

## Biography:

**George Munns Barton** came to Canada with his family in 1831, settling in York (Toronto) Canada West, where his father, King Barton, became associated 'with a number of reformers' including Robert Baldwin, Marshall Bidwell, Spring William Morrison, and William Lyon Mackenzie. Barton's early education was private, but later in Toronto he studied at the Mechanics' Institute. In Toronto as a student-at-law, he lectured at the Athenaeum Debating Society, in history and other subjects, and was a member of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Society.

In 1849 Barton, aged twenty, left Toronto and settled in Dundas, taking charge of the law office of William Notman, QC. The firm grew to be one of the largest in the region. By 1853, Barton became a solicitor and a full partner. He joined Dundas town council in 1855, serving that year as Mayor, and later as a councillor. Barton refused nominations as coalition candidate for Wentworth North. For a time he was connected to the prosperous woollen factory of Dundas. In 1859, Barton was called to the bar and opened a branch chancery office in Toronto while continuing to practise in Dundas.

Moving his office to Hamilton in 1881, he maintained his residence in Dundas. He lived first on Quay north of Victoria Street and east of Albert Street. It later served as a hospital before being torn down. Barton has studying under him Britten Bath Osler, O.M. Mackenzie, and A.R. Wardell. His political friends offered him several positions of note including the judgeship of Wentworth County, but again he declined, citing business pressures.

Barton was elected a trustee of the Hamilton Law Association for seven years. He also was a founder of the Wentworth Pioneer and Historical Society (later the Wentworth Historical Society) and a member of the Hamilton Association for the Advancement of Science, Literature, and Art. Barton died at his home at 315 Herkimer Street, Hamilton. The funeral was conducted in Dundas.

Source: "Barton, G. M.," *Dictionary of Hamilton Biography, Volume II (1876-1924)* pg 10.