"But at my back I always hear
Time's wingèd chariot hurrying near ..."

(Andrew Marvell 1621-1678, To His Coy Mistress)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introductory Pages
   Letter From the Editor i
   Portraits of W.N. and Bess ii-iii
Notes on Berry-Vize History
   The Beginnings 1
   The Maryland Years (c1670-1815) 2
   The Kentucky Years (1815-1913) 3
   The North Carolina Years (1913 - ) 4-11
The Berry Coat-of-arms 11
The American Mother of 1942 12-14
The Eight Brothers 15
The Five Sisters 16
The Berry-Vize Patch Constitution 17
June 7, 1997

Dear Members of the Berry-Vize clan:

This booklet is Chapter One of an enterprise designed to include, besides these preliminary notes, the Vize background history, spousal histories, and those of the second generation, here defined as children of the Original Thirteen.

The narrative here presented is actually a series of linked notes, even preliminary notes, on our history. It does not pretend to completeness or impeccable accuracy, though, given my limitations, I have striven to ascertain and record the facts as faithfully as possible.

In any event, I offer this preliminary chapter as a tribute to our parents and a gift to my brothers and sisters, their spouses, and their children and grandchildren. Now into the fourth generation (or fifth, if you count from Mother and Father), we can look back through at least eight generations of ancestors for whom we have some documentation.

As you will note from the Berry-Vize Patch Constitution (page 17), approved at the 1982 Reunion, we have—besides honoring our parents and bonding with each other—a third reason for existing: the realization of our role in the larger society, both as individuals and as groups. How this role is conceived and acted upon is diverse—we march to different drums. But when honors and recognition come to any one of us for service of any kind to the larger society, it comes to us all. It was so, as I think you will agree, with Joe and the plaudits that came to him in his last years; they reflected on all of us who stood at his side.

One of the greatest of world ideals comes to us from Confucius—filial piety, a concept which underscores the unity of the family and the fact that what we do redounds to the honor or the shame of the family as a whole. I have to use both hands and all ten fingers to tally the extraordinary public as well as private honors bestowed during the past year on various members of the family in first, second, and even third generations.

I should like, in this context, to congratulate, in the name of the family, our 1997 college and high-school graduates: Katie Berry (Princeton University, A.B. in Physics); Gennie Kelleher (Nursing degree from Guilford Technical Community College); Adam Barber (Huntington High School); Brian Sohn (Pikeville High School); Luke Kelleher (Grimsley High School), Madeleine Berry (Page High School), and Terah Kelleher (Oak Ridge High School). Our blessings on all of you as you travel along the winding roads of time!

Each year the family reunion offers us the opportunity to learn of these honors and advancements and to praise and congratulate each other on the good things that we have helped bring about. The year A.D. 2000 will mark the twentieth time that we shall have come together since our mother’s 1980 death. How and when and where and under whose auspices that event will take place is yet to be decided. Do think about it!

Your coordinator,
Margaret Berry
William Nathan Berry, Sr.
1885-1965
Notes on Berry-Vize History in Four Parts, Beginning with Norman England

Part One
Earliest Documentation

Our Berry history—documented data—begins on the southwest coast of England near Bristol. Earliest documents appear following the Norman Conquest of 1055-1066 C.E. After the climactic Battle of Hastings, Norman William the Conqueror, victorious over Saxon Harold, took possession of England, killed off most Old English (Saxon) aristocrats, and installed favored Norman (French) knights in the countryside’s manorial estates.

Hurtesberie (burial place of Saxon Hoert), in now North Devon on the west coast of England near Bristol, was such a manorial estate. It was, in fact, held in 1066 by Queen Edith, wife of Edward the Confessor, who died on the eve of England’s defeat by the Normans. For centuries known as Berry-narbor, the Hurtesberie area is still surrounded by barrows attesting human habitation there long before the Christian era.

The Domesday Book of 1085, data from William-the-Conqueror’s census of England, "an administrative measure unsurpassed in medieval history," records the giving of this Saxon manor, together with other property, animal, and slave holdings, to Norman knight Walter of Douai. In 1195, a little over a hundred years later, Norman William Herbert de Beri is recorded as reigning lord of the manor. In 1234 Ralph de Beri [document spellings vary] succeeded. Beginning with the second entry in Ralph’s genealogy, the phrase de Norbert de Beri is attached to the names of manorial residents. The epithet’s two parts, reversed, provide the vicinity’s popular name, Berry-narbor. One of the ships transporting Normans to England was named for Saint Norbert.

Recognized as a county in the eighth century and as a duchy in 1360, the former province of Berry (now known as Cher) lies in a rich farming area of central France, with Bourges as its capital, and has figured importantly in French political history. An early thirteenth-fourteenth century duke, Jean of Berry, is described as "one of the greatest art connoisseurs and collectors in history" (Marcel Thomas in the 1974 The Grande Heures of Jean, Duke of Berry).

For over five hundred years successively, from 1195, the de Norbert de Beri family held the once-Saxon Hurtesberie Manor. In 1708, through the female line, it passed to the Bassetts of Heanton Court. This family soon afterwards abandoned the run-down Berry-narbor residence to move to Watermouth, a newly-completed manor and monastery a few miles northwest.

Little remains today of Berry Manor, once known for its elaborate carvings in stone, with friezes and molding and the arms of the Plantagenet and Bouville families, [a mansion often compared with] the rich, stone-carved house in the Place Purcelle at Rouen." A major porch, dated 1634, was removed to Westaway, Filton; other parts were taken to the Bassett’s Watermouth residence. An old farm, part of the original manorial estate, today known as Berry Bowden, became the birthplace of the celebrated John Jewel, in 1522 named Bishop of Salisbury. The site is today a showplace on the Berry-narbor tour.

The Berry coat-of-arms—bend, fleur-de-lis, three panels, a griffin’s head, and the motto nihil sine labore—is described in John Bernard Burke’s 1969 General Armory and in Maryland author Effie Gwynne Bowie’s 1975 Across the years in Prince George’s County.

