Shea on 26 Dec 1857 in Montgomery Co, Missouri. He was born on 22 Sep 1822 in Waterford County, Ireland. He died on 26 Feb 1903 in Kansas City, Missouri.

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3. James Thomas Carson was born on 06 Nov 1844 in Henry, Kentucky (Confederate Cemetery, Higginsville, Missouri). He died on 24 Aug 1931 in Lafayette, Missouri. He married Barbara Jane Vaughn on 15 Jun 1867 in Jackson, Missouri. She was born on 03 Mar 1847 in Pink Hill, Jackson, Missouri. She died on 08 Jan 1924 in Rich Hill, Bates, Missouri.
4. John L Carson was born in 1846 in Henry, Kentucky.
5. Franklin H. Carson was born on 15 Mar 1860 in Jackson, Missouri. He died on 13 Feb 1932 in Jackson County, Missouri. He married Susan J. Penrose. She was born on 08 Aug 1854 in Missouri. She died on 31 Aug 1922 in Blue Springs, Jackson, Missouri (Age: 68).
6. David William Carson was born on 12 Mar 1865 in Louisville, Kentucky. He died on 02 Mar 1927 in Lafayette, Missouri. He married (1) Dollie Barnett, daughter of George W Barnett and Victory M Vaughn on 31 May 1889 in Independence, Jackson, Missouri. She was born in 1874 in Sni-A-Bar, Jackson, Missouri. She died on 18 Dec 1944 in Independence, Missouri. He married (2) Julia Bea Fain, daughter of William Thomas Fain and Mary Alice Hainline on 06 Oct 1901 in Lafayette County, Missouri, she was born on 09 Jan 1882 in Lafayette Co., MO. She died on 02 May 1940 in St Joseph, Buchanan Co., MO (pneumonia, gangrene, hepatitis).

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/6940369/person/6101935648/facts>

Kentucky and Missouri

Henry County, Kentucky is a county located in the north central portion of the U.S. state of Kentucky bordering the Kentucky River. Its county seat is New Castle, but its largest city is Eminence. The county was founded in 1798 from portions of Shelby County. It was named for the statesman and governor of Virginia Patrick Henry.

Of John and Susan's six children, Dulcina 1835, James 1844, and John 1846 were born in Henry County, Kentucky while Mary 1840 and David 1865 were born in nearby counties (Franklin and Jefferson).

Based on children's birth places, sometime between 1850 and 1858 John and Susan Carson moved from Henry County, Kentucky to Sni-A-Bar Township, Jackson County, Missouri.

Sni-A-Bar Township was established just east of Kansas City, Missouri in Jackson County in 1834. It encompassed land stretching from the Little Blue River east to the county line and roughly 4 miles north and south of what is today Interstate 70. In other words, the township runs from just west of Blue Springs to just east of Oak Grove with Grain Valley as its center. Early pioneers named the township for the two previously named creeks that crisscross the township and flow north to the Missouri River.

It is generally agreed that the work "sni" is derived from one of two French words: chenal (creek) or chenail (river channel). It is the "a-Bar" that has kept people guessing and we are probably no closer to an answer than the many who have speculated this mystery. The following story taken from the Kansas City Star and published on March 23, 1914.

“Out in the eastern hills of Jackson County, close to the Lafayette County line, Sni-a-bar creek wanders among well wooded hills of oak and hickory. It has never been anything but Sni-a-bar Creek, and the hills have been the Sni Hills since a time when the memory (of pioneer settlers) ran not to the contrary. And very rightly, too. For there’s a story connected to the Sni-a-bar country, which perhaps had not been heard by the man who wrote to The Star the other day demanding that the new highway to that portion of the county take the name East Wood Road rather than Sni-a-bar.”

The name “Sni-A-Bar” comes from the accidental discovery of the creek. Sometime around 1800, a trapper of German or French origin — the historical sources disagree on his nationality — worked his Mackinaw boat up the Missouri River during a season of high water. The heavy Mackinaw, laden with provisions and implements of the trapper’s trade, made very poor progress against the swollen river. At one point, the trapper discovered the mouth of a stream, which he believed was the slough or chute coming from behind an island. He headed the boat into the slough, where the water was running much easier. But instead of leading him back into the river, the stream continued southwestward through a narrow valley. Realizing his error, he turned around to retrace his route. The trapper’s name was either Aber, or Hebert — both of which had a similar pronunciation. The trapper told others of his navigation mistake, and the stream channel got the French name of Chanel Aber (or Hebert).

