



BARLOW of BARLOW



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Howard Barlow (1892-1972) -- Radio Pioneer

by James A. Pegolotti

Howard Barlow was truly a radio pioneer. He was music director of CBS for its first sixteen years (1927-1943), then moved to NBC to become conductor of the long-running *Voice of Firestone*. He was born May 1, 1892 in Plain City, Ohio a few miles northwest of Columbus. His great-grandfather John Barlow left Ridgefield, Connecticut "in about 1802" arriving in Ohio via New York State by 1820. The family farmed the Darby Plain area as well as began wood-working businesses. When the family's Plain City furniture factory burned down in 1893, Barlow's family moved first to Urbana, Ohio (where a brick furniture factory was built), then to Mount Carmel, Illinois (where Howard spent his formative years and another family furniture factory burned to the ground), then to Denver, Colorado (where he completed high school and received his only lesson in conducting from Wilbeorce Whiteman, father of Paul Whiteman) and finally to Portland, Oregon in 1912 where he and his sister Ruth entered newly-opened Reed College. In Ohio and Illinois, he had had formal

music lessons on the piano, but taught himself the cello, the trumpet and almost every other instrument and sang in a quartet. Reed had no music program, so he founded the glee club and became its conductor. He majored in English literature but failed his senior orals and was not allowed to graduate. Since he had won a scholarship to Columbia University to study music, Reed's president agreed to allow Barlow to complete his English degree at Columbia. In 1915 he arrived in New York City and commenced his music studies at Columbia while simultaneously completing his literature degree for Reed College.

Fortunately for Barlow, who wanted to conduct, the New York City area abounded in choral groups always seeking new and energetic conductors. Barlow conducted two or three of these at a time. In 1917, when The Great War called young men to action, Barlow found he could both conduct and still serve his country through the Fosdick Commission whose purpose it was to provide uplifting activities, such as

Howard Barlow (1892-1972) -- Radio Pioneer (continued)

singing, for soldiers in new training camps. He was assigned to be music director at Camp Greene in Charlotte, North Carolina, but his days there were cut short when he was sent to France and the war itself. His unusual abilities were recognized (he taught himself French) and he became part of the Army's Division of Criminal Investigation.

When the war ended, Barlow returned to New York and found opportunities to conduct both choral groups and orchestras. There he met Arthur Judson who was becoming the most important manager of concert artists and conductors in the United States. "We hit it off immediately," "and from that time on he served as my manager without contract", Barlow states in his oral history. The many contacts he had made became springboards to many unusual ventures for him in the early 1920s, among which was the American National Orchestra. A concern for "America first" emerged after World War I. Later it would be equated with isolationism, but at the beginning it was an innocent call to serve Americans first. This was a natural in the musical world as orchestras then were filled with European-born musicians. In 1923, Barlow founded the American National Orchestra, an orchestra employing only American-born musicians. For two years, Barlow's society connections (many from his days as a chorus conductor) supplied money for the orchestra. Reviews were good, but Barlow recalls how the orchestra died: "Deems Taylor came out with a long Sunday article about the American National Orchestra, saying it was just what the American people needed, that it was a second-rate orchestra...but there were enough first-rate orchestras in the country; what they needed were more second-rate orchestras such as

ours. Well, that was an atomic bomb in the Board of Directors...they decided that they would disband." Barlow then spent several years as music director of Neighborhood Playhouse, a well-known theater for unusual productions in New York City.

In 1927, Arthur Judson and several other entrepreneurs initiated the Columbia Broadcasting System to challenge the existing National Broadcasting System. Judson selected Barlow to be the new network's music director of serious music and Barlow conducted an orchestral concert as the first broadcast of the Columbia system on Sunday, September 18, 1927. The world of radio fit his talents completely--flexible, efficient and gifted in arranging music (an essential talent for early radio). Many important programs in early radio bore Barlow's musical stamp. For example, in 1931 the March of Time began and would remain one of the most listened-to programs of the 1930s. Part-documentary/part dramatization, the program of newsworthy stories had an intensity and reality greatly aided by Barlow's atmospheric musical transitions for news stories that changed from China to Italy, from tragedy to humorous episode. The show was always live and Barlow conducted the orchestra.

Barlow became recognized as a firm supporter of American music. In 1936 CBS commissioned works by six American composers specifically for radio performances to be conducted. The performances of the works by such composers as Aaron Copland and William Grant Still (the Still work "Lenox Avenue" is now available in the original Barlow broadcast on compact disc) attracted national attention. In addition to the CBS commissions, in 1938 Barlow invited

Howard Barlow (1892-1972) -- Radio Pioneer (continued)

young composers to send compositions directly to him. Compositions found worthy would be part of the summer orchestra series that Barlow conducted. Several composers were provided a national audience for their works as a result.

