

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

**Hon. Josiah L. Barton**, Pleasant View, Juniata County, Pa., was born March 27, 1834, at Waterloo, Juniata County. He is a son of **David** and **Elizabeth (Reed) Barton**, both of Juniata County. His grandfather, **Samuel Barton**, was the first of the family who resided in the Tuscarora Valley. He was a native of Ireland, of Scotch descent, who, desiring to live in a land free from prosecution or persecution on religious grounds, came from County Derry to America, landing in Philadelphia in 1811. His friends wished him to settle in Canada, but he had had enough of British domination in Ireland, and preferred to spend the rest of his life where the English flag does not float. Accordingly, embarking at Queenstown in a sailing vessel, with his wife, six sons and three daughters, he reached America after a rough passage of six weeks.

After spending some time in the Quaker City, he proceeded to Lancaster County, where he purchased a wagon to convey himself and family to their future home among the mountains of Tuscarora Valley. He went as far as Waterford, Juniata County, at that time a part of Mifflin, where he settled in Lack Township, purchasing about 110 acres of land, a part of which was in timber. Here he built a home, and made farming his occupation for life, improving his property in many ways. The family name of his wife, to whom he was married in County Deny, Ireland, was **Perry**. Their children were: **James; John; Robert; David; William; Samuel; Nancy; Eliza; and Mrs. Wilson**. **Mr. Barton** attached himself to the Democratic Party. He was an active member of the Presbyterian Church.

Their son, **David Barton**, received only a subscription school education; he was largely a self-educated man, being a great reader, and thoroughly informed on current topics. He worked on the farm with his father, and also served an apprenticeship at the forge with **James Kirk**, with whom he remained for five years. He then began on his own account at McCoysville, Pa., where he remained for several years. He next followed his trade for eleven years at Spring Run, Franklin County, Pa. In 1846, he returned to the Tuscarora Valley, purchasing 100 acres of land near East Waterford, on which he erected suitable buildings, and here carried on blacksmithing, together with the culture of his farm, until the time of his death, which occurred in 1880. Like his father, **David Barton** was a Democrat, and held various township offices, including that of school director. He married **Elizabeth**, daughter of **Samuel Reed**, a farmer of Perry County; she was born in Cumberland County. Their children were: **Robert**, deceased; **Mary (Mrs. David Dean)**, both are deceased; **Samuel**, deceased; **Calvin**, died young; Judge **Josiah L.**; **David**, a farmer of Spruce Hill Township; **Eliza J.**; and **Sarah (Mrs. C. M. Brackhill)**, of Spruce Hill Township. **David Barton** was an active and esteemed member of the East Waterford Presbyterian Church. He was deeply versed in biblical history; by constant study of the Bible, which he read through every year, he had committed the greater part of it to memory. His widow survived him three years, dying in 1883, in Spruce Hill Township.

In his boyhood, **Josiah L. Barton** had no educational opportunities except those afforded by the short winter terms of the township public schools. Desiring a more thorough education, he attended the Tuscarora Academy for two terms, at the age of twenty three, at his own volition. He also taught for three years in Tuscarora Township, working during the intervals with his

father on the farm and in the blacksmith shop, where he received a general idea of the trade which has been of much subsequent use.

The military record of **Josiah L. Barton** during the war of the Rebellion was honorable, and somewhat remarkable. He enlisted, September 7, 1861, as a private, in Capt. Calvin DeWitt's Company I, of the celebrated Forty-ninth Pennsylvania Volunteers, under the command of Col. W. H. Irwin. The regiment was assigned to Hancock's brigade, of "Baldy" Smith's division, Sixth Army Corps. On November 24, 1861, **Mr. Barton** was detailed to assist in the regimental commissary department. September 30, 1862, he was promoted to the position of quartermaster sergeant of the regiment. On March 10, 1864, he was discharged as a non-commissioned Officer, and commissioned as first lieutenant of Company F. As such he entered the bloody spring campaign, when Grant conducted his mighty army on its advance toward the capital of the Confederacy. He passed safe through the battle of the Wilderness; but at Spottsylvania Court House, May 10, 1864, he was wounded in the right shoulder, and taken prisoner. The treatment he received while in the hands of the enemy was of a most cruel character. He was taken first to Macon, Ga.; then successively to Savannah, Ga., Charleston, S. C, Columbia, S. C, and Raleigh, N. C. He was finally exchanged at Wilmington, N. C, March 1, 1865, having been a prisoner of war for nearly ten months, and in the service for almost three and one-half years. On March 31, 1865, he was commissioned as captain of Company H, Forty-ninth Pennsylvania Volunteers, his commission dating back to November 9, 1864; but the war ending a few days after, he was never mustered.