A major source for Berry history after the English-French phase has been scholar-gentleman-farmer-attorney-WW II Air Force officer and our kinsman James Belt Berry, lately deceased, of Capitol Heights, Maryland. A few years ago Jim showed me a silver spoon engraved with the ancient Berry coat-of-arms. Handed down in Jim’s branch of the family for generations prior to their seventeenth-century coming to Maryland, this spoon links New-World Berrys with those of Old-World Berry-narbor. The spoon may be seen and handled today at the home of Jim’s widow, Virginia Berry, the Capitol Heights residence officially known as Concord Manor and Plantation. There our kinsmen Berrys have for two hundred years successively resided.

Today, dominated by large, towered St. Peter’s Church, village Berry-narbor, England, is described in Devon tour books as one of its prettiest sites. Near the church, a mile or so from the sea, rural-inn Bessemer Thatch lures tourists from across the world with its eight double bedrooms, modern facilities, and balconies overlooking rose gardens and country lanes redolent of the past.
Part Two
The Maryland Years

The Berry-Vize Patch

Earliest of our documented forefathers is Benjamin Berry, Sr. (1670-1719), for whom birth, occupation, marriage, will, and death records exist. This Benjamin's large family included eldest son Benjamin, Jr. (1697-1765), our ancestor, and second son Jeremiah (1712-1769), progenitor of the James Belt Berrys.

In our line the two Benjamins, father and son, are followed by Jeremiah, Sr. (1730-1812) and Jeremiah, Jr. (1768-1856). [The repetition of the name Jeremiah—seven in all—often confuses Berry references]. A younger son of Jeremiah, Jr., John B. Berry (1796-1859) in 1815, like Berry cousins before him, left Maryland to settle in Kentucky.

But back to Concord Place. By 1670 the Berry family was well established in Maryland, owned large properties (transactions involved Charles Carroll and Josias Beall), maintained slaves, participated in public life, and developed elegant and original houses. These structures have several times been written up in Maryland newspapers and journals.

The writeups have generally featured Concord in Capitol Heights, Maryland, just outside Washington, D.C. Originally about a thousand acres in extent, the property was purchased from Charles Carroll by our cousin Jeremiah Berry (1712-1769) and bequeathed to his son Zachariah (1749-1845). In 1797 Zachariah completed the building of the mansion to be known thereafter as Concord Manor and Plantation.

For two hundred years, since its 1797 completion the house has been lived in continuously by generations of our cousin Berrys, many of whom were born, married, and died within its walls. I have three times been welcomed to this home, now listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Twice I stayed overnight in an “original room.”

In summary, the first documented Maryland Berry of our line is Benjamin Berry, Sr., (1670-1719), who married Mary Hilleary, of a prominent Maryland family. Benjamin’s oldest son was Benjamin, Jr., from whom we derive; his second oldest was Jeremiah, from whom the James Belt Berry family comes. Large oil portraits of Benjamin, Jr., and of Jeremiah appear in Concord Manor’s entry hall. In his 1983 revised edition of A History of American Law Lawrence M. Friedman, describing a typical agenda of 17th-century county seats at the heart of colonial government, reports that, among other Carroll County cases, “Benjamin Berry and Robert Gordon had been drunk at an inn, profanely cursing and swearing, [and had been] ordered to be put in the stocks.” Perhaps our Benjamin Berry, Sr.

After Benjamin, Sr., (1670-1719), and Benjamin, Jr. (1697-1765) in our line comes Jeremiah, Sr. (1730-1812). Jeremiah’s wife, Mary Miles, is reputed to have persuaded her husband to convert to the Catholic faith, a creed which the family more or less adhered to from that time on. Jeremiah’s son Jeremiah, Jr. (1768-1856), fathered John B., a younger son and our progenitor, who in 1815 emigrated to Kentucky.

This John B. Berry (1796-1858) is our great, great grandfather. His son, E.C. Berry (1821-1877), our great grandfather, a United-States officer in the Mexican War (1846-1848), served in Monterey, Mexico. Later he wrote moving letters to his young wife, near death in the home of E.C.'s parents; founded Daivies County’s first large distillery; made a fortune; foreclosed on the mortgage of a fine house; established his family there, then a year later died, probably of alcoholism. Widow Sallie Ann Hagan Berry, our great grandmother, was left with seven children and another thirty-seven years of life in the newly acquired mansion, the third of major Berry houses traced in this account:

- Hurteserie in Berryarbor, England
- Concord Manor and Plantation in Prince George’s County, Maryland
- Berry Place, Daviess Cty, Kentucky

The Kentucky years inspire the next section of this narrative.
Part Three
The Kentucky Years (1815-1913)

When, in 1815, John B. Berry (1796-1859), son of Jeremiah, Jr. (1768-1856), went as a nineteen-year-old to Kentucky, he was following in the tracks of several Berry cousins who, after Kentucky's 1791 declaration of statehood, sought their fortunes in land grants on colonial frontiers. As a younger son, John had, according to the law requiring estates to be left to eldest sons, to depend for his welfare on providence and his own native abilities.

In 1820, five years after arriving in Kentucky, John married Elizabeth Hagan, of an esteemed Kentucky family, and, after sojourns in Nelson and Marion Counties, finally settled in Daviess County, where he purchased a thirty-acre farm on Roost Road, later known as Berry Road.

During these years John B., a Roman Catholic, also fathered three daughters, of whom two made outstanding marriages, and four sons. One son, Robert (born January 1, 1839), at age fifty-eight entered the Trappist Monastery of Gethsemane, Kentucky, as a lay brother. After five years, at age sixty-three, he left the Order. The youngest of the four sons, Jeremiah, died childless. The other two were E.C. (1822-1877), our great grandfather, and William Lucien (c1824- ), great grandfather of our cousin and contemporary, Sam Berry of Owensboro, Kentucky.