American frontiersmen had a dismaying talent for corrupting words and phrases, no matter what the language. So as the name was passed by word of mouth, it gradually morphed into Sni-A-Bar. This process led one nineteenth century historian to conclude that the term was merely gibberish, without meaning, “manufactured by the old pioneers out of Indian, French, and German.”

Sni-A-Bar Farm

In 1904, William Rockhill Nelson began buying land for a non-profit farm, called Sni-A-Bar Farm, which would attract thousands of visitors to Grain Valley. The 2,400-acre farm was ready and registered with the state of Missouri in 1913 to show farmers better methods of raising cattle.

On page 4 of the Jackson County ledger collection 1-18 it states, “Most Famous Farms... Sni-A-Bar the greatest gift of any man to the beef cattle industry.” In the same ledger collection, it also states, “This famous farm was started in 1913 by Mr. Nelson as his gift to the improvement of conditions on corn belt cattle farms.” Two years after the farm was registered, Nelson died. In his will he provided funding for the farm for 30 years. “All lands owned by me or belonging to said trust estate at the time of and after my death and situated in Sni-A-Bar Township, in Jackson County, Missouri, shall for a period of thirty years next succeeding my death be held, used, managed and controlled by said trustees for the purpose of the material and social betterment of the public and particularly of the people of Sni-A-Bar Township to promote and instill a better knowledge among them concerning stock breeding and raising, especially of cattle,” Nelson wrote in his will.

The trustees were to be selected by the president of three colleges – University of Missouri-Columbia, the University of Kansas and the University of Oklahoma. The universities used the

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farm for experiments and studies, said Charlie Napier, a resident of Grain Valley who grew up on the Sni-a-Bar farm, moving there in 1922. Napier's father, James Napier, brought his family over from Scotland. He was hired at the farm as chief herdsman to oversee the show cattle. Showing shorthorn breeds seem to be an area reserved for Scots during this time period. The farm attracted thousands of visitors to Grain Valley because of annual events held there.

The first appointed trustees for the farm were J.C. Nichols, Herbert Jouis and Gov. Arthur M. Hyde. Of the three, only Jouis ever actually visited the farm. The trust was set up in such a way that Nelson's daughter, Laura Kirkwood, would run the farm until her death. She died in March 1926. In 1927, Napier's father became the manager of the farm. Many experiments were performed, and many cattle won prizes at competitions.

One animal, named 'Sni-A-Bar Control', was shown for three years and was never beaten in any show, being grand champion all three years. Control died at an east coast farm where she was for breeding. The farm found a better way of breeding, the reason the farm was started. The cure for Bangs disease was first tested there. Crops also were experimented with.

Charlie Napier became the chief show herdsman from 1934 to 1942. He also was the farm manager for three months during a time when his father went to Scotland to buy cattle. Napier said, "Dr. Sheets, who was head of the Bureau of Animal Testing for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in '34 and '35, said more than once, "They gathered more information from livestock experimentation at Sni-A-Bar farm than they did from all of the government experiment stations combined."

When the farm was being sold, bids came from J.C. Penney, Nell Donnelly Reed, wife of a congressman and actor Fred McMurray. But the farm was sold in November 1945 to Ralph L. Smith because he had already owned two farms and he had no intention of dividing the farm up. Smith bought the farm for \$387,000 – an astounding \$110 per acre. Charlie Napier said the cattle, sold separately, brought in a higher dollar amount than the farm, even with all the buildings and barns that came with it.

In 1947 Smith sold the farm to Ray Batmann, who paid two times the price Smith paid for it, Napier said. It was at this time that Napier's father finally left Sni-A-Bar. The glory days of Sni-A-Bar Farm were over, as its condition deteriorated under Batmann's administration. The county health department was called out on more than one occasion because of the stench of dead cattle. Finally, he began selling pieces of the farm.

David William Carson and Dollie Bell Barnett

In the 1880 Federal Census Susan Bargo Carson and her 14-year-old son David Willaim Carson lived with her nephew George Barnett in Sni-A-Bar Township, Jackson County, Missouri. This led to some confusion, as she is listed as Susan Barnett in some family documents. She was the widow of John Carson who died in 1877. George Barnett is the son of John William Barnett (1818-1880) and Mary Bargo (1820-1879). Mary Bargo is Susan Bargo's sister. John and Mary Barnett had a daughter Dollie Barnett who married David William Carson. In the 1880 Census Dollie (6) and David (14) lived in the same house with George Burnett and Susan Carson.