Barlow aspired to be appointed conductor of a major orchestra. Arthur Judson had the power of placement of conductors with major orchestras and gave Barlow guest conducting stints with such orchestras as the Chicago Symphony and the New York Philharmonic. Reviews were usually laudatory, but the American public continued to bow before foreign-born maestros. "Too bad my name isn't Barlowski", Barlow once told his nephew. Judson did help Barlow gain appointment as conductor of the Baltimore Symphony in 1940. (CBS provided some release time for this). Supported by the City of Baltimore as a municipal orchestra, the Symphony had managerial and union problems and in 1942 in the middle of his third successful season, the orchestra folded. (It would be reorganized in a year).

In 1943, Barlow resigned from Columbia Broadcasting and accepted the conductorship of the foremost weekly radio show of classical/semi-classical music, the Voice of Firestone on NBC. In so doing, he took over a long-standing musical tradition on radio for the program had commenced in 1928. From its inception, the Voice of Firestone always emphasized the human voice in song along with musical selections by an orchestra of top professionals. Most great opera singers appeared on the program beginning the program with the well-known theme "If I Could Tell You", a song composed by Idabelle Firestone, wife of the company's founder. The program was the mainstay of Monday night programming

on NBC (later on ABC) for many years. The Firestone family appreciated Barlow for his Ohio roots (the company was based in Akron) and love of American music.

In 1950, Barlow guided the program from radio (where it played until 1957) into its cross-over to television, the first good music program to present its soloists in staged settings for their songs. However, the television public, as the 1950s moved along, lost interest in serious music and ratings for the Voice of Firestone began to fall. Attempts by the producers of the Firestone program to bring a variety of popular entertainers onto the program to save its falling ratings didn't succeed. Barlow did not stay around until 1963 to see the death throes of the once proud program; he left in 1959. (Barlow may be seen on many of the commercially available videotapes of telecasts of the Voice of Firestone presented by Video Artists International)

The 1960s were difficult years for Howard Barlow. After thirty-two years, he no longer was a conductor on radio. He decried the business of music, of payola, of the loss of the sense of good music among the American public. For the last part of his life he turned to helping young musicians, appearing as guest conductor for honor orchestras of talented high school musicians.

He and his wife of thirty-nine years moved in 1965 from their spacious home in Westchester (New York) County to a modest home twenty miles away in Bethel, Ct. Fiscal difficulties were upon them after a life which had been full, though childless. He had earned much money. As the first music director for Columbia Broadcasting, Barlow had asked for and got \$15,000/year. Not

Howard Barlow (1872-1972) (cont'd)

bad for 1927. He once told the Dean of Julliard School: "I may not be the best, but I'm sure expensive". His wife and he enjoyed spending money, but good health was lacking; they suffered many illnesses and in those years there were no health benefits.

When he died January 31, 1972, only a dozen people attended the funeral services in Danbury, Ct. (the town next to Bethel) including a neighbor who was an Episcopal priest and spoke kind words about this talented man relating that even the great conductor Arturo Toscanani, in the inscription on a photo of himself given to Barlow, had indicated his admiration for the accomplishments of this American-born conductor.

Note: Howard Barlow's Oral History is part of the Radio Pioneer Collection at Columbia University. He was interviewed in 1951.

Editors Note: James A. Pegolotti, Librarian at Western Connecticut State University, Danbury, Connecticut, has written extensively about Howard Barlow. This article was prepared for Barlow of Barlow on March 29, 1994, and Mr. Pegolotti's efforts are appreciated very much.

Howard Barlow was born on May 1, 1892, at Plain City, Madison County, Ohio. His parents were Earl W. Barlow and Nettie Dunham, and he was a tenth generation descendent of John Barlow of Fairfield, Connecticut (Howard¹⁰, Earl W.⁹, Edmond W.⁸, Edmund W.⁷, John⁶, Jabez⁵, Samuel⁴, John³, John², John¹).

Howard Barlow married Jeannette Thomas on December 12, 1926, and they had no children. He died on January 31, 1972, at Danbury, Connecticut.