An experienced genealogist as well as a retired Internal Revenue Officer, Sam Berry has long pursued family history with the intention of producing a book on the subject. Of the eleven personalities about whom his work is structured, Sam pays special attention to John B. Berry (his and our great grand father). Authentickating documents include copies of John B.'s will, records of property transactions, and a photograph of John B.'s grave stone in the Catholic cemetery of Holy Cross, Kentucky, citing 1858 as his death date.

Records indicate that our great grandfather [d'ward] [hysotom] Berry (1822-1877) was a man of enormous vitality. He served as a United States commissioned officer in Monterey, Mexico, during the Mexican War (1846-1848). Contemporary accounts show him as an enterprising, honest, and resourceful farmer and business man; a husband and father of affection, fidelity, fairness, and devotion; an appreciator of natural beauty, of history, and of aesthetic and practical architectural detail; and, finally, master of a beautiful literary style and elegant, lucid penmanship.

Sadly, however, E.C. shared with many Americans then and now discriminatory attitudes about other races. From Monterey, Mexico, at age twenty-five, he describes his host nation as a low, degraded, and contemptible race, an amalgamation of every race under the sun. Their complexion, particularly that of the lower class, is dark, and many, in fact are quite black. Manners and customs differ widely from those of Americans. Dress, particularly among the women, is strange. Six months in Mexico, I have yet to see the first woman wearing a bonnet or a ribbon. Their morals are dark, as is their color. Dancing is their favorite amusement. Not a night passes that there is not a fandango in Monterey. Gambling is the prevailing vice, to which all Mexicans are addicted, from the priest at the altar to the peon in rags.

E.C.'s vehement racism, however, is balanced by another side of his character. On December 31, 1859, at thirty-seven, he had married seventeen-year-old Sallie Ann Hagan (1842-1914), of another eminent Kentucky family. A year later, following the difficult birth of their first child, daughter Molly, Sallie Ann became deathly ill and had to be moved, with her infant, to the care of her parents-in-law, in Lebanon, Kentucky. On January 17, 1852, after an arduous day clearing and farming land in Daviess County, E.C. writes her:

I am the most lonely man on earth and my solicitude for you is greater than my loneliness. There is nothing to which I can turn for relief or pleasure. Passing as I daily do, over ground on which we have so often and so happily strolled together, I feel pain and sadness steal over me that she, so dear to me, is so far, far away. Books and papers which once so much amused me have lost their charms. If I attempt to read, not unfrequently I find my book or paper on my lap, my eyes fixed on vacancy, and my mind on thee.

Perhaps had I any other company than a blazing fire, I would not feel so desolate. But only think, my dear, of my being from morning to night, from week to week, without anyone with whom I can exchange a solitary word in social conversation. Oh! how wretily do the long winter evenings pass and how slow is sleep in visiting my eyes!

Here E.C. continues with news about local affairs, his tobacco farming work, and his clearing of "full two acres of land almost smooth." He concludes:

Remember me in love and affection to Father and Mother, and... hug our dear little daughter for me. Be of good spirits, my dear wife, and ever believe, I am your devoted husband,
E.C. Berry

The crisis passed. Sallie Ann went on to bear the rest of her seven children and outlive her husband by thirty-seven years. As a tobacco farmer E.C. had prospered and, as of 1866, had become also a brewer, setting up in that year the first large, registered distillery in Daviess County, locally celebrated as E.C. Berry's Whiskey and Distillery. The business is advertised in old newspapers and other records to be found in Daviess County Court collections.
Part Four
The Berrys in North Carolina

Within three years, prompted by W.N.'s promotion to a new job with Southern Railroad, the Berrys moved to Greensboro, North Carolina. Of their arrival by train in spring 1913 at the old Greensboro railway station and their putting up temporarily in the Clegg Hotel at South Elm and Asheboro Streets, W.N. recalled: "I had two dollars and two children. I was carrying the bags. Jack, almost two, was tugging at his mother's skirts; Mary Elizabeth was carried in her arms."

The first Berry residence in Greensboro was on Edgeworth Street, next to the Walter Murrays, to become treasured family friends. For seven years in that setting the new and growing family struggled to establish itself in the civic, business, and religious life of the city known as Gate City because its railroad station served as hub between Northern and Southern states.

Sponsored by the Catholic Church's Rome-based Propagation of the Faith in Mission Countries and under the tutelage of the Benedictines of Belmont Abbey, Belmont, North Carolina, St. Benedict's Parish, originally called St. Agnes Parish and located on what is now Church Street, had been established in 1877. As yet North Carolina was only a vicariate; not until December 1924 would it become a diocese, with William J. Hafey as its first bishop. On the sale twenty years later of the too-small St. Agnes Church to the city for use as its first high school, the parish changed its name and in 1899 moved to the newly built structure on North Elm at Smith Street. Eleven of the thirteen Berry children were baptized, received First Communion, and were confirmed in this Church.

In 1904 the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul of Emmitsburg, Maryland, known by their soaring white headdress or corsette, opened St. Leo's Hospital, with the mission of serving the sick poor. The institution lasted fifty years, until 1954, when newly-opened and highly-endowed Moses Cone Hospital offered its services also to the underprivileged. In 1926 St. Benedict's eight-grade parochial school, also staffed by the Daughters of Charity,

Five or six years on the road convinced W.N. that there are better ways to live. By 1907 he was back in Owensboro, confident of his abilities and ready to start a family. One spring night in 1909 he attended a Knights-of-Columbus dance in Morganfield. There the beautiful young Vize sisters from Waverly, Kentucky, Katie and Bess, were relaxing from their teaching duties. W.N.'s brother Herbert had escorted brown-eyed, spirited Bess to the event, but it was W.N. whom she captivated. A year or so later Bess left her school job to become Mrs. W. N. Berry, an event recorded in her meticulously beautiful handwriting in the still-preserved Berry Family Bible: "William Nathan Berry and Elizabeth Ernestine Vize were joined in the holy bonds of Matrimony on the twenty-seventh day of September, nineteen hundred ten, at St. Ann's Church, Morganfield."
driver Jack would pile children into the tin lizzie and spin about the city. In case of rain, plastic curtains would be hastily attached to the open windows. The drives invariably took the covey from elegant Irving Park into Greensboro’s poor, mostly African-American end of town, an area celebrated for the colorful attire and lively demeanor of residents on their Sunday afternoon strolls. Finally, the same jatoly regularly conveyed the family or a good part of it to Sunday evening devotions, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, generally followed by a visit to the refreshment stand for summer ten-cent double-dip ice-cream cones and winter ten-cent hotdogs.