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<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/166183176/person/262168222161/facts>

David William Carson married Dollie Barnett May 31, 1889 and married Julia Bea Fain on October 6, 1901 in Odessa, Lafayette, Missouri. David and Dollie had one child Viola Carson, born 1890. David and Julia had four children – James (1903-1974), Mackey (1907-1986), Mary Ann (1909-1972), and Robert Oliver (1919-1977).

David William Carson met a tragic death by suicide on March 2, 1927. The cause of death was listed as suicide with a shotgun with poverty listed as a contributing factor.

MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

1. PLACE OF DEATH
County Lafayette Registration District No. 464
Township St. Louis Primary Registration District No. 5-6-27
City St. Louis File No. 12
Registered No. 18

2. FULL NAME David Carson
(a) Residence, No. 7 St. Ward (If nonresident give city or town and State)
Length of residence in city or town where death occurred yrs. 7 mos. da. How long in U.S., if of foreign birth? yrs. na. mos. da.

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3. SEX Male 4. COLOR OR RACE White 5. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED (early the word) Married
6. If MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED, HUSBAND OF (or WIFE OF) Married
7. AGE Years 61 Months 11 Days 20 If less than 1 day, na.
8. OCCUPATION OF DECEASED (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work Farmer
(b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer)
(c) Name of employer
9. BIRTHPLACE (CITY OR TOWN) Carroll (STATE OR COUNTRY) Mo.
10. NAME OF FATHER John Carson
11. BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (CITY OR TOWN) Louisville Ky (STATE OR COUNTRY) Ky
12. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER Susan Bargo
13. BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (CITY OR TOWN) Louisville Ky (STATE OR COUNTRY) Ky
14. Informant Mrs. Julia Carson (Address) St. Louis
15. Date of Death March 2, 1927 (Place of Death) St. Louis

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

16. DATE OF DEATH (MONTH, DAY AND YEAR) March 2, 1927
17. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from 12 to 13 and that I last saw him alive on 13 and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at 167
THE CAUSE OF DEATH* WAS AS FOLLOWS:
Suicide by shooting self with shotgun
CONTRIBUTORY Poverty
18. WERE ANY DISEASE CONTRAINDICATIONS AT PLACE OF DEATH?
19. DID AN OPERATION PRECEDE DEATH? DATE OF 1920
20. WAS THERE AN AUTOPSY?
21. WHAT TEST CONTAINED QUANTITIES (Blood) 200 Cope, Coroner (Address) St. Louis
22. How the DECEASED OBTAINED DEATH, or in other words Violent Death, state (1) Manner and Nature of Injury, and (2) whether Accidental, Suicidal, or Homicidal. (Use reverse side for additional space.)
23. PLACE OF BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL Concord DATE OF BURIAL March 2, 1927
24. UNDERTAKER Blum & Son ADDRESS Concord Mo.

18-Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important.

https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/6940369/person/-31484396/media/f80d5e01-fde1-4ca1-9005-c0eb00c543b9?_phsrc=pAil&_phstart=successSource

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/42357517/david-william-carson>

