A Brief History of Sarah Knox Anderson

Born on 06 May 1850 in Watertown, Jefferson, New York Died on 27 Jul 1926 in New York, New York



Franklin Pierce Mason II

Sarah Knox Anderson

Franklin P. Mason II

Sarah Knox Anderson was born on 06 May 1850 in Watertown, Jefferson, New York. Her Parents were Andrew Anderson (born on 16 Aug 1816 in Jersey City, Bergen (now Hudson), New Jersey; died on 18 February 1876 in New York, New York) and Cordelia L. Knox (born on 14 August 1817 in Augusta, Oneida, New York; died 10 December 1876 in New York, New York). Her parents were married on 23 May 1843 in Augusta, Oneida, New York.

Andrew and Cordelia Anderson had the following children:

Emma Frances Anderson, b. 06 May 1844 in Rochester, New York Edward C. Anderson, b. 13 February 1847 in Watertown, Jefferson, New York

Adelaide Strong Anderson, b. 25 December 1849 in Watertown, Jefferson, New York

Sarah Knox Anderson, b. 06 May 1850 in Watertown, Jefferson, New York

Jane Cordelia Anderson, b. 01 March 1856 in Watertown, Jefferson, New York

John Jay Anderson, b. 13 October 1858 in New York, New York

Sarah's father was a businessman, engaged in various types of business the last of which was insurance.

Sarah's parents each died in 1876, leaving Sarah an orphan at age 26 years.

In about 1880, Sarah Knox Anderson began a long-term relationship with Ambrose Edward Barnes. Ambrose Edward Barnes was the son of Ambrose Waterhouse Barnes (1819-1874) and Elizabeth Littell (1823-1909). At the beginning of this relationship, Sarah was about 30 years of age and Ambrose was about 36. [Ambrose Edward Barnes, born May 1844 in New York City; died 21 September 1919 in Plainfield, New Jersey.]

Sarah and Ambrose were each from good families, rich in both heritage and wealth. In addition, Ambrose was well established; he was the owner of a very successful furniture manufacturing business. Thus, this relationship would ordinarily have resulted in marriage. However, at that time, Ambrose was already married (in 1876) with a child (born in 1879).

None-the-less, the relationship between Sarah and Ambrose continued for many years and resulted in the birth of three children.

Sarah Knox Anderson and Ambrose Edward Barnes had the following children:

Ambrose Edward Barnes, Jr, b. 18 July 1881, Brooklyn, New York, (died before 1900)

Violet Sadie Barnes, b. 20 August 1883, Brooklyn, New York

Genevieve Knox Barnes, b. 12 December 1890, Manhattan, New York

For more information on these children, refer to A Brief History of Willard Cassidy Mason and Genevieve Knox Barnes.

Not much is known about the life of Sarah Knox Barnes. She appears in very few records. For example, no records can be found for her from after age 10 years until age 31 (except that she was mentioned in her father's will in 1875).

After Sarah Knox Anderson began her long-term relationship with Ambrose Edward Barnes several records are available. For example, the births of her first two children were recorded, and she appears in several census records.

At the beginning of her relationship with Ambrose Edward Barnes, it would seem that, for Sarah, her lover was the center of her life. For example, Sarah lived in Brooklyn and Manhattan in apartments that were provided by Ambrose and that were always close to where Ambrose lived. This was true, at least, until the late 1890s.

However, by 1900, it would seem that her principal focus shifted to her children. In that year, Sarah was living with her children 1200 miles away from Ambrose in St. Paul, Minnesota! However, she returned to Brooklyn shortly thereafter, by about 1905.¹

No matter where she lived, however, it would seem that Ambrose always took care of Sarah very well (even after his company failed in 1904. Refer to A Brief History of Ambrose Edward Barnes).

For example, in the 1900 US Census, Sarah was listed as a "Capitalist", which indicated that she had an independent income (certainly provided by Ambrose). And in 1910, she was listed as having her "Own Income", which indicated the same thing.