In 1960 the Company moved from West Lee Street to the more commodious 116 West Bragg Street. They would remain there until a flourishing oil business required the larger space to be found at 2200 East Bessemer Street.

By 1925, largely persuaded by his sister Corinne (Sister Mary Anita of the Nazareth, Kentucky, Sisters of Charity), W.N. and Bess had decided that, despite traveling and board-and-room expenses, their children should have Catholic high-school and college education. First to “go off to school” was Jack, born in 1911 and enrolled in Belmont Abbey Preparatory School in 1925; then Merse (Mary Elizabeth), sent in 1926 to St. Joseph College High School in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Directed by the Sisters of Charity since 1809, this institution was, at the behest of American bishops, established by Elizabeth Ann Seton, canonized in 1974 as America’s first native-born American saint. She is also honored as the founder of the Sisters of Charity in the United States and of the Catholic parochial-school system. In 1850, according to the founder’s desire, the Emmitsburg community was united with the Paris-based Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul as an American Province. All five of W.N. and Bess’s daughters were in time to be graduated from Saint Joseph’s; two of them would enter the community.

The proximity of St. Joseph’s to historic Mount St. Mary’s Seminary, College, and High School, also in Emmitsburg, led to Jack’s entrance into Mount St. Mary’s College in 1929 and graduation three years later. Thereafter this eldest Berry son joined his father in the Berry Coal Company and, though interrupted by wartime service as United-States Naval Air Force officer in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, and in Palawan, Philippine Islands, he remained in the business and eventually, on his father’s 1965 death, became its second president. By this time the company had moved to East Bessemer Street, gone into the oil and air-conditioning business, and renamed itself Berico Fuels, Incorporated. A dedicated member of the Greensboro community, Jack served on many boards, including those of St. Leo’s Hospital, the Greensboro Merchants’ Association, and the Kiwanis Club. These duties did not stay him from active membership in the Greensboro Country Club, where his prowess as a golfer became well-known. During his tenure as Club president 1966-1968, Jack moved the organization toward more diverse membership. With Jessie Douglas, his wife, also a Greensboro native, Jack has three daughters, Madeleine, Margaret, and Lucy, and son Martin Douglas Berry. In 1990 Jack died.

Three other Berry brothers, William Nathan, Jr., (Brother), born in 1914; Frank, born in 1916; and Jim, born in 1917, entered and were graduated from Mount St. Mary’s High School.

After an added year of college at the Mount, Brother (William Nathan, Jr.) was accepted into the Passionist religious order and in 1934 left for Springfield, Massachusetts, to begin his monastic career and his work as scholar, thinker, writer, lecturer, and founder and director of the New York-based Riverdale Center for Religious Research (1972-1995). Notable features of this career, besides 1942 ordination to the priesthood, were attainment of a doctoral degree in history at the Catholic University of America; study in Beijing, China; three years as United States Army chaplain in Germany; teaching appointments at Seton Hall, St. John’s, and Fordham Universities; twelve-year presidency of the American Teilhard Society; authorship of five books and numerous published articles; receiver of many awards, including the Humane Society of America Distinguished...
admitted its first pupils. It would last about thirty years, until Saint Pius X and Our Lady of Grace parishes and parochial schools would supplant the downtown institution.

Thus from their 1913 arrival until the end of the century, the Berry family received from the Catholic Church, hospital, and school powerful religious inspiration and nurturing, especially in their education.

In 1918 a critical appendectomy and post-surgical complication brought W.N. near death. Faced with the prospect of raising a large family alone and with no visible means of financial support, Bess struggled with heaven day and night, imploring the Sisters of St. Leo's Hospital to do the same, while the patient lay between life and death. Her faith and prayers were rewarded; W.N. regained his health, weakened but unbowed. To maintain solvency at the time W.N. was driven to seek a loan from a fellow St. Benedict's parishioner, attorney Martin Douglas. Of that transaction, W.N. remembered: "There was no paper signed, no witness called. My word was my warranty; we shook hands in acknowledgment of the debt." On a similar occasion when Bess was sent to the bank to seek a loan, she had responded to the question, "And what have you to offer as guarantee of this transaction?" with the simple phrase, "Only our good name." The loan was granted.

In 1920 a major occupational move occasioned a change of residence from Edgeworth Street to 800 Douglas Street. Here the family would remain another seven years until, in 1926-1927, they built and moved into the majestic, four-leveled brick structure on Colonial Avenue in Kirkwood that would be the Berry home for the next fifty-three years. The occupational change inspiring the earlier move began with W.N.'s realization that his growing family, already five sons and three daughters, needed more income than a railroad clerkship could provide. As superintendent of railroad coal-car deliveries in those post-World War I days, he recognized, too, that a market for fuels was ripe for an energetic and motivated business man. He was that man.

At first W.N. held on to job and income at the railroad. It was Elizabeth Ernestine Vize Berry who walked house to house getting orders, collecting payments, keeping books on the side. These tasks she accomplished while administering an ever-growing household, selecting and transporting great bags of groceries, supervising the then-inexpensive domestic help, chauffeuring to school and scouts, doctors and dentists, music lessons and Mass.

