

Alvin Jones. Charles ran and lost as Governor of Pennsylvania. Roosevelt appointed him to the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals. Later, he became Chief Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

Charles and Isabel moved in with her mother when she was older. With their three children, they needed more help. They invited Margaret Rucker to come and become the upstairs maid. Frances was the cook and Margaret helped her with dinner. Margaret married the chauffeur, O'Brien. He died quite young, leaving Margaret a widow with no children.

Margaret did not know how to read or write when she came to work for the Arrott family. She took herself to a night school. Lyde said she had beautiful handwriting. Margaret's sister, Frances, married and had a son. She moved with Isabel and Charles Jones when they moved to Philadelphia with his appointment.

Margaret had a good sense of money and was a shrewd businesswoman. While working as a maid, she earnestly saved her money. She began purchasing garages which she then rented out. When she had made enough money, she bought houses to lease. Margaret also had a good sense of style. She lived on the third floor of Mrs. Arrott's Georgian home for nearly thirty years.

Margaret had two rooms, a bedroom and a sitting room which she arranged beautifully. Even though she was accruing money she stayed with the Arrott family and used to say, "I does for the family!"

When Lyde's grandmother died about 1950, Margaret went to work for another daughter, Elizabeth Ramsey Arrott and her husband Drayton Heard. She also worked for their sons, Drayton Heard Jr. and George Heard.

Lyde said she remember the insurance man coming to the house every week to collect 10 cents from Margaret to eventually pay for her funeral.

Lyde said she remembered Margaret as being small and plump, with full lips and wearing glasses. She wore a uniform everyday except Thursday when she went to church. She was very neat, a smart dresser and always had well coifed hair.

The most important of Lyde's recollections was that during those years of the Depression and World War II, Margaret was a safe, warm place to come to.

Margaret was a wonderful cook. Her mashed potatoes were out of this world. On special occasions she made ice cream and baked Alaska for Sunday Dinner.

She ruled the kitchen from a huge gas stove with six burners,

warming oven and broiler. The stove was always kept neat and clean Margaret would blacken it to keep it looking fresh.

Eventually when she retired, Margaret moved into one of her many houses. Lyde said when she visited Margaret, her home looked like a miniature version of her grandmother's home. It was immaculate and tastefully furnished. She also had Lyde's maple bed given to her by the family among other items.

Note: The Editor met Lyde Longaker at Shrinemont, VA, an Episcopal Family Conference in July of 2006.

P.S. I was hoping that Lyde could find a photo of Margaret Rucker to include here.



Editor's Note: I have had great difficulty with my new MAC computer and a new program. Even the MAC geeks could not help. It turned out to be a glitch in the program. Thank you for being patient.