As was mentioned before, Sarah's three children were born in 1881 (Ambrose E., Jr.), 1883 (Violet), and 1890 (Genevieve). The 1900 US Census shows Sarah with only two children, however, Violet and "Jennie". Thus, Ambrose E., Jr., must have died before that time. (No death record has been found for Ambrose E., Jr.) This census also shows that Sarah had had three children total, only two of whom were still alive in 1900. This further confirms the untimely death of Sarah's first child.

By 1915, at age 65 years, (although no documentation has been found) Sarah must have been living by herself. Violet, who was then 32 years of age, was living on her own at 527 West 134th Street in Manhattan, with the occupation of "Manager Clerk". And Genevieve, at age 25 years, was married and living with her husband, Willard Cassidy Mason, at 551 West 157th Street in Manhattan.

In 1916, daughter Genevieve Barnes Mason and her husband Willard C. Mason had a child, Willard Franklin Mason. This would be Sarah's first and only grandchild.

In about 1917, Genevieve and her family moved to 250 Washington Avenue in Brooklyn. Family lore tells us that Sarah lived with (or at least nearby) her daughter's family. For example, the 1925 NY State Census shows Sarah as a lodger at 227 Clermont Avenue in Brooklyn, which is less than a 10-minute walk to 250 Washington Avenue.

Thus, even though she was living on her own, Sarah was not isolated from her children or her grandchild. As an adult, Willard Franklin Mason remembered that his grandmother used to babysit for him in the early 1920s when he was a child of, perhaps, six or seven years of age and when Sarah was in her early 70s. He recalled that Sarah had failing eyesight at that time and that he used to hide from her under a bed. When Sarah figured out the trick, she would use the handle of a broom to flush the wayward child from his hiding place.

Apparently, shortly after that, Sarah's health took a turn for the worse, and early in 1926 she moved in with her daughter, Violet, at 527 West 134th Street in Manhattan.

Sarah Knox Anderson Barnes died on 27 July 1926 in Violet's apartment.

She is buried with her birth family—father, mother, and siblings—in Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx in New York City.

¹ According to family lore, Sarah Knox Anderson Barnes was in San Francisco with her two daughters in 1906 at the time of the great earthquake. Why or how that might have been has now been lost to history.

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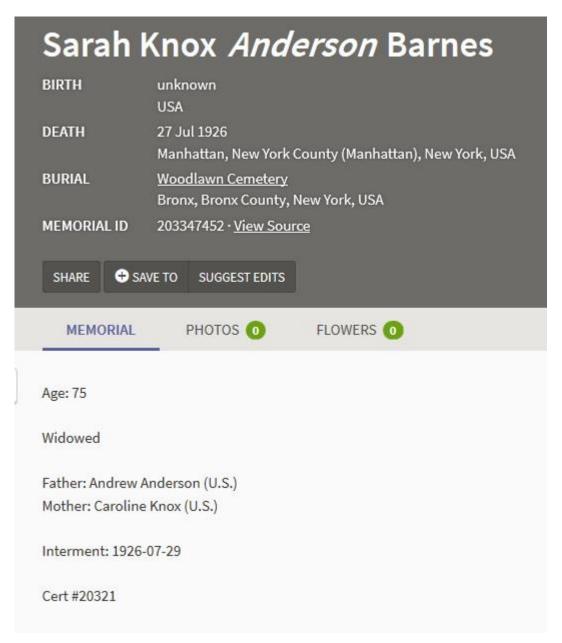
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1926 Sarah Knox Anderson Barnes burial record in Woodlawn Cemetery the Bronx, New York City



1926 Sarah Knox Anderson Barnes Find-A-Grave record in Woodlawn Cemetery Bronx, New York

Appendix A: Sarah Knox Anderson lived in the following places:

Sarah Knox Anderson was born on 06 May 1850 in Watertown, New York.

