

A Calendar of the Papers of
LIBEUS BARNEY (1829-1899)

A Holding of the
Library of the State Historical Society of Colorado

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University of Denver
Institute of Archival Studies

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Foreword.....	3
Biography of Libeus Barney, 1829-1899.....	4-5
Calendar.....	6
Index.....	7

FOREWORD

Libeus Barney was one of the first settlers of Colorado. After trying his hand at gold mining, farming and the grocery business, he finally made his way in real estate. He was the builder and manager of the People's Theater. Prominent and prosperous in civic and mercantile life, Barney held an important place in the history of Denver.

There are ten items in this calendar, which consist primarily of deeds of the Barney brothers: Libeus, Bishop A. and James H. One item is a tax schedule, a good reflection of the prosperity of these men. The last item is the wedding certificate of Libeus Barney and Marilla Kendall. Unfortunately, these are the only papers of and related to this important pioneer citizen of Denver that are in the hands of the State Historical Society of Colorado.

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BIOGRAPHY OF LIBEUS BARNEY, 1829-1899

b.	8-13-1829	Bennington, Vermont
d.	3-18-1899	New York, New York
m.	11-25-1872	Marilla E. Kendall

Children: Bishop F.
John M.
Clinton
C..R.F.
Mrs. E.C. Barth

Libeus Barney was a native of Vermont who had worked in a New York dry goods store as a clerk before setting out for Denver.

He arrived in Denver on the first stagecoach of the Leavenworth and Pikes Peak Express on May 7, 1859. By the end of that first summer, he and one of his brothers had built one of the first frame houses in Denver.

In August 1859, he built Apollo Hall, later known as the People's Theater. He also managed this first theater of the Cherry Creek area. It was in this building also that the first provisional legislature of Colorado was held.

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Barney had little luck as a prospector. He farmed for a year, four miles down the Platte, near the present site of the Denver Riverside Cemetery. He then busied himself with the grocery business for a while.

He finally achieved success in the real estate business. He spent his time building and improving his property. At the time of his death, he left behind many valuable holdings in Denver.

Barney was not totally devoted to his business, however. He was an active member of the Chamber of Commerce and the Denver Athletic Club. He was also a student and a man of leisure. His prime intellectual interest was the study of Shakespeare. He had always had literary leanings, which were reflected in his study of poetry and his enjoyment of the theater.

Barney returned to New York shortly before his death, which occurred on March 18 1899 as the result of a paralysis that terminated in heart failure.

Libeus Barney was a much respected man. His geniality, modesty and retiring personality won for him the admiration and lasting friendship of numerous people.

CALENDAR

FF	NO.	ITEM	PARTIES INVOLVED	PLACE	DATE	FORM	DESCRIPTION
1	1	Indenture (Deed)	Daniel Knight & Bishop A. Barney	[Denver]	9-19-1859	DS	Knight transfers two Denver lots (including all buildings and appurtenances thereunto) to Barney. Notarized by Wm. Larimer, Jr., Mountain Co., Kansas Territory.
1	2	Indenture (Deed)	William Morrison & Bishop A. Barney	[Denver]	9-19-1859	DS	Morrison sells Barney a block of Denver property (including all buildings and appurtenances thereunto). Notarized by Larimer.
1	3	Deed	Joel Gottlieb & Bishop A. Barney Libeus Barney & James H. Barney	[Denver]	4-30-1860	DS	Gottlieb sells the Barneys some Denver lots. Notarized by A. Jacobs, Arapahoe Co., Kansas Territory.
1	4	Tax schedule of Real and Personal Property	B.A. Barney L. Barney J.H. Barney	[Denver]	6-----1863	D	Lists the lots and property of the Barneys.
1	5	Indenture	James Hall (Probate Judge) & Bishop A. Barney & Libeus Barney	[Denver]	8-11-1865	DS	Hall turns over federal land grants to the Barneys. Notarized by Omer O. Kent, Arapahoe County, Colorado Territory.
1	6	Indenture	James Hall & Bishop A. Barney, Libeus Barney & James H. Barney	[Denver]	8-11-1865	DS	Hall turns over federal land grants to the Barneys. Notarized by Kent.

1	7	Quit-Claim Deed	Amos Steck & Libeus Barney	[Denver]	12-12-1865	DS	Steck sells ten lots in Denver to Barney. Notarized by Charles G. Cheever, Arapahoe County, Colorado Territory
1	8	Indenture (Warranty Deed)	Jacob Downing (Probate Judge) & Libeus Barney	[Denver]	5-12-1868	DS	Downing turns over federal land grants to Barney. Notarized by L.B. France, Arapahoe County, Colorado Territory.
1	9	Indenture (Deed)	James H. Barney & Libeus Barney	Douglas County, Nebraska	9-6-1869	DS	J.H. Barney of Douglas County, Nebraska, acting as legatee of the estate of Bishop A. Barney, deceased, transfers to Libeus Barney some property of the deceased (including all hereditaments and appurtenances). Witnessed with seal by George Armstrong, Clerk of the Second District, Douglas County, Nebraska on 9-9-1869.
1	10	Certificate of Marriage	Libeus Barney & Marilla E. Kendall	Denver	11-25-1872		At the First Presbyterian Church, Edward P. Wells, Pastor. Witnesses: Mrs. Edward P. Wells and Miss S. Emma Doughtey.

INDEX

Armstrong, George, item 9
 Barney, Miss (Daughter of Libeus),
 See "Barth, Mrs. E.C."
 Barney, Bishop A., page 3, items
 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9
 Barney, Bishop F., page 4
 Barney, C.R.F., page 4
 Barney, Clinton, page 4
 Barney, H.B., item 9
 Barney, James H., page 3
 Items 3, 4, 6, 9
 Barney, John M., page 3
 Barney, Libeus, pp. 3, 4, 5, items
 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
 Barney, Mrs. Libeus, see
 Kendall Marilla
 Barth, Mrs. E.C., page 4

Cheever, Charles G., item 7
 Doughtey, S. Emma, item 10
 Downing, Jacob, item 8
 France, L.B., item 8
 Gottlieb, Joel, item 3
 Hall, James, items 5, 6
 Jacobs, A., item 3
 Kendall, Marilla E., pages 3, 4, item 10
 Kent, Omer E., items 5, 6
 Knight, Daniel, item 1
 Larimer, William, Jr., items 1, 2
 Morrison, William, item 2
 Seymour, E.S., item 9
 Steck, Amos, item 7
 Wells, Edward P., item 10
 Wells, Mrs. Edward p. item 10