By 1924 the ground was laid for W.N. to sever ties with Southern Railroad and devote full time to the organization and perpetuation of the Berry Coal Company (later known as Berico Fuels, Incorporated), an enterprise destined to become one of the great North Carolina businesses of its kind. From the first site on West Lee Street orders of wood and bagged coal were delivered by wagon, drawn by a white horse named for Bess, the new company's vice president, secretary, and treasurer. The same year saw the purchase of the first truck of a fleet now numbered in double digits and delivering, not coal, but oil and air-conditioning apparatus. "Whenever a new baby was born [there would be thirteen in all]," W.N. would say, "business would boom so that a new truck would be needed." The striking red-on-yellow vehicles, now known as Berico trucks, had come to stay.

About that time, too, W.N. purchased his first car, a Model T Ford, black of course, and had painted on its sides the name and address of the new company, its motto Always Dependable, and two four-digit telephone numbers, 5127 and 5128. On Sundays, Mass obligations and ceremonial family dinner concluded, Bess or eldest son and designated-
driver Jack would pile children into the tin lizzie and spin about the city. In case of rain, plastic curtains would be hastily attached to the open windows. The drives invariably took the covey from elegant Irving Park into Greensboro’s poor, mostly African-American end of town, an area celebrated for the colorful attire and lively demeanor of residents on their Sunday afternoon strolls. Finally, the same jalopy regularly conveyed the family or a good part of it to Sunday evening devotions, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, generally followed by a visit to the refreshment stand for summer ten-cent double-dip ice-cream cones and winter ten-cent hotdogs.

In 1960 the Company moved from West Lee Street to the more commodious 116 West Bragg Street. They would remain there until a flourishing oil business required the larger space to be found at 2200 East Bessemer Street.

By 1925, largely persuaded by his sister Corinne (Sister Mary Anita of the Nazareth, Kentucky, Sisters of Charity), W.N. and Bess had decided that, despite traveling and board-and-room expenses, their children should have Catholic high-school and college educations. First to “go off to school” was Jack, born in 1911 and enrolled in Belmont Abbey Preparatory School in 1925; then Merse (Mary Elizabeth), sent in 1926 to St. Joseph College High School in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Directed by the Sisters of Charity since 1809, this institution was, at the behest of American bishops, established by Elizabeth Ann Seton, canonized in 1974 as America’s first native-born American saint. She is also honored as the founder of the Sisters of Charity in the United States and of the Catholic parochial-school system. In 1850, according to the founder’s desire, the Emmitsburg community was united with the Paris-based Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul as an American Province. All five of W.N. and Bess’s daughters were in time to be graduated from Saint Joseph’s; two of them would enter the community.

The proximity of St. Joseph’s to historic Mount St. Mary’s Seminary, College, and High School, also in Emmitsburg, led to Jack’s entrance into Mount St. Mary’s College in 1929 and graduation three years later. Thereafter this eldest Berry son joined his father in the Berry Coal Company and, though interrupted by wartime service as United States Naval Air Force officer in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, and in Palawan, Philippine Islands, he remained in the business and eventually, on his father’s 1965 death, became its second president. By this time the company had moved to East Bessemer Street, gone into the oil and air-conditioning business, and renamed itself Berico Fuels, Incorporated. A dedicated member of the Greensboro community, Jack served on many boards, including those of St. Leo’s Hospital, the Greensboro Merchants’ Association, and the Kiwanis Club. These duties did not stay him from active membership in the Greensboro Country Club, where his prowess as a golfer became well-known. During his tenure as Club president 1966-1968, Jack moved the organization toward more diverse membership. With Jessie Douglas, his wife, also a Greensboro native, Jack has three daughters, Madeleine, Margaret, and Lucy, and son Martin Douglas Berry. In 1990 Jack died.

Three other Berry brothers, William Nathan, Jr., (Brother), born in 1914; Frank, born in 1916; and Jim, born in 1917, entered and were graduated from Mount St. Mary’s High School.

After an added year of college at the Mount, Brother (William Nathan, Jr.) was accepted into the Passionist religious order and in 1934 left for Springfield, Massachusetts, to begin his monastic career and his work as scholar, thinker, writer, lecturer, and founder and director of the New York-based Riverdale Center for Religious Research (1972-1995). Notable features of this career, besides 1942 ordination to the priesthood, were attainment of a doctoral degree in history at the Catholic University of America; study in Beijing, China; three years as United States Army chaplain in Germany; teaching appointments at Seton Hall, St. John’s, and Fordham Universities; twelve-year presidency of the American Teilhard Society; authorship of five books and numerous published articles; receiver of many awards, including the Humane Society of America Distinguished
Service Award, the United States Catholic Mission Society Medal, the Catholic University of America Alumni Scholarship award, the 1995 Lannan Literary award for Non-fiction (The Dream of the Earth), and several honorary doctorates of Humane Letters. In 1995 Brother retired from the Riverdale Center in New York and returned to Greensboro. There he continues writing, publishing, and lecturing to promote reestablishment of an integral relationship between the human community and the natural world.

Frank and Jim were graduated from Mount Saint Mary’s High School in 1934. After one year at the Catholic University of America and three at the University of Notre Dame, Frank entered Georgetown Medical School, was graduated in 1942, and did residency for a year at Buffalo, New York, Allied Hospitals. In 1943 he joined the United States Army Air Force Medical Corps and was sent to Sheppard Field School of Aviation Medicine in Wichita Falls, Texas, and later to a similar school at Randolph Field, San Antonio. Discharged from the army in 1946, Frank spent two years in general practice in Jackson, Mississippi. The last phase of his medical training brought him to St. Louis, Missouri, 1949-1953, where he did residency at St. Louis University and Washington Hospitals for one year and at St. Louis city hospitals for three. In 1953 he returned to Greensboro to begin an obstetrical-gynecological practice lasting over three decades. After retirement in 1985 Frank resumed study and practice of painting, obtained a realtor’s license, and set about learning computer skills. He maintained, also, active membership in the Business and Professional Men’s Club, the International Visitors Club, and the Greensboro Country Club. With wife Polly Hutchins, formerly of Wichita Falls, Texas, Frank has two daughters: Susan and Patricia. Polly died in 1994.