**Lieutenant Barton** is one of the few who have had an opportunity to read their own obituaries and the panegyrics of friends at their supposed demise. When he was seen to fall at Spottsylvania Court House, he was reported as dead in the dispatches from that field; and as such he was for months mourned by his comrades of the Forty-ninth, as well as by his family and friends at home. A short time after the bloody battle of Spottsylvania, in which the Forty-ninth lost its colonel, lieutenant-colonel, and other brave officers, a meeting of the surviving officers of the regiment was held in a rifle-pit near Cold Harbor, Va., to adopt suitable expressions of condolence, recognizing the valor and worth of their deceased brother officers. The part of the resolutions referring to the supposed death of **Lieutenant Barton** was as follows: "In the death of Lieut. **Josiah L. Barton** we have lost a most valuable officer, a man whose memory will be held in honor by every soldier in this regiment, because of his unassuming and gentlemanly deportment, his quiet, but real courage, his consistent and Christian character, illustrated by the purity of his life and the refinement of his conversation. To those at home to whom his loss is that of a brother and son, we offer our sincere sympathy, together with the assurance that their loved one left no stain on his name as a soldier, a Christian or a man." This minute was signed by the president and secretary of the meeting, and duly published.

Returning home from the army, **Mr. Barton** embarked in a general mercantile business at Pleasant View, Spruce Hill Township, in which he succeeded Judge **Morrison**. This business, which has been continued for thirty two years, has been a success. He has also during this time managed a farm in Spruce Hill Township, which he has greatly improved. In 1870, **Mr. Barton** was appointed postmaster at Pleasant View, which position he has held ever since, under all the changes of national administration, to the satisfaction of the entire community. **Mr. Barton** is a member of Wilson Post, No. 134, G. A. R., of Mifflintown, Pa., and of the U. V. L., No.37, of

the same place. He was for one term a school director in Spruce Hill Township, during which time he was secretary of the board. In early manhood, he voted the Democratic ticket, but the events of the Civil war converted him into a Republican. He has been affiliated with that party ever since, and is very influential in its counsels. Devoted to business, in which he has attained to eminent success by means of scrupulous integrity, business tact and genial manner; retiring and averse to prominence, **Mr. Barton** has always shunned the official positions which, for years, his political associates desired to thrust upon him. He might have represented his county in the legislature long ago had he consented to accept a nomination; but he modestly preferred the quiet and conscientious discharge of his duty as a private citizen. In 1891, however, in spite of his protests, he received the nomination for associate judge of Juniata County, to which office he was triumphantly elected in November of that year by a majority of one hundred and ten, while the average majority of the Democratic State ticket at the same election was over one hundred. In fulfilling the duties of his office, **Judge Barton** has fully justified the hopes and anticipations of his friends, and he is regarded as one of the most efficient incumbents of the judicial bench ever elected in the county.

**Josiah L. Barton** was married in Beale Township, September 28, 1865, to Temperance, daughter of **Elias** and **Isabella (Taylor) Gruver**, of Tuscarora Township. Their children are: **Clara B.**, widow of **Crawford Okeson**; **Elizabeth G.**; **Ida M.**, a graduate of Wilson College, Chambersburg, Pa., now principal of the St. Paul Academy, in East Tennessee; **Theresa A.**, a teacher in the St. Paul Academy; **J. Frank**, a clerk in his father's store; **Harry H.**, a student; **May T.**, a student at Wilson College; and **Irene**, who died in infancy. The eldest daughter, **Mrs. Okeson**, is now a teacher; she has one child. **Judge Barton** is a prominent and consistent member of the Presbyterian Church, in which he has been an elder for twenty-four years. He has also been both teacher and superintendent in the Sunday School.

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