1850 (age 1/12 year): Lived with her family in Watertown, New York (US Census)

1860 (age 10 years): Lived with her family in New York, New York (US Census)

1870 (age 20 years): No information found for Sarah

1880 (age 30 years): No information found for Sarah

1881 (age 31 years): Lived with her first child, Ambrose Edward Barnes, Jr. at 381 6th Street in Brooklyn. This location is about 2½ miles from 142 Clinton Avenue (where Ambrose Edward Barnes lived) in a very fashionably part of Brooklyn, three blocks from Prospect Park. (Birth Certificate for Ambrose Edward Barnes, Jr.)

1883 (age 33 years): Lived with her children, Ambrose Edward Barnes, Jr., and Violet Sadie Barnes, at 711 President Street in Brooklyn. This location is less than 2 miles from 142 Clinton Avenue, again, in a very fashionably part of Brooklyn, and again, just three blocks from Prospect Park. (Birth Certificate for Violet Sadie Barnes)

1889 (at age 39 years): Possibly lived with Ambrose Edward Barnes at 167 Madison Avenue. This address is listed for Ambrose in Manhattan. He had a second address, where he lived with his wife and child in Brooklyn, at this time. (NY City Directory, Manhattan)

1890 (at age 40 years): Lived with her children, Ambrose Edward Barnes, Jr., Violet Sadie Barnes, and Genevieve Knox Barnes, somewhere in Manhattan, where Genevieve was born, possibly at 167 Madison Avenue.

1900 (at age 50 years): "Mrs. Barnes" lived in a boarding house in St. Paul, Minnesota with her two daughters, "Violet" and "Jennie". ["Capitalist"²] (U.S. Census)

1905 (at age 55 years): lived in a boarding house at 31 Lefforts Place in Brooklyn with her daughter, Genevieve (age 15 years). Apparently, Violet (age 22 years) was not living with her mother at that time. [No occupation given] (NY State Census)

1910 (at age 60 years): lived at 148 Saint James Place in Brooklyn with her two daughters, Violet S. Barnes and Genevieve K. Barnes. [Own Income³] (U.S. Census)

1915 (at age 65 years): No information found for Sarah for 1915

1915 (at age 65 years): Daughter, Violet Barnes (age 32 years), was living on her own at 527 West 134th Street in Manhattan, with the occupation of "Manager Clerk". (NY State Census)

1915 (at age 65 years): Daughter, Genevieve (age 25 years), was married and living with her husband at 551 West 157th Street in Manhattan. (NY State Census)

1920 (age 70 years): No information found for Sarah

² 1900 Census Instructions to Enumerators: "Report a person who receives his income, or most of it, from money loaned at interest, or from stocks, bonds, or other securities, as a 'capitalist.'" From: https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/technical-documentation/questionnaires/1900/1900-instructions.html

³ 1910 Census Instructions to Enumerators: "The entry *own income* should be made in the case of all persons who follow no specific occupations but have an independent income upon which they are living." From: https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/technical-documentation/questionnaires/1910/1910-instructions.html

1920 (at age 70 years): Daughter, Violet Barnes, was still living on her own at 527 West 134th Street in Manhattan, with the occupation of "Saleslady". (US Census)

1925 (at age 75 years): Lodger in the home of Mary Curry at 227 Clermont Avenue in Brooklyn. ["Nonemployed"] (NY State Census)

1926 (age 76 years): Sarah Knox Anderson Barnes died on 27 Jul 1926 in New York, New York. At the time of her death, living with her daughter, Violet, at 527 West 134 Street. (Death Certificate)

Appendix B: Census Records and Other Documents

| | | | | | Census f | for Andrew Anderson Patertown | | |
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1850 U.S. Census for Andrew Anderson in Watertown, New York, showing Sarah Knox Anderson as "a girl not named"

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1860 U.S. Census for Andrew Anderson in New York, New York, showing Sarah Knox Anderson as "Sarah"

¹⁸⁷⁶ excerpt from the Will of Andrew Anderson (1816-1876), Sarah's father, showing, on lines 6 through 8, "Second I give and bequeath to my daughter Sarah K. Anderson my oil painting portrait of her encased in guilt frame." This seems to be the only inheritance received by Sarah from her father!

