

Moses Watson Byers
(m. #1-unknown Newton, #2-Mary Ann Brandenburg)
Lived in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, Madison County, Ohio
and Muscatine and Cedar Counties, Iowa

Moses Watson Byers

b: Nov 1805, Fayette or Washington Co., PA (census, 200, Denver Mem. Library)
m: #1-ca 1828, unknown (birth of child)
m: #2-8 Aug 1834, Clark Co., OH (marriage license)
d: 1866, Muscatine, Muscatine Co., IA (Denver Memorial Library)
bur: unknown
occ: Farmer (census)
fa: **James Byers** (200)
mo: **Elizabeth Watson** (200)

unknown Newton

b: 1801-1810, unknown (census)
d: Jan 1823-Aug 1834, probably Madison Co., OH (b. of child, husband's 2nd m.)
bur: unknown
fa: **unknown Newton** (see below)
mo: **unknown**

Mary Ann Brandenburg

b: 4 Apr 1805, Middletown Dist., Frederick Co., MD (census, Bible)
d: 21 Nov 1884, in Washington Co., IA (Denver Memorial Library, Bible)
bur: unknown
fa: **William Brandenburg Junior** (his estate)
mo: **Christina Martin** (census, Christina's marriage license)

CHILDREN OF FIRST MARRIAGE

1. female Byers

b: ca 1829, Madison Co., OH (census)
m: none - died young (census)
d: 1830-1840, Madison Co., OH (census)
bur: unknown, Madison Co., OH (census)

2. William Newton Byers

b: 22 Feb 1831, near West Jefferson, Madison Co., OH (census, tombstone)
m: **Elizabeth M. Summers**, 16 Nov 1854, Muscatine Co., IA (m. license)
d: 25 Mar 1903, Denver, CO (tombstone)
bur: unknown

3. Ann Eliza Byers

b: 7 Jan 1833, Madison Co., OH (census, Bible)
m: **Thomas McDonald**, 16 Nov 1854, unknown (Denver Mem. Library, Bible)
d: 25 Sep 1904, Canon City, CO (Denver Mem. Library, Bible)
bur: unknown

CHILDREN OF SECOND MARRIAGE

1. Olivia Martin Byers

b: 26 Jan 1835, Madison Co., OH (census, Bible)
m: **Elias M. Kessinger**, 30 Mar 1854, unknown (Denver Mem. Library, Bible)
d: unknown, Muscatine, Cedar Co., IA (Denver Mem. Library)
bur: unknown

2. Rachel Jane Byers

b: 7 Dec 1838, Madison Co., OH (census, Bible)
m: #1-**E. Clark Briggs**, 24 Dec 1858, Cedar Co., IA (m. license, Bible)
m: #2-**unknown Morris**, unknown (Denver Mem. Library)
d: unknown, probably Denver, CO (Denver Mem. Library)
bur: unknown

3. John Byers

b: ca 1839, Madison Co., OH (census)
m: unknown
d: post 17 Sep 1850, unknown (census)
bur: unknown

4. James Henry Byers

b: 27 Sep 1844, Madison Co., OH (census, Bible)
m: none – died young (Denver Mem. Library)
d: 14 Aug 1863, Atlanta. GA (Denver Mem. Library, Bible)
bur: unknown

The Moses Watson Byers Family

By Pat Bristley

The surname of Moses Byers' first wife was probably "Newton" since that was the second given name of his son, William. It is unknown when the sketch on William Newton Byers was written that was in the Denver, CO, Memorial Library (see below), but at that time William N. and his sister, Ann Eliza, and two half-sisters, Olivia M. and Rachel Jane, were still living.

William Newton Byers was a friend of Col. Clivington and Governor Evans, who were responsible for the massacre of 163 Arapaho Indians, mainly women and children at Sand Creek According to news reports (speaking of W. N. Byers): "He was as much involved in what happened at Sand Creek as the soldiers." For a good depiction of the massacre see the miniseries *Centennial*.

There is much more about William Newton Byers on the *Shore-Heritage* website on the Internet, for those interested, including photos of him and his home.

