



Martha Stuntz Barnhart



Clinton Leet Barnhart

When Martha was about twenty years old, she met a young preacher named Clinton Barnhart. Young Mr. Barnhart was preaching in several small places in the Erie Conference not too many miles away. Here was a young man who was definitely "good for something", Martha thought. He was a good student although his plans for college had been interrupted by the Civil War. He had fought bravely in the Union Army for three years and was a first Lieutenant when he was discharged. For a time, when his Captain was in prison, he commanded his Company.

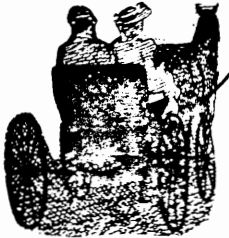
Clinton had been wounded and had been in prison. (He pronounced "wound" like "wound" the clock.) A bullet had pierced the fleshy part of his thigh, at the battle of Chickamauga. He could find the place sixty years later where the flesh had not quite filled the "hole". At the Battle of Lost Mountain a bullet went between his ear and his scalp, leaving him unconscious. He carried a tiny "nick" on his scalp for the rest of his life.

Just before Clinton went to war, he had joined the Methodist Church, and had decided "then and there" to be a preacher. Now he was working hard in his chosen field and studying Greek and Latin in the evenings.

We can imagine how attractive Martha was to him. Her love of fun, her happy generous disposition, her ability to do many things well, and her love of the church, all made him think that she was just the girl for him. He had been married just before he joined the army but his young wife had died not long after the war ended, when their baby, Jennie, was just three weeks of age. Now she was about one and a half years old and needed a mother. Clinton thought that Martha would love his little girl

as if she were her own. Clinton and Martha were married on July 30, 1867, probably at the farm home which Martha loved so much. Martha said good-bye to her family, and away they went in the buggy to their new home in Springfield, Pennsylvania.

The Wife Of The Preacher



Martha was excited and happy about her new life. She enjoyed having her own home and was glad that her mother had taught her so much about keeping house. She was proud of her young husband and loved little Jennie, too.

The church people expected Martha to set a good example. This she gladly tried to do. She went to call on the church members with "Reverend Barnhart". She helped in the church in any way she could and took good care of Clinton. Years later, the grandchildren were amused to see their grandfather, Clinton, sit down in a chair each morning while their grandmother, Martha, combed his hair and tied his tie. She had done this for him all their married life and, in addition, she laid out his clothes each day.

The church people were interested in the young family and felt free to give advice. One day Martha had Jennie with her at the missionary meeting, Jennie was playing on the floor by her mother. One of the ladies said, "Mrs. Barnhart, I wouldn't let your little girl on the floor if I were you." "Why not?" asked Martha. "She might get in an ungraceful position," said the lady. Martha listened politely but laughed about it later when she told Clinton.

Before long, she knew that she was going to have a baby of her own. Martha's baby was Alice Harriet Barnhart, the grandmother of Richard J. Foote's children and the great-grandmother of Donald C. Foote, Jr.'s children.

That winter one of the church members was going to drive to Albion, Pa. He offered to take Martha for a short visit to her family. A wave of homesickness came over her. There were always so many of them at home and they had such good times. It was hard to always set a good example to the church ladies. Martha wanted to go home worse than anything in the world, but Clinton was afraid she would take cold on the long drive and would not let her go.