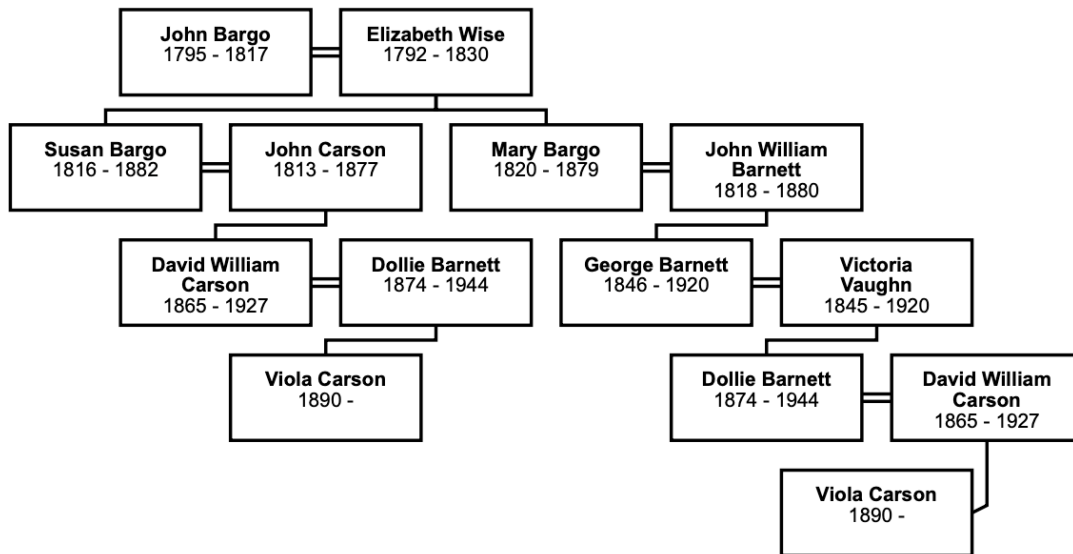
On the death certificate John Carson is listed as his father and Susan Bargo his mother. His date of birth was given as March 12, 1865. Since Susan's birth was in 1816 she is probably not his biological mother.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/42357517/david-william-carson>

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The following chart helps in keeping track the generations of Bargos.



An alternate record has Susan Bardo and Mary Bardo as the same person but does not change the ancestor line. The pertinent date problems still are the same. The following three links are part of the alternate record.

David William Carson

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/166183176/person/262168223900/facts>

Mary Susan Bargo

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/166183176/person/262168222161/facts>

Julia Fain

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/166183176/person/262173014470/facts>

Dollie Barnett has an interesting history. She was born December 25, 1871 in Buckner, Jackson County, Missouri and died December 18, 1944 in Independence, Missouri. Buckner is just northeast of Sni-A-Bar Township. In the 1880 Federal Census the 6-year-old Dollie and her 14-year-old cousin David William Carson lived with her father in Sni-A-Bar.

<https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6742/images/4241895-00093?pid=34018835>

On May 31, 1889 15year old Dollie married her 24-year-old cousin David with the consent of her father George Barnett.

<https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8700/images/8c74c1837ea8e5333787690a31872c0f?pid=454972>

A daughter Viola Carson was born also in October 1889.

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<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/166183176/person/262168218331/facts>

On February 17, 1896 Dollie married Frank Starnes (1872-1900).

On May 5, 1901 Dollie married Edward Reeves (1851-1929).

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/26532380/person/142231837959/facts>

In the 1900 Federal Census 10-year-old Viola lived with her mother Dollie and her Grandfather George Barnett in Sni-A-Bar. The household was:

- George Barnett 52 – Head
- William Barnett 28 – Son of George
- Columbus Barnett 21 – Son of George
- Allie Barnett 2 – Granddaughter of George
- Effie Barnett 1 – Granddaughter of George
- Dollie Starnes 26 – Daughter of George and widow of Frank Starnes
- Frank Starnes 3 – Granddaughter of George and son of Dollie and David William Carson
- Viola Carson 10 – Granddaughter of George and daughter of Dollie and David William Carson

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/29742487:7602>

In the 1910 Census Viola 20 lived with Edward Reeves 57 and Dollie Barnett Carson Starnes Reeves along with Frank Starnes 13, Lizzie Starnes 11, Morse Reeves 8, Ellen Reeves 4, and Nora Reeves 0.

In the 1920 Census Edward and Dollie Reeves lived with children Morse 18, Ellen 14, Nora 10, Effie 5, and Rosa 1

Dollie died December 18, 1944 in Buckner, Missouri.

The Barnetts

Even though the Barnetts are not direct ancestors their family connection and connections to Sni-A-Bar are significant. Mary Bargo is the sister of ancestor Susan Bargo. She was born in 1820 in Gallatin, Kentucky and died in 1879 in Sni-A-Bar, Jackson County, Missouri. She married John William Barnett December 31, 1840 in Trimble, Kentucky.

The Barnett extended family had at least four farms in Sni-A-Bar. In the 1880 Federal Census there are four adjoining Barnett/Carson farms.