THE OXFORD DICTIONARY OF SAINTS

BARLOW, Ambrose (Edward) (1585-1641), Benedictine monk and martyr. Born, the son of Sir Alexander Barlow, at Barlow Hall (Lancs.) in 1585, Barlow conformed to the Church of England for some years but returned to the Roman Catholic Church in 1607 and entered the English College, Douai. He was imprisoned for unknown causes in England for a few months in 1613; on his release he became a Benedictine monk at St. Gregory's, Douai, was professed in 1614, and ordained priest in 1617. He then returned to England and worked near Manchester and Liverpool for 24 years. His principal base was Morleys Hall, near Leigh. Distinguished for his love of the poor, his wit and kindness, he is described in a contemporary work which chronicled his long and fruitful apostolate as the man 'most likely to represent the spirit of Sir Thomas More'. Four times he was imprisoned and four times released, but at last in 1641 he was arrested at Leigh while preaching, imprisoned in Lancaster castle, and tried. Shortly before, Charles I under extreme pressure had ordered all priests to leave the realm or incur the penalties of traitors. Barlow admitted that he was a priest, but said that the decree specified 'Jesuits and seminary priests', whereas he was neither, but a Benedictine monk; in any case, having just suffered a stroke, he was too ill to travel. He was then offered release in exchange for a promise not to 'seduce any more people'. He answered: 'I am no seducer, but a reducer of the people to the true and ancient religion... I will continue until death to render this good office to these strayed souls.' He was hanged, drawn, and quartered at Lancaster on 10 September. His skull is preserved at Wardley Hall (Lancs.) and his hand at Stanbrook Abbey (Worcester). He was canonized by Paul VI in 1970 as one of the 'Forty Martyrs of England and Wales'. Feast: 25 October.

The Apostolical Life of Ambrose Barlow (ed. W. E. Rhodes, Chetham Miscellanies, ii (1909), Chetham Society, vol. lviii); R. Challoner, *Memoirs of Missionary Priest* (ed. J. H. Pollen 1924), pp. 392-400; B. Camm, *Nine Martyr Monks* (1931); J. Stonor, *Ambrose Barlow* (pamphlet 1941); B.T.A., iii, 535-7; N.C.E., ii, 101

Bobbie Dunbar wrote and gave her BARLOW line (see also related query on page 134 of this issue). She suggested that it could be shortened but I thought that it was too interesting to shorten. I did rearrange it a bit and I hope she won't mind my doing this.

John M. Barlow, c. 1832 - 1910

John M. BARLOW was born about 1832 in the New Mexico Territory. He, his wife Ann Eliza GREEN (a Shawnee) and their three daughters were living with the Shawnee Indians in Johnson County, Kansas, in 1857 when they were each allotted 200 acres of land under the provisions of the Peace Treaty of 1848. Ann Eliza GREEN, a Shawnee, was born about 1831. Their children were:

- i. Martha BARLOW was born in 1852. She died in 1885 in Johnson County, Kansas. She married Toby LYNCH and their children were: Susan LYNCH, born in 1879, and Emma LYNCH, born in 1880.
- ii. Phoebe BARLOW was born in 1856 and died in 1877.
- iii. Nancy BARLOW was born in 1857. She married a Mr. BALDRIDGE.

Ann Eliza (GREEN) BARLOW died sometime before the Civil War, that is, before 1862, and John M. BARLOW married Lydia KEEN (or KING) in 1866 in Johnson County, Kansas, according to a deposition that he gave in 1900. She was born around 1846 in Kansas and was a Shawnee. Their children were:

- iv. Julia BARLOW was born in 1867 in Kansas. She died on August 29, 1889, in Oklahoma. She married Dr. DAVIS and their children were: Monday BARLOW, born in 1882 in Oklahoma; Julia DAVIS, born in 1883 and died in 1889, both in Oklahoma; and Amanda DAVIS.
- v. Julius BARLOW was born on June 12, 1870, in Kansas. He died on November 8, 1938, at Skiatook, Oklahoma. He married Flora Belle METZGER on March 30, 1897. She was born in November 1875 in Kansas and died in April 1962 in Oklahoma. Their children were: Maggie BARLOW, born in December 1898 and died in June 1982, both in Oklahoma; Clarence BARLOW, born in June 1902 and died in May 1976, both in Oklahoma; Robert BARLOW, born in October 1904 in Oklahoma, is Bobbie Dunbar's father and is living in Colorado; and Ola BARLOW, born in May 1907 in Oklahoma and died in July 1990.

The Shawnee Tribe was moved to Oklahoma in 1870 and the BARLOW family settled on the Grand River in what is now Craig County, Oklahoma. John M. BARLOW and Lydia (KEEN) BARLOW were divorced in 1882. John remained in Oklahoma with his children and Lydia moved to Kansas where she married second Jack BUFFINGTON on April 24, 1882.