After two years at the University of Notre Dame (1934-1936), Jim entered the United States Military Academy at Westpoint and, following 1940 graduation, the Army Air Force. There he trained as a pilot, with his skills promptly applied to anti-submarine work and raids over Germany. Two years of active combat (1942-44) preceded postwar assignments including multi-site command training; Columbia University studies in military government preceding occupation duties in postwar Germany; Strategic Air Command at AF bases; a year’s study at the Canadian National Defence College; a four-year stint at the Pentagon; and commands in Japan, Hawaii and, finally, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. In 1968, after 28 years’ service, Jim retired from the United States Air Force and moved with his family to Raleigh, North Carolina. There he obtained an M.A. in mathematics at North Carolina State University and tested several occupations before settling into the creation and direction of The Center for Reflection on the Second Law [entropy]. This institution seeks to raise the awareness and redirect the activities of people toward sounder attitudes about the nature and relations of human, earth, and divine realities. With wife Mary Elizabeth Looram, formerly of Elmhurst, New York, Jim has three daughters: Mary Beth, Ann Raphael, and Gabriel, and son James Michael.

After completing high school at St. Joseph’s in 1930, eldest-daughter Merse, born in 1913, took business courses at the North Carolina College for Women (now The University of North Carolina at Greensboro) to become her father’s bookkeeper/secretary for the next seven years. In 1938 she entered the Daughters of Charity, trained for the nursing profession, acquired an M.A. in Hospital Administration at St. Louis University (Missouri), interned at Saint Vincent Hospital, New York
City, directed Providence Hospital in Detroit for six years and De Paul Hospital in Norfolk for four. In 1962 mission work called Sister Elizabeth to Bolivia, South America, where she spent the next twenty-three years in hospital and clinic activities carried on by the Sisters chiefly in Cochabamba, Trinidad, and La Paz. On retirement in 1985, Merse returned to the states and began work as rehabilitation counselor at Providence Hospital's Seton House. Most recently, from Elizabeth Seton House in Bladensburg, Maryland, she directs her energies to working for ecological literacy and activity within her community.

Second-daughter Margaret, born in 1918, after 1936 graduation from Nazareth Junior College, Kentucky, entered the Daughters of Charity. There she first taught music and English at St. Dominic's School, Baltimore, Maryland; Immaculate Conception Academy, Washington, D.C.; St. Paul's High School, Portsmouth, Virginia; and Seton High School, Baltimore, Maryland. After acquiring a Catholic-University Master's degree and a Saint John's-University doctorate, Margaret taught English at St. Joseph College and Provincial House, also serving as organist and director of choirs. In 1965 she left the community and accepted a teaching position in English and Asian Studies at John Carroll University, Cleveland, Ohio. During her Ohio years, Margaret, earlier initiated into China and India studies by a Ford Foundation grant, took a post-doctoral degree in South Asian studies at the University of Pennsylvania and, with Fulbright, NDEA, and JCU grants, did research in China and India; presented papers at numerous professional meetings, including those held in Mexico, Hong Kong, China, Canada, and Australia; and published three books and a dozen articles. Besides chairing John Carroll's first committee on Asian Studies, Margaret served as president of the College English Association of Ohio, National Coordinator of Affiliates of the College English Association, and board member of the Asian Division of the Modern Language Association. Having retired in 1993 to her Greensboro home, she currently coordinates family affairs and assists Brother in the work "of restoring harmony between humans and the universe."

Seventh child and third daughter Katherine Anita, born in 1920, followed her sisters through St. Joseph High School and studied nursing at Providence Hospital,

Washington, DC. In 1940 she married Richard Monroe Fuller of Wake Forest, North Carolina. The following years, before Richard's 1957 death, were filled with the births and rearing of seven children, four daughters and three sons: Margaret Ann, Martha, Richard, Tom, Matt, Janie, and Mary Theresa. A still-young widow, Katherine turned to the profession of document analysis, attaining certification and recognition in the World Association of Document Examiners (WADE) and the International Graphoanalysis Society, serving as expert witness in court cases, teaching classes on the subject in her home laboratory, and publishing articles on her experience. This career was cut short by Katherine's death in 1983 at sixty-three years of age.

Joseph Louis, born in 1921, was W.N. and Bess's fifth son. After St. Benedict's grade-school education, he was, at the recommendation of Bishop William J.
Hafey, North Carolina’s first diocesan administrator, sent to Catholic, laity-run Newman School of Lakewood, New Jersey. Excelling there in classroom, field, and student governance, Joe was offered football scholarships to several colleges following high-school graduation, but chose to apply for and receive instead a partial scholarship to the University of Notre Dame. After freshman year there he was appointed to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland. A 1943 graduation led to active combat aboard air carrier US Nashville in the Pacific theater of World War II, after which Joe signed up for naval flight training in Pensacola, Florida. In 1945, however, at the request of his father, Joe left the navy to join brother Jack in Berico Fuels. As company president, following Jack’s 1970 retirement, Joe participated regularly in city, county, state, and national organizations associated with the oil industry. At one time he served as national chair of the Home Heating Oil Association and at another joined a group giving seminars in China on oil management. There were, too, other activities: prison ministry, work with the Greensboro Chapter of the Red Cross, the Board of Visitors of Guilford College and of Elon Children’s Homes Society, and chairmanship of the Greensboro Human Relations Commission. Joe’s awards included the Brotherhood Citation of the Greensboro Chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews and the Thomas A. Dooley Award for Humanitarian Service, bestowed by the University of Notre Dame Alumni Association. Joe died April 27, 1996. With wife Jean Lindsay, also a Greensboro native, he has six surviving children (first-born Billy died at nineteen): Mary Joseph (Bobo), Anne, Thomas Anthony, Fred, Teresa (Teesie), and Philip.