1. William Daniel Barnett (1849-1923) – John William Barnett's and Mary Bargo's son – married Sarah Ann Russell (1855-1931) -
 - a. William 1875
 - b. Thomas 1877

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- c. John 1879
- d. Mary Bowlin 1835 – Mother-in-Law
- e. Alice Bowlin 1867 – Sister-in-Law
- 2. George W Barnett (1845-1920) – John Barnett's son – Victoria M. Vaughn (1852-1880)
 - a. William Barnett 1872
 - b. Dollie Barnett 1874
 - c. Anna Barnett 1876
 - d. Columbus 1878
 - e. Susan Bargo Carson 1815 – 1880 – Aunt
 - f. David Carson 1865-1927 – Cousin
- 3. Francis (Frank) Carson 1860-1932 – John Carson and Susan Bargo's son – married Susan J. Penrose (1854-1922).
 - a. Thaddeus 1876
 - b. Sally 1879
- 4. John William Barnett (1818-1880) married Mary Bargo (1820-1879) – father of George and William.
 - a. John D. Barnett (1852-1891) married Mary Jane Necessary (1861-1940).
 - b. Richard Owings (1840-1899) married Martha Ann Barnett (1840-1899) daughter of John Barnett. Son of Jehial Owings (1816-1856) and Virginia Harris (1814-1856).
 - c. Martha Ann Barnett – wife of Richard daughter of John
 - d. Nancy Owing 1868 granddaughter
 - e. Mary Owings 1872 granddaughter
 - f. James Owings 1874 grandson
 - g. Dell Owings 1878 grandson

<https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6742/images/4241895-00093?pId=34018996>

Both Susan and Mary Bargo are the daughters of John Bargo and Elizabeth Wise. John was born in 1795 in Gallatin, Kentucky and died there in 1817. Elizabeth Wise was born in 1792 in East Bethlehem, Washington County, Pennsylvania and died in 1830. They were the parents of Susan (1816-1888), Daniel (1818-1857), Mary (1820-1879), Mildred (1825), and Perlina (d 1850).

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John Bargo was the son of John Andrew Bargo and Susan Miles. John Andrew Bargo was born in 1757, in Baltimore, Maryland, British Colonial America. He married Susan Miles (1777) on 10 December 1794, in Cecil, Maryland, United States. They were the parents of at least 4 sons and 2 daughters. He died in 1820, in Gallatin, Kentucky, United States, at the age of 63.

John Carson died April 1, 1877 in Jackson County, Missouri and was buried in the Webb-Graham Cemetery in Grain Valley, Jackson County, Missouri.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/107182290/john-carson>

John Carson and Susan Bargo had seven children. Our ancestor is Mary Elizabeth Carson. She was born November 16, 1840 in Frankfort, Franklin, Kentucky and died August 22, 1912 in Kansas City, Missouri. She married Daniel Joseph McGrath on December 26, 1857 in Montgomery County, Missouri. Daniel was born September 22, 1822 in Waterford County, Ireland and died February 26, 1909 in Kansas City, Missouri.



Dulcina

Another Carson inconsistency is Dulcina Carson. Dulcina is the daughter of John and Susan Carson. She is listed in the 1850 census as being 2 years old. All other family records have her as being born in 1935. This would make her about 15 years old in 1850. She married William M. Pierce on September 9, 1853 in Randolph, Missouri and died November 1, 1881 in Ash, Monroe County, Missouri.

The McGraths

Daniel McGrath was born to Thomas McGrath and Mary Shea. Some records say Michael McGrath and Elizabeth Summerville. Either set of parents have problems. Daniel with his family moved from Ireland to Tiffin Ohio to Uncle Daniel Shea and then to Kansas City, Missouri. The 1900 Census gives immigration year as 1849. One source has Daniel arriving in America from Liverpool on May 3, 1852 on the ship *New World*. He was listed as a tailor. He registered for the draft in 1864 but was listed as too old to serve. In 1880 Census he lived in Rosedale, Kansas and worked at the Rolling Mill in Rosedale. Both Daniel and Mary are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery in Kansas City, Jackson County, Kansas City.

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McGrath, Daniel	Head	11 M Apr 1822 79 M 42	Ireland	Ireland	Ireland
— Mary	Wife	11 F Nov 1840 59 M 42 8 8	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky
— Edward	Son	11 M Oct 1865 34 8	Missouri	Ireland	Kentucky
— John	Son	11 M Sept 1874 25 8	Missouri	Ireland	Kentucky
— Daniel Jr	Son	11 M Feb 1878 22 8	Kansas	Ireland	Kentucky

From the 1900 Census – Jackson County, Missouri.