John M. BARLOW married third Minta BEN, a Cherokee, in 1885. She was born about 1833 and they had no known children. In 1896 John was appointed Guardian for his grandchildren, Emma and Susan LYNCH, Julia and Amanda DAVIS, and Monday BARLOW. John M. BARLOW died in 1910 in Vinita, Craig County, Oklahoma, and was buried in the Barlow Graveyard there. The graves in this cemetery were later moved to Ketchum, Oklahoma, by the Grand River Dam Authority to make way for the Pensacola Reservoir.

QUERIES

Queries are free and welcome from all, subscribers and library readers alike. If you answer a query directly, it would be appreciated if you would send a copy of your answer to this newsletter so that we may publish it for the benefit of all.

Nancy BARLOW, daughter of Wyatt "Captain" BARLOW (twin of William) and Susanna HAMMOND, was born ca. 1787, possibly in Rochester, MA, and married Reuben COOLEY of Hawley, MA, 02 Dec 1807 in Hardwick, Worcester Co., MA. Four children, Laura, Alvord, Lyman, and Orpah were born in Hawley. Orpah (sister of Reuben COOLEY) married Stephen PIXLEY ca. 1804, and their children, Orrilla, Alvin Cooley, Lorenzo, Stephen, and Sumner were born in Hawley. Stephen PIXLEY, Alvin COOLEY, and Reuben COOLEY with their families removed to Richfield, Medina Co. (later Summit Co.), OH, ca. 1817. By 1830 Nancy was the head of a household of 10 people in Hinckley, Medina Co., OH. I have no knowledge of Nancy after 1830, but in 1840 in the household of Julius and Laura (COOLEY) JOHNSON of Hudson, Summit Co., OH, there is one older female who may have been Nancy. It seems likely that Reuben and Nancy were divorced. Between 1854 and 1857 in Hinckley, OH, there are some land transfers involving Reuben COOLEY and wife Mary C., Alexander Hulbert (first husband of Orpah COOLEY), Orpah and Thomas Bates (second husband).

I would appreciate information relative to any of the above people or their descendants.

Thelma J. Beebe, 5648 S. Foresthill St., Littleton, CO 80120-1344

Is there a connection between David BARLOW and Elisha BARLOW? David received 1280 acre land grant in Falls and Bell Counties, Texas, for his service in the Texas War for Independence, in 1837. His estate was probated March 17, 1857, in Franklin County, Vermont. Elisha BARLOW from Pulaski County, Georgia, settled on part of this grant in early 1880's. Will exchange information.

Also seeking information on William BARLOW who received land in Washington County, Georgia, in the 1807 lottery. His orphans received land in Houston County, Georgia, in the 1821 lottery. His wife was Edy/Eady/Edith. Will exchange information.

Lita H. Watson, 520 West Clara, Iowa Park, TX 76367-1240

I am searching for the parents or any information about my great grandfather John M. BARLOW (see family line on page 133 of this issue). If anyone is searching this line of BARLOWS, or know of BARLOWS down in Texas or New Mexico Territory in 1830-40, I would like to hear from them.

Robbie Barlow Dunbar, Rt. 73 Box 792, Richland, MO 65556

QUERIES

Dorie Brown Lioy writes that she is making some progress in tracking down her BARLOW ancestry, but further information on her BARLOWS would be most welcome. Since her last query (see pages 88 and 96 of BARLOW of BARLOW) she has received the birth record for Matilda BARLOW, which states that "Almira Matilda daughter of Henry BARLOW of the Township of Tingwick Farmer and of Lucy his wife has been born on the fiveteenth day of October in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight hundred and forty four and was baptized on the twenty fifth day of December of the same year in the presence of the subscribing witnesses. Sarah M. Johnson, George Ricker, By Mr. B. Hitchcock Minister"

From the Société de généalogie de Québec she has learned that Henry BARLOW and Lucy RICKER were married on January 18, 1831, in the Aubigny Anglican Church at Lévis, Québec. Henry and Lucy BARLOW had three other children: Priscilla BARLOW was born on August 29, 1832; Henry Thomas BARLOW was born on February 17, 1834; and George William BARLOW was born on December 1, 1835. These three were baptized on January 16, 1836, in the Bourg Louis Wesleyan Methodist Church. Henry BARLOW was the son of Henry BARLOW and Margaret BOA, who were married on April 24, 1805, in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church at Quebec city.