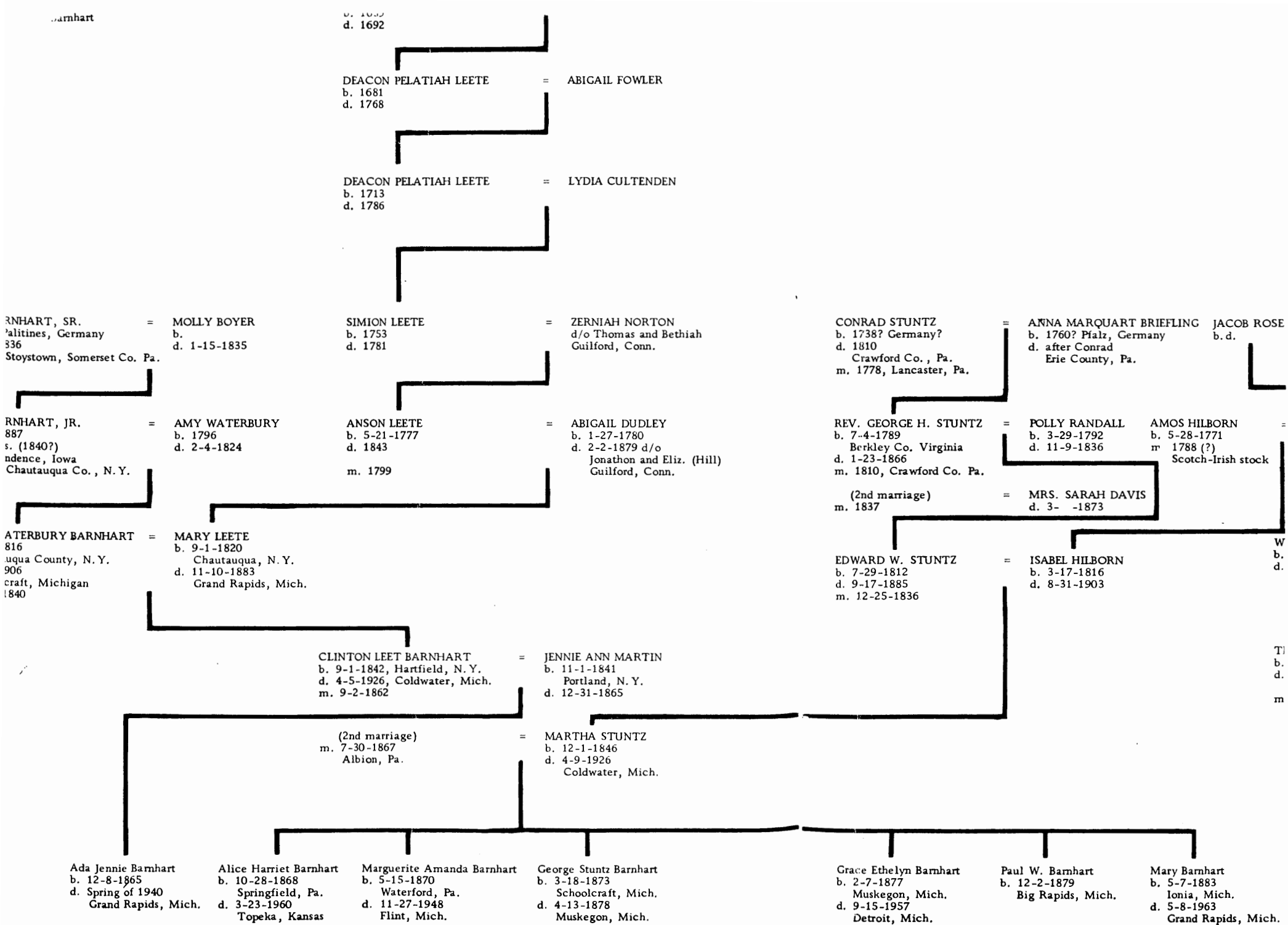
There were no electric heaters in the sleighs of those days. People kept warm with robes made of bearskins or buffalo hides. Sometimes they put a heated soapstone in the buggy or put hot coals in a little iron heater. Even so, after riding for several hours behind the horses they got very, very cold.

Martha thought she couldn't stand it not to go, but she had promised to obey her husband and she kept her promise. Later she did get to go home for visits.

Clinton studied continuously throughout his ministry. With his large lexicon always available, he translated Greek and Latin classics every day, then read the translations to Martha, often in the kitchen. He also studied modern books to help him with his sermons. He was an excellent business man and helped several large churches pay off their debts.



Alice



Some marriages not pertinent
 genealogy generally omitted

MARY BARNHART
b. 5-5-1883, Ionia, Michigan
d. 5-8-1963, Grand Rapids, Mich.
m. 6-20-1905, Ballards, Mich. to
EDWARD W. GENTZ
s/o Charles F. W. & Emilie (Mohnke) Gentz
b.
d. 8-8-1936, Detroit, Mich.

Margaret Mary Gentz
b. 11-7-1907, Grand Rapids, Mich.
m. 5-21-1932, Grand Rapids, Mich. to
Ward L. Chadwick, M. D.
s/o Orra & Grace (Spears) Chadwick

Ronald Spears Chadwick
b. 2-24-1933
m. 12-28-1962 to
Lillian Rodriguez
d/o Rene & Justine (Sarkisian) Rodriguez

Kevin Spears Chadwick
b. 10-23-1964

Douglas Ward Chadwick, M. D.
b. 10-28-1935
m. 9-6-1957 to
Irene Kooi
d/o Fred and Ida (Sybesma) Kooi

Nanette Elizabeth Chadwick
b. 7-20-1959

Brent Douglas Chadwick
b. 12-13-1961

Edward Willard Gentz
b. 12-6-1909, Milwaukee, Wisc.
m. 11-22-1933 to
Ruth Margaret Corbett
b. 10-11-1907
d/o Will F. & Frances (Clay) Corbett

Richard Corbett Gentz
b. 1-12-1935
m. 6- -1957 to
Carol Frederickson
d/o Eric A. & Berta Frederickson

Wendy Gentz
b. 3-19-1959

Nancy Gentz
b. 2-27-1961

Thomas Gentz
b. 6-2-1946

FAMILY NOTES AND PICTURES

From book, Great-Grandmother's Tales

Courtesy of Thomas B. Gentz, Northboro, MA