The History of Madison County, Ohio, [of 1883], (see #200):

p. 859: James [Byers] with his three sons, Thomas, Andrew and Samuel migrated to America at an early day, with other Scotch-Irish Covenanters. Andrew settled in Pennsylvania in 1791 or 1792, where he raised a family of children, of whom one son, James, married in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, and had four children, one son and three daughters. His wife died, and he was married the second time to Elizabeth Watson, by whom he had seven children, five girls and sons, John and Moses. In 1807, he moved to Ross County, Ohio, where he lived nine years. He then purchased land in Fayette County, and four years later, finding his title defective, he was persuaded to relinquish this land, receiving 300 acres in the wilds of Madison County as an inducement to peaceably give up possession. He located in Madison County in 1820. His son, John W., was born near Uniontown, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, May 9, 1800, and in 1825 married Matilda Hunter, by whom he had three children...[more in the sketch for those interested]

p. 631: Especial mention should be made of the unswerving courage and loyalty to conscience of Lester H. Burnham, who with N. C. Davis and Moses Byers, made up the trio of Abolitionists and underground railroaders of the county for many years, when to be such was to be the object of general scorn and derision, and who assisted loads of fugitives on their weary way to Canada, then the nearest land where a black man could safely shout liberty. These men aided in the organization of the Republican party, and saw the triumph of their principles when slavery perished by the very sword it had drawn against freedom. N. C. Davis is still living, and resides near Mechanicsburg, Ohio. Moses Byers removed to Iowa about the year 1850.

Denver, Colorado, Memorial Library, no info:

William Newton Byers

...Mr. Byers is descended from a Scotch family, that during the religious persecution of the sixteenth century, was driven into the borders of Ireland, and there took part in the siege of Londonderry. They immigrated to Pennsylvania when that state was still a wilderness, at the beginning of the eighteenth century. The great-grandfather of our subject, and his three sons, took part in the Revolution. The father, Moses Watson Byers, was born in Washington County, Pa., and at the age of four years, in 1808, accompanied his parents to Ohio. They settled at Circleville, Pickaway County, but later he and a brother removed to Darby Plains, in Madison County, where he improved a place of nearly three hundred acres. In 1860 he sold his property there and settled near Muscatine, Iowa, where he improved a large tract. His last days were spent in Muscatine, where he died in 1866, at the age of sixty-two years. In religious belief her was a Presbyterian. His wife, Mary A. Brandenburg, was a member of a well-known German family that became early settlers of Montgomery County, in the Miami Valley of Ohio; she died in Iowa in 1884.

Of the family of six children [sic – 7], five attained maturity and four are living, William N. being the eldest. Mrs. Ann Eliza McDonald resides in Washington, Iowa; Mrs. Olivia M. Kessinger makes her home in Muscatine; Mrs. Rachel Jane Morris resides in Denver. One of the sons, James H., was a member of an Iowa regiment during the Civil War and was killed in 1863, during the siege of Vicksburg.

Our subject was born in Madison County, Ohio, February 22, 1831, and spent his early years upon a farm. In 1850, with team and wagon, he removed to Iowa, and the following year he engaged in government surveying in western Iowa, so becoming deputy United States surveyor in Iowa, and later in Oregon and Washington....

Denver, Colorado, 1901 History, (no info), pp. 653-654. P. 565:

William N. Byers, a native of Ohio, was born near the village of West Jefferson, Madison county, that State, on February 22, 1831. His father, Moses W. Byers, was a farmer who had located in that Ohio county when that country was but little changed from the conditions of a wilderness; and his mother [sic – step-mother], Mary A. Brandenburg, was of a family that early settled in what is now Miami county [sic – Montgomery and Clark Counties], Ohio, in the beautiful Miami valley.

The subject of this sketch spent his boyhood on his father's farm, attended the primitive district school of the neighborhood in his early years, and then entered the West Jefferson Academy, where with his other studies, he learned surveying. When he was about seventeen years old he was employed in hauling ties for the old Cleveland, Columbus & Cincinnati Railroad; his father having taken a contract to supply ties for a long stretch of that pioneer Ohio road, which passed through the home farm. In 1850 the elder Byers with his family removed to Muscatine, Iowa; and at that time what was called the "frontier" was about half way [sic] across that State.