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1881 Certificate of Birth for "Ambrose Edwards Burns", 18 July 1881

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1900 U.S. Census, showing "Mrs. Barnes" and her two daughters, "Violet" and "Jennie", living in a boarding house in St. Paul, Minnesota Note that to the question "Number of years married, Sarah answered "20". Question: "Mother of how many children"; answer "3". Question: "Number of those children living"; answer "2". Note that Violet's age is listed as 26 years. At the time of this census, she was actually 16 years of age.

369 april, 1904. Vd. Odward C. anderson, of the City. County and State of New York, hereby field Springs, New York, to gether with my hours, Third: I give and device my lot bemetery to my wife and my childe forever, to be used by the by my said wife and her children (if any there of New York City, my Sixth: I give and bequeath to my daughter, Eliza Mr. (Lillie) anderson, my, d dollar (\$1,500.00) absolu the same to be paid her. nual payments, the first to be painter my death as practicable.

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New York, State Census, 1905 for Genevine Barnes

1905 New York State Census, showing Sarah Barnes and her daughter, Genevieve, living in a boarding house at 31 Lefforts Place in Brooklyn.

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1910 U.S. Census, detail, for Sarah K. Barnes, at 148 Saint James Place in Brooklyn, showing her two daughters, Violet S. Barnes and Genevieve K. Barnes

| | | | New Yo | ork, U | | | Census, | | Sara | ıh Bar | nes | | |
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1925 NY State Census, detail, for Sarah K. Barnes, showing her as a Lodger in the home of Mary Curry at 227 Clermont Avenue in Brooklyn

| | 25-2608-24-B, 14 H |
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| 1 PLACE OF DEATH | state of New York It of Health of The City of New York |
| SOROUGH OF Manhattan Departmen | BUREAU OF RECORDS |
| | STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH |
| 527 West 139th | 90291 |
| Character of premises, whether tenement, private, aptel, hospital or other place, etc. | Hegistered No. |
| FULL NAME Larah Ki | 3 Barness |
| | 15 DATE OF DEATH |
| Standa White Single MARRIED, Widowed WIDOWED, Widowed OR DIVORCED (Write the word) | (Month) (Day) (Year) |
| S DATE OF BIRTH | 16 I hereby certify that the foregoing particulars |
| | (Nos. 1 to 14 inclusive) are correct as near as the |
| (Month) (Day) (Year) 7 AGE If LESS than | same can be ascertained, and I further certify that I attended the deceased from Kelicary 198 |
| 1 dey,hrs. | to July 27, 1926, that I last saw for |
| yrs, mos. ds. or min.? | that death occurred on the date stated above at & |
| (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work | and that the cause of death was as follows: |
| (b) General nature of industry, business or establishment in | Cronau schrosin chronic |
| which employed (or employer) | interestinal grafferties and |
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| FATHER Culture Culturer Transfer of FATHER Culturer Cultu | (Secondary) |
| 12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER CAPOLUL KINX | durationyrsmosds. |
| 18 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or country) 4. 8. | Witness my hand this 2711 day of July 1926 |
| 14 Special INFORMATION required in deaths in hospitals and institu- tions and in deaths of non-residents and recent residents. | Simon On Al 12-010 ND |
| Former or \ | Signature W & Brese M. D. |
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Lot No. 3189

