In 1841, Sidney married Elizabeth Mize, daughter of Isaac and Elizabeth Mize. Isaac Mize was a wealthy landowner whose holdings included the well known spa, Estill Springs. The couple had six children, several of whom became prominent in their own right. Their eldest son, Thomas Harris Barnes, left Centre College to become one of the youngest persons ever promoted to the rank of Major in the U S Army. In later life he was appointed Prosecuting Attorney for the Western District of Arkansas by President McKinley.