Fourth daughter Ann Louise, born in 1922, seemed to sail through life on a smooth course. Four years at college uninterruptedly followed four of high school, both at St. Joseph’s, Emmitsburg. After 1938 college graduation Ann entered the Maryknoll Missionaries and, in post-formation years was sent briefly to Honolulu and then to Manila in the Philippines. The next ten years, as Sister Zoé Marie, she taught biology in Maryknoll schools. In summer 1957 Ann, again following the normal routine, returned to the States for three months of rest and recreation. Classes, visits home, reunions, vacation activities filled the weeks. Ticketed for return to the Philippines, Ann was found to have breast cancer, underwent mastectomy, and fifteen months later died, March 28, 1958, at the Maryknoll Motherhouse, Ossining, New York. Sister Zoé Marie was the last Maryknoll nun to be buried in the Order’s old, original cemetery.

Like her four sisters, the youngest of the five daughters, Marie Françoise Thérèse (Tess), born in 1924, attended St. Benedict’s School and Saint Joseph High School, graduating in 1942. Completion of the UNCG business program and a year of secretarial employment was followed by wartime marriage in 1944 to fellow parishioner Leo J. Kelleher at Maxwell Air Force Base, Texas, where Boots was in midstage of flight training. After many moves occasioned by the training program, Tess and Boots in 1945 returned to civilian life in Greensboro. During the following years, eight children were born to the couple, and Tess’s intellectual and creative energies found expression in school and church activities. In particular she served for two years as public-relations director for the Greensboro Chapter of the National Association for Learning Disabilities. When parental duties eased, Tess sought to complete her interrupted education by attending classes at Guilford College, Greensboro College, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and Guilford Technical Community College. These studies prepared her for certification as a reading-disabilities teacher and as tutor in her home classroom for disabled learners. Boots and Tess’s children are Kathy, Jim, Terry, Frank, Joe, Zoe, Zach, and Michael—three daughters and five sons.

New Year’s Day 1926 saw the birth of Benedict Regis (named for St. Leo’s Sister Regis). This sixth son, gifted with comedy, completed elementary school at St. Benedict’s and prep school at Belmont Abbey, Charlotte, North Carolina. Following 1943 graduation Ben spent a year with the Benedictine com-
munity at St. Vincent Abbey (Latrobe, Pa.); two years at Belmont Abbey Junior College; and another at St. Benedict's College (Atchinson, Kansas). In 1947 Ben left the Benedictines and completed his baccalaureate degree at Mount Saint Mary's College, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Graduate study in philosophy thereafter called him to Laval University, Quebec, Canada. His pursuit of the licentiate degree here was interrupted by the Korean War, in which, as a tank-division officer, he trained for two years at, successively, Camp Polk (later Fort Polk), Louisiana, and Fort Hood, Texas. From 1956-1971 Ben taught philosophy at Belmont Abbey College and from 1971 until his 1992 retirement at Gaston College near Charlotte, North Carolina. A Fulbright-Foundation trip to India for observation and research marked the summer of 1988. In retirement Ben cultivates landscaping, bird-watching, and golf. His children, with wife Jerry Ball of Charlotte, North Carolina, are John and Jennifer.

Blue-eyed, tow-haired seventh-son Thomas Gabriel was born in 1929, completed elementary school at St. Benedict's, then enrolled in and completed high school at Cardinal Farley Military Academy, Rhinecliff, New York. After two years' college at Mount St. Mary's, Tom repaired to Laval University, joining brother Ben there, to pursue philosophy at both undergraduate and graduate levels, with a two-year break, 1952-1954, for service in the United States Infantry at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. On returning to Greensboro in 1956, and following a stint with Crane Plumbing Company, Tom became a member of the Berico team, spending twenty years in the service department and ten in sales. From childhood Tom's characteristic interest had been in animals and out-of-doors, with canoeing as his favored sport, in contrast with his brothers' lifelong devotion to golf. In retirement he added to these interests landscaping, community cooperative gardening, political causaking, and ecological action.

Tom also resumed study of the violin and currently plays second violin with the Greensboro Philharmonia. With first wife Ginny Kernan, formerly of Highlands, North Carolina, Tom has five children: Peter, Joseph, twins Katie and Lisa, and Mary Virginia. With second wife Stephanie Eddy, formerly of Providence, Rhode Island, he has daughter Anne.

Last of the thirteen children and eighth son of W.N. and Bess, Stephen Badin, born in 1933, was named for a Kentucky priest, the first to be ordained in America. At age eleven Steve was enrolled in the Collège de Lévis across from Quebec in 1944, only to have illness interrupt his French-Canadian education. Back home, he soon left again, this time for the Jesuit Campion High School in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. In 1949 he entered the University of Notre Dame and in 1954 was graduated with a degree in Speech. At this time he enlisted in the United States Naval Air Corps, where proficiency in flying led to his appointment as a flight instructor. During four years as Naval Air Corps officer, Steve operated from Pensacola Naval Air Station; Hutchinson, Kansas, Naval Air Station; and the aircraft carrier USS Oriskany. His aviation skills would in years ahead prove important in a long business career as lumber and furniture merchant and as a founder of ABW Lumber Industries, Incorporated. Since returning to civilian life in 1958 Steve has also served as director of the Appalachian Lumbermen's Club and as president of the local chapter of the University of Notre Dame Alumni Club. With wife Rosemary Furlong, also a Greensboro native, Steve has fathered four sons and a daughter: Shawn, Steve Jr., Brian, Chris, and daughter Deborah.

From 1927, when the Berry clan moved into the new Kirkwood home (named by Bess Bird-a-lea), our cousins—Katie Vize Ralston's children—became part of the family during summers and sometimes throughout the year, virtually indistinguishable from the other thirteen. Kitty, born in 1915, attended St. Joseph's, completed nurse's training at Georgetown University, married Joe Guiney, and before her death in 1961, added to the second-generation Missy, Suzanne, Carolyn, David, and Rob.