Daniel Joseph McGrath and Mary Elizabeth Carson had the following children:

1. **Mary McGrath** was born on 02 Nov 1859 in Lisbon, Lafayette County, Missouri. She died on 15 Jul 1936 in Kansas City, Missouri. She married (1) **George Rowland Dagnia**, son of Onesiphorus Dagnia and Jeannette Wood on 01 Mar 1883 in Denver, Colorado. He was born on 26 Mar 1853 in New Jersey. He died after 1886 in Denver, Colorado. She married (2) **FRANK P. MANLEY** on 22 Sep 1888 in Denver, Colorado. He was born in Apr 1861 in Tennessee.
Notes for Mary McGrath. She was the first daughter of Daniel McGrath (1822-1923) and Mary Elizabeth Carson (1840-1912). On January 3, 1883, she married George R. Dagnia in Denver, Colorado. She had two daughters, Mary Elizabeth and Louise Beatrice, both born in Denver. After 1886, George Dagnia abandoned his family. Mary Dagnia later married a Mr. Manley. She died July 15, 1936 of "Lock Bowel" in Kansas City, Missouri, and is buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery in Shawnee, Kansas. Mary Manley, Grandma Manley had a sister Catherine McGrath living in Kansas City who married Mike Pendergast. Mike was the brother of Tom Pendergast who was prominent in Kansas City politics. Aunt Kate, as she was called, arranged for the family to come to Kansas City, took care of them for a while, and got Grandma Manley a job as housekeeper for the parish priest at Holy Name Catholic Church. Later married a Mr. Manley. Buried in Catholic Cemetery - Shawnee Ks - now Overland Park - next to daughter Louise Dagnia Brennan.
2. Susan McGrath was born on 27 Oct 1861 in Lafayette Co, Missouri. She died on 23 Sep 1935 in Portland, Oregon. She married Leslie Seymour on 21 Mar 1885 in Denver, Colorado. He was born on 23 Feb 1850 in Bristol, England. He died on 14 Sep 1924 in Transcona, Manitoba, Canada.
3. Ann McGrath was born in 1863 in Minnesota.
4. Thomas McGrath was born on 23 Oct 1863 in Lafayette Co, Missouri. He died on 29 Jul 1954 in Asheville, Buncombe County, North Carolina. He married Ida Mayhew Sawyer, daughter of James Robert Sawyers and Barbara Virginia Clearsey Thrash on 11 Jan 1922

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- in Jackson, Missouri. She was born on 05 Feb 1885 in Hominy, Buncombe County, North Carolina. She died on 09 Nov 1937 in Candler, Lower Hominy, Buncombe County, North Carolina. Notes for Thomas McGrath: Moved to Ashville North Carolina in about 1924. Listed as widowed on death certificate. Information from 1920 Census.
5. Edward McGrath was born on 18 Oct 1865 in Weston, Platte County, Missouri. He died on 11 Apr 1921 in Los Angeles, California.
Notes for Edward McGrath: Not Married. St. Mary's Cemetery, Kansas City, Jackson, Missouri.
 6. Margaret McGrath was born on 25 Dec 1867 in Platte City, Platte Co, Missouri. She died on 21 May 1943 in Los Angeles, California. She married John McGowen on 18 Apr 1900 in Denver, Colorado. He was born on 05 Dec 1868 in April, Illinois. He died on 17 Aug 1919 in Los Angeles, California.
 7. Jane McGrath was born in 1871.
 8. Catherine McGrath was born on 20 Jul 1871 in Westport, Missouri. She died on 29 Apr 1953 in Kansas City, Missouri. She married Michael Joseph Pendergast, son of Michael Pendergast and Mary Reidy on 20 Sep 1892 in Brunswick, Chariton, Missouri. He was born on 11 Jan 1867 in St. Joseph, Missouri. He died on 02 Sep 1929 in Kansas City, Missouri. Notes for Catherine McGrath: Cause of death listed as myocardial failure with an antecedent cause of toxic thyroid and hypertension.
 9. John J. McGrath was born on 01 Sep 1874 in Westport, Missouri. He died in Kansas City, Missouri. He married Louise Gillespie in Mar 1910 in Kansas City, Missouri. She was born on 22 Dec 1884 in Harrisonville, Missouri. She died on 06 Dec 1955 in Kansas City, Missouri.
 10. Daniel Thomas McGrath was born on 22 Feb 1878 in Rosedale Kansas. He died on 08 Aug 1960 in Alameda, California. He married Anna Theresa Donohue. She was born on 04 Jul 1880 in Bloomington, Illinois. She died on 20 Apr 1952 in Oakland, California.