Young Byers did not long remain at Muscatine, though for some years afterward he regarded it as his home....

In November, 1854, Mr. Byers married Miss Elizabeth M. Summers, of Muscatine, Iowa - A granddaughter of former Governor Lucas of Ohio, and later Governor of Iowa - and that union formed nearly a half-century ago, remains unbroken. Mrs. Byers did not accompany her husband on his first journey to Denver, but soon after he had established the *News* he went to Omaha where she had awaited him at their home in that town, and they crossed the plains that summer, arriving in Denver on August 3rd. They have two surviving children; Frank S. Byers, of Grand county, Colorado; and Mrs. William F. Robinson, of Denver.

Note: I am guessing, but I think that when Moses Byers supplied ties for the Cleveland, Columbus & Cincinnati Railroad, he also supplied slaves who traveled on the trains in secret, while making their way north to Canada.

MxDonald Family Bible, copy in the Shore Heritage Website, on the Internet:
Some punctuation added by Pat Bristley.

MEMORANDA

Ernest Likens and Lois Anna Likens were divorced Apr. 2nd 1895

Genealogy of the Byers Family: - Thos. And James, his son, were born in Scotland: Emigrated from Scotland form under persecution to Ireland; Suffered in the siege of Londonderry. The above James with his three sons, Thomas, Samuel and Andrew immigrated to America at an early period. And settled in Pennsylvania in 1791 or 2. His son James moved to Ohio in 1806. His son Moses W. was born Nov. 1805. Married Mary Ann Brandenburg Dec. 30, 1828. Their children were: Wm. Newton born 2-22-1831; Ann Eliza 1-7-1833; Olivia Martin 1-26-1835; Rachel Jane 12-7-1838; James Henry 9-27-1844. The later was wounded at siege of Vicksburg May 14, and died at Atlanta Aug. 14, 1863. Aged 18 yrs. 10 mo. & 18 da.

(Followed by a list of the children of John M McDonald and his wife Sallie Wilson)

BIRTHS

John McDonald, Washington Co., Tenn., Dec. 29, 1803

Moses W. Byers, Chilicothe, Ohio [sic], Nov. 18055

Mary Ann Byers, Maryland, Apr (4?) 1805

Thomas McDonald, Madison Co., OH, July 11, 1827

Ann Eliza Byers, Madison Co., OH, Jan. 7, 1838

The rest of this list were all McDonalds

MARRIAGES

Moses Watson Byers and Mary Ann Brandenburg, Dec. 30, 1828 [sic]

John McDonald and Sallie McCoy Ddavidson, March 17, 1825

Thos. “ “ Ann Eliza Byers, Nov. 16, 1854

Elias M. Kessinger and Olivia M. “ , March 30, 1854

Wm. N. Byers and Elizabeth M. Summer, Nov. 1854

E. Clark Briggs and Rachel J. Byers, Dec. 24, 1858

Wm. Arthur McDonald and Ella Lohr, Feb. 17, 1887

Newton B. King and Clara A. McDonald, Nov. 16, 1891

Ernest Likens and Lois Anna “, June 22, 1892

Note: While doing research in Clark County, Ohio, I went to the courthouse in Springfield, and among other documents, obtained the marriage record of Moses W. Byers and Mary Ann Brandenburg, **and the official record said they were married 8 August 1834!** The entries in the McDonald Bible appear to have been written later, and do not appear to be entirely correct. For instance, there were two children of Moses W. Byers not mentioned in the Bible Birth page: his first child, a girl aged 5-9, in the 1830 census; and a later child, John, who was 11 years old when the 1850 census was taken. Also there was a question mark after Mary Ann (Brandenburg) Byers birth date – if it was her daughter writing the entry, she certainly knew her mother’s birth date, so I suspect many of the entries were written quite a while after they happened.