Plot Cypress

Sec. 46

Area 5001

Edward C. Anderson

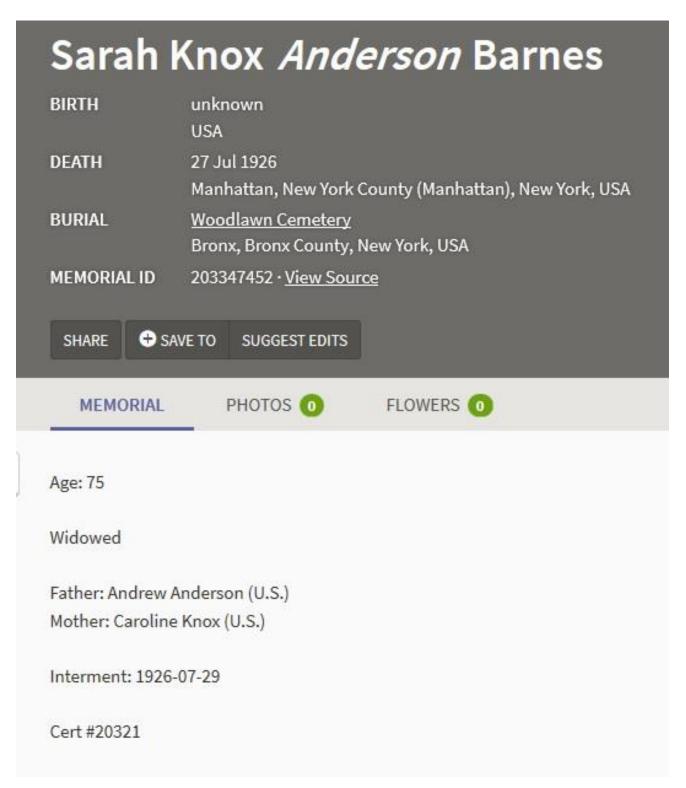
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| DATE 7/22/44 AMT. \$2,500.
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8-Andrew Anderson, 59 yrs 16174 2/18/1876
7-Cordelia L. Anderson, 59 yrs 16175 1/10/56
6-Jane C. Anderson, 1 yr 16839 6/14/1880
6-John J. Anderson, 9 mos 16887 8/14/59
1-Eliza M. Anderson, 11 yrs 19653 6/14/80
9-Edward C. Anderson, 68 yrs 91169 1/27/1916 Amer V1t
5-Sarah K. Barnes, 75 yrs 121751 7/27/26
3-Edward C. Anderson, 68 yrs 163852 12/1/40 (3 deep)
10-Estelle P. Anderson, 85-11-3 yrs 170333 5/18/43
3-Helen Anderson, 79 yrs 216342 10/27/60
3-Eliza M. Anderson, 87 yrs 222774 5/17/63

1926 Sarah Knox Anderson Barnes burial record in Woodlawn Cemetery the Bronx, New York City



1926 Sarah Knox Anderson Barnes Find-A-Grave record in Woodlawn Cemetery Bronx, New York

Appendix D: Sarah Knox Anderson, Free Spirit?

The father of Sarah Knox Anderson, Andrew Anderson, was quite a successful businessman. Thus, he was fairly well to do. Yet, in his will of 1875, he left Sarah only one thing "my oil painting portrait of her encased in guilt frame", and he left her no money. It is almost as if Sarah's father had disowned her, and this was his way of expressing his displeasure.

Was this an indication that Sarah was unconventional? And perhaps it was felt that her actions were outside of the norm for the time? The circumstances have been lost to history.

The brother of Sarah, Edward C. Anderson, was a successful businessman like his father. And like his father, he was well to do. Yet, in his will of 1904, he left "my sister, Sarah K. Anderson (now Mrs. Sarah K. Barnes) ... the sum of \$1500 ... to be paid her in three annual payments ...". That is about \$50,000 total in 2023 dollars or \$17,000 per year for three years. Whereas, the money was, no doubt, welcome, it was hardly a fortune.

Once again, was this small bestowal, and the way in which it was parceled out, indicative of a distrust of Sarah's judgment? Again, her brother's thoughts are lost to time.

Was Sarah Knox Anderson a "Free Spirit", one who marched to own drummer? Sometimes people like that are viewed askance by more conventional people.