

[Barnes, Simeon R.]

BARNES, Simeon R—Milford

Simeon R. Barnes was born in the town of Maryland, Otsego County, Aug. 18, 1831, being the son of Phillip and Jane T. Barnes. His father was born June 22, 1798, at Groton, Conn., and emigrated with his father to this county in 1823. Simeon was brought up on his father's farm, and received his early education at the district school, but at the age of nineteen was sent to the New York Conference seminary at Charlotteville, Schoharie county, where he graduated in 1852. The winter following he taught school in Delaware county, but in May, 1853, he commenced the manufacture of sash and blinds at Maryland on a small scale. In the fall of 1855 he took F M. Fox in partnership with him; under the firm-name of Barnes & Fox they continued business at Maryland till April, 1867, when they removed their works to the village of Colliersville, in the town of Milford, erecting a large building, and having as many as fifty men at one time in their employ. They also, in connection with their manufactory, were engaged in the business of carpentering, building, and lumbering, and had a very extensive trade. Mr. Barnes sold his interest in the business to his partner in December, 1874, and since that time has lived a retired life. He was married, Oct. 11, 1853, to Margaret J., daughter of Stephen and Nancy Platt, who were originally from the State of Connecticut, but who emigrated to the town of Maryland in an early day, and were among the first settlers; their daughter was born in that town Dec. 14, 1833. But [only] two children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Barnes, only one of whom is living at the present time. The eldest, Charles P., was born in the town of Maryland, Dec. 4, 1854, and died Jan. 15, 1872; the youngest, Frank Leslie, was born in the same town, Aug. 6, 1858. Mr. Barnes has been a life-long Republican, and has held a number of State and local offices, having been supervisor, from the town of Milford, in 1869; and was appointed by that board, in 1871, as one of a committee of five to superintend and erect the present jail and sheriff's residence, and personally gave his attention towards drafting and completing the building. In 1872 he was appointed by Governor Dix as one of the town commissioners for this county, which office he holds at the present time. In the fall of 1876 he was elected a member of the assembly, in a district strongly Democratic, receiving a majority of one hundred and ten.

He and his wife are both members of the Universalist church, and he has given largely of his means for its support, having in the fall of 1876 built the only church of that denomination in the town, about two miles from Colliersville, on his own responsibility. The church bears the name of the First Universalist church of Colliersville and Maryland, and has a seating capacity of two hundred and fifty. Mr. Barnes erected his present home in the summer of 1868, a view of which, accompanied by the portraits of himself and wife, can be found in another part of this work.

D. Hamilton Hurd, *The History of Otsego County,*
New York 1740-1878 (Philadelphia: Everts & Fariss, 1878)

[Barnes, Simeon R.]

DEATH OF MR. BARNES, FORMER LEGISLATOR

Oneonta, March 1.—Simeon R. Barnes, a prominent resident of this place for nearly 20 years, died at his home, 7 Ford avenue, yesterday forenoon. Mr. Barnes was a native of the town of Maryland. He was born Aug. 28, 1831. His early business career was spent at Colliersville, where for many years, in partnership with F. M. Fox, he was engaged in the lumber business.

Later the partnership was dissolved and Mr. Barnes became a contractor and builder. He built the county buildings at Cooperstown, including the county clerk's office, the courthouse and jail. The Fort Plain Seminary building, the Oneonta State Normal School building and the State Armory at Schenectady were built by Mr. Barnes. He also superintended the building of the Oneonta theater building.

He was Member of Assembly from this district from 1877 to 1879 and was loan commissioner for Otsego county for many years, which office he held at the time of his death. He was a member of the local F. & A. M. Lodge.

Relatives who survive are his wife; one brother, J. P. Barnes of Cooperstown Junction; one sister, Mrs. Julia Murray of Percell, Okla.; a grandson, Merritt S. Barnes of East Meredith. Rev. A. S. Milburn of Chapin [Memorial] Universalist Church will officiate, assisted by Rev. J. C. Russell of the First Presbyterian Church. Burial will be in Cooperstown Junction Cemetery.

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