

JAMES JETHRO BARNES, present sheriff of Fulton county, Ga., was born in Fayette county (now known as Clayton) on April 10, 1840. He resided in this locality until nineteen years old, attending school in the adjoining town of Jonesboro. In 1859 he accompanied his parents to Bowdon, Ga., and there entered Bowdon college. In June, 1861, he left the recitation room for the camp and bivouac. At the first approach of war he enlisted as a private in Cobb's legion and served as such in that command throughout the conflict. At South Mountain, Md., Mr. Barnes received a painful gun-shot wound, being shot through the left knee and was captured and held prisoner for three months. On recovering he immediately rejoined the army, but after an examination the leading surgeons pronounced him totally unfit for field service and he was given light duties in a hospital at Richmond, Va. This indolent, inactive, routine life proved of great annoyance to his restless, patriotic spirit. He refused to stay, and eluding the vigilant watch of those in charge availed himself of a favorable opportunity and made his escape, and by much exertion reached his command about one week before the battle of Gettysburg, in which he participated. He then destroyed the discharge he had received before this battle, which granted a furlough on the grounds of physical disability, because of his reluctance to leave the army, and remained with his company until the same was captured at the close of the last campaign. At Cold Harbor, Drewry's Bluff, Petersburg and in many other minor engagements Mr. Barnes conducted himself in a fearless, daring manner that elicited the praise of his comrades. When the surrender betokened peace and union, he was furnished transportation from Newport News to Savannah, and walked from there to Waynesboro, Ga., and there received additional transportation to Augusta, Ga., and on to Atlanta. From this city he returned to Carroll county and found his father bankrupt, having lost everything. Thinking a more encouraging business outlook could be found in Atlanta he came back and worked three months for his board alone, and afterwards secured a position with Peter Lynch, who kept then, as now, a general store at 95 Whitehall street, at seventy-five dollars per month. He worked in this establishment for nine months, and on leaving Mr. Lynch entered into partnership with W. M. Middlebrook, the style of the firm being Middlebrook & Barnes, which continued through the year 1872. Early in 1873 he went into the wholesale produce and commission business. This is still operating in his name. In 1879 Mr. Barnes was elected to the city council and served two years as representative of the First ward. In 1891 he was made deputy sheriff under J. W. Morrow, and during 1893 was placed in the office of sheriff, and re-elected in the fall of 1894. Mr. Barnes was married in 1868 to Miss Cornelia V., daughter of John T. Hall of Atlanta. They have a pleasant family, consisting of three sons and one daughter, as follows: William H., Mary H., James J., Jr., and John S. Mr. Barnes is a member of the I. O. O. F. and the encampment. He belongs to the camp of United Confederate Veterans of Fulton county and rejoices in a reunion where, with friends and old messmates, he recounts the glories and hardships and humor of camp-life. Mr. Barnes is a sturdy supporter of right and honor, and believes that only useful, capable and honest men should hold public office.