

# A.W. Barnett 1836-1913

D.W. LATTIN

Augustus W. Barnett was born in Pavilion to Gilman and Laura Stewart Barnett in 1836. As a child his family first moved to Kendall, but in the 1850s, he came to Albion, where he eventually engaged in a dry goods business under the firm name Barnett and Curtis.

He became one of the first telegraph operators in the United States and for several years was a local agent for the Pacific Telegraph Co. He was also a telegraph agent for the merchants "Union Express Co." Mr. Barnett was very active in

the Republican party and served as deputy county clerk under George A. Newell of Medina. He was also elected Orleans County treasurer serving two terms: 1872-1874 and 1887-1889. He was appointed postmaster in Albion by President Chester A. Arthur and served in this position from 1884-1888.

He was married to Laura Jane Barsett who pre-deceased him in 1912. They had two daughters. Both A.W. and Laura Barnett were charter members of the Pullman Memorial Universalist Church when it was organized in 1891.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO