

GASCONADE VALLEY COUSINS

Barnabas Madison Poe, Jr.

Though in family records we never find the name “Junior” attributed to Barnabas Madison **Poe**, son of Barnabas Madison **Poe** and Eliza **Backues** this writer is going to use it to try to reduce confusion. The father used Madison as his “given” name in all the records that I have found and the son was known as Barney.

Barney was born in Gasconade County, Missouri, probably at the family home, on March 26, 1839. He was a special child, deaf and as is common, not able to speak as well. Some of older members of the family have told me of “making signs” with Barney when they were children. These were not the deaf/mute hand language we know today but little things that they made up themselves.

In the 1850 Federal Census, Barney is at the home with his mother, brothers, sisters and step siblings. In the 1860 Federal Census he is found in the Missouri Deaf and Dumb Asylum in Fulton, Callaway County, Missouri at the age of 21 years. By 1880 he is back at home with his step-father James **McQueen** and mother, Eliza; but is not found in the Federal Census of Maries County in either 1900 or 1910.

Barney died on May 8, 1918, at the age of 79, as a result of shock from injury, a broken limb due to a fall, and is buried in the Liberty Cemetery south of Belle, Missouri. His occupation is listed as “retired blacksmith” and I’m told that he was skilled in this profession.