The Carsons

The parents of John Carson are Isaac Newton Carson and Jane Hogshead Hodgerson. A pioneer of Gentryville, Missouri, Isaac Newton Carson, Sr. was born in Virginia, October 11, 1800. In 1803 his father, Isaac Carson, moved to Scott County, Kentucky, and there engaged in farming and teaching school. He was sheriff of the county, constable, collector, etc. Isaac Newton went to school first at the "stomping ground", so called. In 1814 his father moved to Henry County, Kentucky, and in the fall of 1817 Isaac commenced to learn the tailor's trade at New Castle, of L.N. Ackers. After learning the trade, in the fall of 1818, he went to Woodford County with his employer and opened a shop, and in 1819 they went to Hopkinsville, also establishing a shop there. In the summer of 1820, he joined the Baptist Church.

On October 10, 1821 he was taken sick 250 miles from home and remained ill all winter. In the spring of 1822, he regained his health and returned to the stamping ground and opened a shop for himself, this being his first start in life, and his future career, although varied, has been principally very successful. In that same fall he went to Henry County to work.

In the fall of 1827 Mr. Carson went to Indianapolis, Indiana, working there for some months and in the spring, he returned to Kentucky. In the spring of 1832, he moved to Westport and in the

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seasons of 1834-5, he followed boating on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. In the fall of 1836 he moved to Sligo, Kentucky and opened a general store and a tailoring establishment. In October, 1843, he settled in Clinton County, Missouri, near Gay's mill, now Gentryville, Gentry County, Missouri, and in 1849 started a store and hotel.

Isaac Newton Carson and Jane Hogshead Hodgeson had the following children:

1. **John Carson** was born in 1813 in New Castle, Henry County, Kentucky. He died on 01 Apr 1877 in Jackson, Missouri. He married **Susan Bargo**, daughter of John Bargo and Elizabeth Wise on 01 Aug 1838 in Trimble, Kentucky. She was born in 1816 in Louisville, Jefferson, Kentucky. She died after 1880 in Jackson, Missouri.
2. Isaac Newton Carson Jr. was born on 11 Oct 1800 in Kentucky. He died on 10 Jan 1886 in Gentryville, Gentry, Missouri (Age: 86). He married (1) Neta Jane Elston, daughter of William Henry Elston and Elizabeth Maxwell on 19 Jan 1823 in Henry County, Kentucky. She was born in 1801 in New Castle, Henry, Kentucky. She died on 29 Feb 1824 in Henry County, Kentucky. He married Nancy W. Foree. She was born on 20 Jan 1803.
3. Clark L. Carson was born on 09 May 1797 in Kentucky. He died in May 1846 in Trimble Co, Kentucky. He married Jane C. Ogden. She was born in 1810 in Louisiana. She died on 04 Feb 1889 in Kentucky.

Civil War Era

During the Civil War years, 1861-1865, there was a great deal of fighting in the Sni-A-Bar area. Jackson County saw no less than 68 battles and skirmishes, while over 1,100 actions took place throughout Missouri. That was the third highest total of all the states.

Missouri was an accident of geography. Neither north nor south, most of its people nevertheless could claim southern parentage. Jackson County was typical: nearly 80 percent of the county's population in 1860 came from Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, or North Carolina. Missouri was a slave state. After 1861, when Kansas was admitted to the Union, Missouri was bordered on three sides by free states. And many in those free states, especially Kansas, were quite willing to come into Missouri to steal slaves and punish those who owned them. Missourians were as equally willing to retaliate. So, men were killed on both sides of the state line, and that had been going on for six years before the nation as a whole fell into civil war.

After a season of campaigning in 1861, the Union army had more or less overrun Missouri.

From that time on, Confederate incursions were limited mostly to recruiting raids. But though dominated by Union forces, Missourians were not pacified by them. The conquering Yankees tended to regard all Missourians as the enemy. Prominent Jackson County citizens such as Judge Henry Younger and Dr. Pleasant Lea were gunned down in cold blood. Many others saw their homes and livelihoods destroyed, leaving them destitute. More often than not the deeds were attributed to Kansas Union regiments — redlegs and jayhawkers. To many Jackson Countians, those names were synonymous with murderers and thieves. This was the west, and the west had its share of bad men.

