

Elizabeth Ann “Betsy” Brantley Burns

By: Edwina Winchester Eubanks
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Elizabeth Ann "Betsy" Brantley

Elizabeth Ann “Betsy” Brantley was my great great grandmother. She was born May 2, 1807, in Chatham County. She was the daughter of William Brantley and Mary Tomlinson. Her brother was named William Tomlinson Brantley at birth but later used the Pen name, William Theophilus Brantley. After the Second Great Awakening (a Protestant religious revival movement that swept the United States during the early 19th century), he became pastor of the Baptist Church in Philadelphia which, at the time, was the largest Baptist Church in America. There are some 300 of his sermons on file in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

Elizabeth married Henry Clark Burns on December 23, 1834. Henry was the son of John Edward Burns (1792-1848) and Mary “Polly” Clark (1772-1813). Henry was born April 5, 1805 and died August 30, 1890.

Elizabeth and Henry had eight children: Robert Marsh Burns (my great grandfather), Mary

Louise Brantley Burns, Ann Elizabeth “Susan” Burns, Mahala Catherine Burns, Cornelia Frances Burns, Margaret M. Burns, Elizabeth Brantley Rosa “Bettie” Burns and Henry Loudon Burns.

Henry Clark Burns was a farmer of substantial means but died on August 30, 1890, without a will. At his death, his land was sold at public auction. His children filed a partition action with the Chatham County Superior Court to preserve the Burns Family Burying Ground which is identified as being seventy (70) feet square.

Elizabeth Ann Brantley Burns died June 2, 1875. It is assumed that Elizabeth is buried in the Burns Family Burying Ground.

Some of this genealogy comes from a handwritten document dated August 31, 1920. The document is a Burns family chart prepared by Robert Pascal Burns from an interview with his grandmother Martha Susan Johnson Burns.