

Commemorative Biographical Encyclopedia of the Juniata Valley, Comprising the Counties of Huntingdon, Mifflin, Juniata, and Perry, Pennsylvania, J. M. Runk and Company, Publishers 1897

John A. Barns, Ickesburg, Perry County, Pa., was born December 22, 1851, in Ickesburg, son of **Alexander** and **Isabelle (McKinley) Barns**. His ancestors on both sides are descendants of the worthy Scotch settlers whose influence on the history of the State, its manners and its characters, has been so salutary. His grandfather, **Miller Barns**, was born in York County, where he died at the age of fifty-five. His wife survived him, and accompanied her son to Perry County. Their children were: **Alexander**; **Elizabeth (Mrs. John Power)**, deceased; **Catherine (Mrs. Frank Mateer)**, deceased. **Alexander Barns**, the eldest of the family, was born near Delta, in York County. He learned saddlery. After his father's death he came to Perry County, accompanied by his mother and two sisters; they resided first in Landisburg and afterwards in Ickesburg; in both places **Mr. Barns** worked at his trade. After carrying this on for a number of years, he relinquished it for a more active employment, and from 1850 to 1862 he drove a stage between Millerstown and Newport. In 1863, he engaged in hotel business, and continued it for four years; then returned to his trade, and was occupied with that for several years. He was next for some years on the farm with his son **John**, and his last residence was in Ickesburg, where he kept a confectionery store, and was postmaster. **Mr. Barns** was a Democrat, and was elected on the ticket of his party to several township offices. He died January 14, 1886, aged seventy; his wife survived him until 1894; both were excellent people, members of the Reformed Church. Their children are: **Annie**, deceased; **Kate J.**, widow of **Solomon E. Bower**, of Ickesburg; **John A.**; and **Alice**, deceased. **Alexander Barns** had many friends, and was much esteemed.

John A. Barns was a pupil in the common schools of Ickesburg. When, in 1863, his father undertook to keep a hotel in that borough, **John**, as the only son, just coming into his teens, manly, willing and alert, was depended upon for much work about the house.

It is among his boyish recollections that when rebel raids upon Pennsylvania were anticipated, or actually took place, many fugitives from the border counties made their appearance in Ickesburg, and he was kept busily at work attending to their horses. In 1869, **Mr. Barns** purchased the farm upon which he still resides; its extent is 120 acres; he has erected upon it a pleasant dwelling and various farm buildings. Here he was for many years been successfully engaged in agricultural business. He is an active worker in the Democratic Party, and influential, largely on account of his kindly and generous disposition, his intelligence, and the fund of general information that renders his conversation interesting. **John A. Barns** was married in 1878, to **Eunice L.**, daughter of **Washington Hench**, of Liberty Valley, Madison Township. Their children are: **Annie Belle**; **Gurney**, deceased; **Lee**, deceased; **Bessie A.**; **Olive F.**; **Emma A.**; **Lillian May**, deceased; **John Arthur**; **George L.**; and **Charlotte**. **Mr. Barns** is a member of the Reformed Church.

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