Nor were those evil doers limited to Kansas. Missouri had its dark knights; some were ostensibly fighting for the Confederacy; others were merely outlaws hiding behind a cause. Legend and lore have so well covered their tracks that it is hard to say who among them were southern patriots and who were low-bred cutthroats. Names such as William Quantrill, Bill Anderson, and Frank and Jesse James, were counted among the “bushwackers” — the Confederate guerrillas who operated mostly along the Missouri-Kansas border and made rural Jackson County a place to be feared by any Union soldier. These guerrillas would strike at targets of opportunity — mail escorts, supply wagon trains, weakly defended outposts. And then they would seemingly vanish into the countryside. And often as not, that countryside was the very Sni Hills that border today’s Grain Valley.

Beginning in 1862, confrontations between Union scouting patrols and Confederate guerrillas took place nearly every week. One of these skirmishes occurred on April 1, 1862, at the village of Pink Hill.

Upon hearing that some of Quantrill’s Confederate guerrillas were in Pink Hill, Captain Albert Peabody, commanding a company of Union cavalry, started from Independence to pursue them. When nearing a double-log house that stood on elevated ground alongside the Pink Hill Road, Peabody’s men were fired on by “a perfect volley of shots.” Peabody dismounted his men and directed their fire on the windows and doors of the house. The guerrillas inside were apparently unharmed by the tactic and returned fire from loopholes knocked in the plaster between the logs. During the hour and a half engagement, neighboring farmers, all well-armed, came to the assistance of the guerrillas.

Finally, Peabody ordered an all-out rush on the house, which, he reported, resulted in the death of six guerrillas, and the wounding of three of his men. According to Peabody’s report, the guerrillas then fled in “all imaginable directions into a timbered, rough, and hilly country where a pursuit was not an easy task, the enemy was but too well acquainted with the road and district.” In retaliation, Peabody set fire to four buildings in Pink Hill. A subsequent pursuit by Union reinforcements carried the fight into the Sni Valley.

A report written by a Union officer in 1863 summarizes the frustration felt by most Yankee commanders in the field who had the misfortune to chase the guerrillas through the area. The report stated: “The guerrillas, as usual, have scattered all over the county in twos, threes, etc. It will be impossible for United States soldiers to drive them out of this county unless the government can afford to send ten soldiers for one guerrilla. The only way to get them out is to destroy all subsistence in rocky and brushy parts of the country and send off their wives and the children; also, the wives and children of sympathizers who are aiding and abetting them.”

The Confederate guerrillas were generally so adept at disappearing into the Sni Hills of eastern Jackson and western Lafayette counties, that the Federal commanders came to believe that there must have been a cave large enough to hide the guerrillas and their mounts somewhere in those hills. That rumor still circulated twenty years after the war.

In August, 1863, the federal commander of all western Missouri, Thomas Ewing, issued General Order Number 11. That edict called for the forced removal of all civilians in a 2,000- square mile

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area comprising Jackson, Cass, Bates, and the northern half of Vernon counties. The order exempted only those living in Kansas City proper and those within a mile of a Yankee garrison, which were few and far between. It was bad enough that the order came just before harvest time, but it was made much crueller when Kansas troops were authorized to enforce the order.

Avenging a recent devastating raid by Quantrill on Lawrence, Kansas, these jayhawkers took to their work with a malevolent will. It was not enough to merely evict hundreds of families; the Kansans routinely robbed them, then burned their homes, barns, and crops in the fields. Any man suspected of aiding the guerrillas was murdered on the spot.

Order Number 11 was meant to deprive the guerrillas of comfort and subsistence, but it merely drove more young men to join the ranks of the guerrillas.

Throughout 1864 and until the war's end, the Federals continued to hunt the elusive guerrillas in the hills south, east, and north of today's Grain Valley. Generally, the deadly game of cat and mouse repeated itself over and again in a wide area from Pink Hill, east to the Sni-A-Bar Creek, south to Chapel Hill, then west to Lone Jack, and north again to Pink Hill.

For more details see the following:

[https://cityofgrainvalley.org/files/guide to grain valley history 84676.pdf](https://cityofgrainvalley.org/files/guide%20to%20grain%20valley%20history%2084676.pdf)

Family Picture



Frank and Susan Carson