Dorie Brown Lioy, 126 Stonehenge Road, Rochester, NY 14609-3207

Want parents of both John BARLOW born c. 1605 Pembrokehire, Wales, and wife Ann (probably WARD). They had, among others, Ann Barlow m. Samuel Drake in Fairfield CT in 1650. Any information on any of these people appreciated.

Dorothy West
23 Smart Road, Acton, MA 01720

Editor's Note: I am planning on publishing a feature article on John Barlow in the August issue of Barlow of Barlow. There is not a lot of good solid information about John Barlow, but I hope to compile all that is known and try to make sense of it. Any information, especially documented information on his parents and his wife's maiden surname, that our readers have and wish to send in for the August issue will be appreciated very much.

From Bobbie Dunbar:

PAGE 2 THE LEBANON (MO.) DAILY RECORD, THURSDAY MARCH 10, 1994

In Memory

Services for Martin M. Barlow were held Monday, March 7, 1994 in the Colonial Chapel of Lebanon, Mo., with Rev. Bill Elam officiating. Burial was in the Lebanon Cemetery, under the direction of the Colonial Funeral Chapel of Lebanon. Music was by Rusty Shadel, soloist and Marcia Shadel, organist.

Escorts were Murel Amos, Ryszard Gottfried, Jesse Elam, Mark Fingers, Denny Lambeth and Don Clark.

Martin M. Barlow, son of Tennis and Rosie King Barlow, was born in Pulaski County on January 18, 1898, and departed this life March 4, 1994 in Richland, Mo., at the age of ninety-six years.

He was united in marriage with Grace Watson in June of 1920, and to this union five children were born. He was preceded in death by his wife, Grace; one son, Jim Barlow, and one daughter, Sandra Barlow.

Martin owned and operated a dairy farm in the Pulaski County area for many years. He also managed the dairy farm at the Baptist Home in Ironton, Mo. for a number of years.

He has been a lifetime member of the Berean Baptist Church. Those surviving include his three sons, Martin J. Barlow of Richland, Donald Barlow of Peoria, Illinois and Tommy Barlow; seven grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends.

Martin is also preceded in death by his parents; four brothers, Virgil, Herbert, Arthur and Harrison; two sisters, Ida and Edna Barlow; two infant brothers; and a half brother, George.

Martin attended Chillicothe Normal College in the early 1900's. He enjoyed playing the flute and was even able to play in the last few months of his life.

BARLOW BOOKSHELF

This column, listing books of specific interest to Barlow researchers, will be published from time to time.

Barlow of Barlow Notebook, by A. Maxim Coppage, a complete set of Barlow of Barlow 1988-1993 plus additional Barlow information, available from A. Maxim Coppage, 653 Pershing Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, \$30.00 ppd.

Bunches of Barlows, by Elizabeth H. Michaels & John O. Hawkins, an account of the descendants of John Barlow of Wilkes Co., NC, available from John O. Hawkins, Route 5 Box 430, Lenoir, NC 28645-9521, \$10.00 + \$2.00 shipping.

The Barlow Story From 1717, by Mary M. Wolf, an account of one line of the descendants of Christopher & Parvera Parlur/Berler/Barlow, available from Mary M. Wolf, 1853 Booksin Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125, \$30.00 ppd.

Family Genealogy Comprising The Ancestry and Descendants of Jonathan Barlow & Plain Rogers of Delaware Co., NY, by George Barlow, 1891, one copy (stained) available subject to prior sale from Tuttle Antiquarian Books, Inc., P.O. Box 541, Rutland, VT 05702, \$30.00 + \$3.00 shipping.

Those researchers who are planning expeditions to cemeteries this summer may be interested in the following state cemetery atlases. Both contain detailed maps showing the locations of all known cemeteries. If any readers know of similar atlases for other states, we would be interested in publishing the information.

Michigan Cemetery Atlas, available from Library of Michigan, P.O. Box 30007, Lansing, MI 48909, \$20.00 ppd.

Burial Grounds of Vermont, available from The Vermont Old Cemetery Association, c/o Charles Marchant, P.O. Box 132, Townshend, VT 05353, \$19.23 + \$2.50 shipping.

Annual Index to Barlow of Barlow

An annual every-name index is being prepared each time this newsletter is published and will be included with the November issue. Every-name indexes for past issues are available as follows:

1989, pages 1-32	\$ 1.50 ppd
1990, pages 33-64	1.50 ppd
1991-2, pages 65-88	1.50 ppd
1993, pages 89-120	1.50 ppd
All four past issue indexes . . .	5.00 ppd