

**BIOGRAPHY OF NATHAN
BARNERT, HIS CHARACTER AND
ACHIEVEMENTS: INCLUDING
HISTORIES OF LOCAL
INSTITUTIONS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649074358

Biography of Nathan Barnert, His Character and Achievements: Including Histories of Local Institutions by Michael T. Baum

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MICHAEL T. BAUM

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BIOGRAPHY OF
NATHAN BARNERT

HIS CHARACTER AND ACHIEVEMENTS

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BY

MICHAEL T. BAUM

Published at the suggestion of the Board of Managers of the Miriam
Barnert Memorial Hebrew Free School in order to awaken
an interest in the institutions founded by
Paterson's First Citizen.

The Worlds in which we live are two,
The world "I am" and the world "I do".
The Worlds in which we live at heart are one,
The world "I am", and the fruit of "I have done";
And underneath these worlds of flower and fruit,
The world "I love"—the only living root.
—Van Dyke.

NEW PRINTING COMPANY
PATERSON, N. J.
1914.

NEW YORK
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

1914
APR 27

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FOREWORD.

One seldom picks up a paper that one does not read a few lines of those who have passed away to the mysterious beyond. All the virtues possessed, and some of which the public never heard, are there strung as beads upon a ribbon for the reading, and even if the subject is a difficult one, the facile pen of the eulogist finds some chance to make known the loveliness, the efficiency, the gentleness or the generosity of the person under discussion. Which is as it should be. If we can say no good of the departed, say nothing, is a legend inscribed upon the laws of writer folks early in their career. But personally, the writer never reads one of these sketches; sees one of these eulogies, that the thought does not pass his mind, "I wonder how many or how few of those nice things were ever told to the persons when living? Did they know, I wonder that people thought them gentle, or found them to be kind?" There you have the writer's prayer in a nutshell. Why keep the good things until they can do no good to the person who would have appreciated them?

We know generally when a man is doing good work, or a woman making life sweeter and better for those about her, and we realize without being told that they are putting up a hard fight, or giving up much joy for themselves to serve those about them. But yet, we hesitate, and neglect to tell them so, and they work along almost until the end comes, and then, on the blank white paper, we spread for others the thoughts we should have enjoyed to speak to them alone; the commendation of their many virtues.

From the child who mows the lawn and carries out the waste barrels to the man and woman who spends a lifetime in

trying for some high goal, the human soul craves not adulation, but appreciation; and the simple phrase of understanding said at the right moment can do incalculable good. We are so ready with criticism and blame, of suggestion, and of inference, and so chary of our well doings, that it is necessary we should have the truth thrust upon us, that a bit of humane understanding carries us further along the line of living, than is realized until we stop and think seriously. When we do well, we like to be told of it—every one of us—so why then withhold the word of appreciation from our fellows, when they surely deserve it and when the speaking or writing of it is not only easy but natural?

In this appreciation of our most useful citizen, the Honorable Nathan Barnert, the writer has endeavored to extol his works with sincere words of admiration, but has oftentimes, felt impotent to give just due to his admirable qualities. Ever heeding that Biblical injunction—"To Err Is Human To Forgive Is Divine,"—a phrase which Mr. Barnert has been practicing daily,—the writer has refrained from dealing in personalities in narrating the political activities of Mr. Barnert. This was a duty, which although difficult, was gladly performed, for it must be remembered that many of the incidents related were happenings within the ken of many and there are generations living today, whose feelings must be respected. This, also has been the earnest wish of Mr. Barnert.

Mr. Barnert's earlier activities were many and varied and his experiences of a nature which have fallen to few of us. In the best sense, he is a self-made man. No distinction of his successful life is more characteristic of the man than the fact that his success is being shared in by the community. He is endowed with a genial nature, a keen sense of the beautiful in art, of strong moral and religious convictions, far sighted and capable, a man whose success inspires emulation. His sturdy optimism, his unremitting devotion to his fellow man, his broad

philanthropy, are well known to us all. The happiness of others is dearer to him than his own, for the cardinal principles of his creed are sympathy and kindness; loving to do good and seeking opportunities to accomplish it. Amid the common current of men and affairs, in the daily grind of life, it is a blessing to have such a noble nature amongst us. And in Mr. Barnert's character and in his conduct, Paterson receives honor and praises among men.

The foundation stone of culture, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" was laid by his people and finds expression in the every day acts of Nathan Barnert. He has ever remembered that command "Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thine brethren and shalt surely lend sufficient for his need that which he wanteth."

He is so gentle, so upright in nature, so simple and so unaffected in bearing a rude exterior covering an undaunted spirit proving by his every act and word that—

"The bravest are the tenderest—
The loving are the daring."

I wish to express my profound gratitude to Mr. Arnold Levy, Mr. David Cohn, and all others who have given me valuable aid in compiling this biography, and in the gathering of statistics, without which the writing of the histories of the various institutions herein touched upon, would not have been as complete as was desired.

THE AUTHOR.

Paterson, N. J., Dec. 24, 1914.

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