Bob, born in 1920, attended St. Bernard's Prep School, Cullman, Alabama and Belmont Abbey College before
enlisting in the navy. Under the aegis of the medical corps, he won his M.D. in Eye, Ears, Nose, and Throat Medicine at Georgetown University Medical School and practiced at the veterans' hospital in Columbia, South Carolina. After discharge from the navy, Bob studied further at Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana, before setting up practice in Spartanburg, South Carolina. With wife Ruth McBride, Bob fathered Patricia, Kathy, Robert Linton, and Ruth before his sudden death in 1958 at age thirty-eight.

But it was Zach, born in 1916, who has been with the Berry family most steadily over these seventy-odd years. Born to Auntie and Zachary Taylor Ralston, Senior, in coal-mining town Harramift, Tennessee, Zach was named for his coal-miner father, educated first in Stone, Kentucky, and for high school at St. Mary's in St. Mary's, Kentucky. At nineteen he entered the Resurrectionist Fathers' novitiate in Kitchener, Ontario, and afterwards completed a B.A. in philosophy at the University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, and three years of theology at Saint Peter's Seminary in the same city. After 1940 ordination Zach taught French in North Bay College, North Bay, Ontario, and Saint Jerome's College, Kitchener, and earned a Master's degree in French (a nine-summer program) at Laval University, Quebec, Canada. In 1951 he went to Buffalo, New York, to enlist as chaplain in the United States Army. As he was entering enlistment headquarters, whom should he meet coming out but another would-be chaplain, Passionist priest Thomas Berry. Ironically their assignments reversed their aspirations: Brother was assigned to Europe, Germany; Zach to Northeast Asia, Korea. After a term in Chaplain's School, Seattle, Washington, Zach was shipped out with the Eleventh Airborne Division Christmas Eve, 1953, to Seoul.

later he was sent with the 187th Airborne to Deppu, Kyushu, Japan. His tour completed, Zach resumed teaching at North Bay College but shortly afterward undertook doctoral studies in French at the Catholic University of America, winning his degree in 1961. Back at St. Jerome's College, Zach advanced rapidly through academic ranks, becoming successively full professor and major administrator. In 1971 he sought and received laicization, studied for a time at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and accepted a professorship at The Citadel, a military college in Charleston, South Carolina. Twelve years later, with wife Frances Sellers, formerly of Raleigh, North Carolina, he retired to Chapel Hill. In 1995 the two moved to Twin Lakes Retirement Home in Burlington, North Carolina. There Zach balances the hours between outdoor pursuits—gardening, hiking, exploring nature—and indoor scholarly and culinary interests.

The Berry

Coat-of-Arms

In early 1982 Mary Grasse Berry, using models from Burke's General Armory provided by Ann Teresa Berry of Owensboro, KY, and James Belt Berry of Capitol Heights, MD, carved the Berry coat-of-arms on a 22" by 11.5" solid oak slab. Three coats of varnish on the sides and six on the edges protect the inch-thick plate against warping and cracking. Colors, applied with airplane paint, are traditional heraldic gules (brilliant red), gold (gold-leaf), argent (silver-leaf), and chromatic tones of brown and gray.

Faithful also to heraldic tradition is the work's structure: crest, helmet, shield, and ribbon in an overall design, here the mythic griffin. This legendary creature, popular in ancient and medieval times, has an eagle's head and wings (the soaring power and influence of the intellect, the spiritual part of the human), and a lion's body (protective power, strength, and vigilance). The ribbon bears the motto Nihil sine Labore (Nothing without Work).

Apart from the symbolism suggested above, another perspective might note that each of the shield's four frame-slats holds fourteen vertical lines, recalling the fourteen biologic Originals, including Zach, of this Berry family. The three gold bands themselves may bring to mind the three basic tendencies of the universe at all levels, and specifically here of the family: differentiation, selfness, and communion. We're different from each other; each of us has a unique personality; and we are bound to each other by love and care.
They wanted a similar picture of the girls, but they were widely separated.

Brother, Steve, Jack, Ben, Joe, Jim, Frank, Tom with mother and father.

EIGHT FOR THE ROAD
From left to right: Ann Louise (Sister Zoé Marie of the Maryknoll Sisters) 1922-1958, Marie Francis Teresa (Tess), Merse (Sister Elizabeth of the Daughters of Charity), Margaret, and Katherine Anita (Kacky) 1920-1983.
CONSTITUTION FOR BERRY-VIZE PATCH

ARTICLE

I Preamble: For purposes set forth below, a non-profit association is hereby established, to be governed by the following stipulations:

II Purpose: It is the purpose of this association 1) to perpetuate the memory of our parents, 2) to promote unity among the members of an extraordinarily large and diverse family, and 3) to further family awareness of our relation to nature and to the larger society.

III Name: The name of the association shall be Berry-Vize Patch.

IV Membership: Primary members shall be the original sons and daughters of William Nathan and Elizabeth Vize Berry, their spouses past and present, and our cousin Zach T. Ralston and spouse. Secondary members shall be descendants of these persons and cousins on both sides of the family.

V Officers: The officers at this time shall consist of a coordinator, serving also as treasurer and as agent of incorporation; a secretary for the annual meeting; and an archivist or archivists. These officers, elected by majority vote and at the pleasure of the association, shall hold office on a continuing basis.

VI Activities: The major activities of Berry-Vize Patch shall be: 1) development of a family archives, 2) publication several times a year of a newsletter, and 3) an annual meeting of primary members, usually in May, hosted in turn by the original sons and daughters and Zach T., beginning with the eldest in 1981.

VII Dues: At this time dues shall consist of each year's subscription cost ($10) for the newsletter. Supplementary donations shall be encouraged. Dues and donations are intended solely to finance the specified activities.

VIII Procedures: Meetings shall proceed informally unless circumstances indicate need for official rules, in which case Robert's Rules of Order shall be used.

IX Motions and Amendments: Motions may be carried and amendments effected by majority vote of those present at the annual meeting.