DEATHS

Sallie McDonald, wife of Jno. W. McDonald, June 12, 1889
M. W. Byers died in Muscatine, Iowa, 18-8-1866
Mary Ann “, wife of M. W. B., In Wash. Co., Ia, Nov 21, 1884
Jas. Henry Byers, son of M.. W. & M. A., Atlanta, Georgia, Aug. 14, 1863
John McDonald, Loudoun, Ohio, Dec. 24, 1883
Edger B. “ son of Thos. & A. E., Lexington, Iowa, Dec 3, 1860
Thomas “ Keda, Iowa, Jan. 30, 1890
Ann Eliza McDonald, Canon City, Colo., Sep. 25, 1908
Clara A. King, Canon City, Colo., April 11, 1915
Helen King Winchell in Los Angeles Apr. 25, 1957
William Arthur McDonald, Amez, Ia, Mar. 30, 1933
Ella Lohr McDonald, Mar 2, 1950
Lelah Aug. 1966
Charles Byers McDonald, Mar. 12, 1891/June 10, 1977

Frontier Journalist, *Denver Rocky Mountain News*, Mike Anton, Staff Writer, (unknown date):

---In May 1864, as the waters of the Great Flood marooned Byers and his family in their home on the Platte, help arrived in the form of a rescue party led by Col. John Chivington. Chivington was a Civil War hero and leader of a volunteer militia authorized by Gov. Evans to confront Indians threatening homesteaders. Evans took in the homeless Byers family after the flood.

Six months later, the three would become the architects of the massacre of 163 Indians, mostly women and children, who were attacked without provocation in their camp along Sand Creek in southeastern Colorado.

Chivington and his men did the killing. Evans sanctioned it. Byers endorsed it.

“Bully for the Colorado boys,” the *News* wrote, when reports of the bloodletting reached Denver.

“Byers helped bring it about by creating hysteria and worry in the population about the Indians,” said Duane Smith, a history professor at Fort Lewis College in Durango. “He was as much involved in what happened at Sand Creek as the soldiers.”

Three years earlier, Byers seemed more measured – if patronizing – in his view toward the growing conflict between Indians and white settlers.

“In all our dealings with these untutored barbarians, we should be governed by the greatest caution,: the *News* said. “they are naturally, and not without reason, suspicious of their white brethren. They feel that their rights have been invaded, their hunting grounds taken possession of --- without adequate remuneration.”

But with escalating tensions across the plains – and with Evans and Chivington whispering in his ear – Byers views changed.

Later, in the face of congressional investigations that would chastise Evans and Chivington, Byers stood by his friends....

1830 Madison County, Ohio, Census, Union Township, p. 99:

Byers: Moses: 1 male 0-5 1 female 5-9
 1 male 20-29 1 female 20-29
 1 female 30-39

1840 Madison County, Ohio, Census, Fairfield Township, p. 12:

Byers: Moses: 1 male 0-4 1 female 0-4
 1 male 5-9 2 females 5-9
 1 male 20-29 1 female 20-29

1850 Cedar County, Iowa Census, Bloomington Township, p. 371, taken 17 Sept.:

Byers: Moses, male, 46, farmer; \$600 real estate, b. PA
 Mary Ann, female, 44, b. MD
 William N., 20, b. OH
 Ann E., female, 18, b. OH
 Olivia, female, 16, b. OH
 Rachel J., female, 12, b. OH
 John, male, 11, b. OH
 James H, male, 6, b. OH

Brandenburg: Robert, male, 24, laborer, b. IN

McDaniel: William, male, 22, laborer, b. OH.

Note: Robert Brandenburg, aged 24, who was living with Moses and Mary Ann Byers in the 1850 census, was the son of Mary Ann's brother, Enoch Brandenburg.

1860 Cedar County, Iowa Census, Farmington Township, p. 130, taken 8 July

Byers: Moses W., male, 55, farmer; \$1500 real estate; \$650 personal property, b. PA
 Mary Ann, female, 54, b. MD
 James H., male, 15, farm laborer, b. OH

Blakely: Sarah J., female, 12, b. OH

1870 Cedar County, Iowa Census: could not find them in Cedar County, Iowa. By this time Moses W. Byers had died, and Mary Ann was probably living with one of her children.