

Composer Tribute - George D. Barnard

By Rod Everhart, WJU #1351

George Daniel Barnard was a significant composer of music for use by circuses and town bands. In recent years, we've played several of his tunes at our Conventions and Meets. Here are some of the most recent ones:

<i>Old Time Favorites Medley</i> (1926, Barnhouse)	2018-07
<i>Gadfly Galop</i> (1905, York)	2018-01
<i>The First Rose</i> (1910, York)	2018-01
<i>Kentucky Cardinal March</i> (1922, Barnhouse)	2017-01
<i>Jungle Queen</i> (1909, Fillmore)	2016-07
<i>Paramount March</i> (1923, Jewell)	2015-07
<i>Man O'War March</i> (1921, Jewell)	2015-01
<i>Mississippi Rose</i> (1903, Lyon & Healy)	2015-01
<i>The Chieftain March</i> (1921, Jewell)	2015-01
<i>The Races Galop</i> (1909, Fillmore)	2014-01
<i>Trombone Frolics</i> (1909, Wurlitzer)	2014-01
<i>Slippery Sam</i> (1908, Barnhouse)	2009-01

George Barnard's known works total 244, including 70 marches and quicksteps, 51 overtures, and 32 waltzes. Many of his pieces were composed and published using pseudonym's: **George McQuaide, G.F. Daniels, M.B. Eaton, Ed Hazel, and Edward Russell.** We've played some of those too!

<i>Good Fellows Waltz</i> (Russell, 1930, Barnhouse)	2018-07
<i>King Lear Overture</i> (Hazel, 1927, Barnhouse)	2018-07
<i>Eloise Waltz</i> (Hazel, 1921, Jewell)	2015-07
<i>Fleet Wings Galop</i> (Hazel, 1900, Church)	2009-01

Barnard was born on a Michigan farm on October 14, 1857, the youngest of six children. In his teens he learned to play various band instruments and by his early twenties he was hired as a sales and instrument demonstration person by Lyon & Healy of Chicago, a music dealer, instrument maker/importer, and publisher. In the 1880 Census, George listed his occupation as Musician.

By 1890, Barnard was starting to compose, and Lyon & Healy utilized him as an arranger. His earliest compositions were published in Philadelphia by the John Church Company. By 1897 he had published his 10th work: *Anita: Mexican Waltzes*. It was effectively a Spanish Serenade.

In 1899 he had his first "best seller." At the height of the fascination with "cakewalk" tunes, he composed *Alabama Dream (Rag-Time Cake Walk)*. It became a significant hit with pianists and town bands around the country.

By the 1900 Census, George and his wife of 20 years were living in Cincinnati, OH. In 1902, the Barnards moved to Lincoln, Illinois. [Abraham Lincoln practiced law there 1847-1859; the city was named after him in 1853, well-before he became U.S. President.] With the move there, Barnard ceased representing Lyon & Healy and became bandmaster of French's Military Band.

While Barnard's earlier pieces featured syncopation, at this stage in his composing career, most of his works were marches, waltzes, overtures and Latin serenades, with titles like *Smart Set March*, *Love in the Moonlight Waltz*, *Cross Country March*, *Pride of the Band*, and *King Rose Overture*. During 1906 through 1909 Barnard produced 34 original works. His preferred publisher at that point was Carl Fischer, and they promoted him as one of the finest waltz composers of the new century.

Back on August 17, 1879, 21-year-old George D. Barnard married Jennie M. McQuaid in Parma, MI. She claimed on the license to be 18, but was actually six weeks short of her 16th Birthday at the time. In May 1907, after 27 years of marriage, they divorced.

George then moved to the copper mining town of Calumet, MI where he directed the Calumet & Hecla Band. His lead cornet player was Leonard Fernando Wiesmann. Leonard, born and raised in Cincinnati, was in Calumet for the band. In December, 1908, George married Leonard's sister, Hortensia "Daisy" Wiesmann. Then in 1912, Leonard's daughter, named Daisy after her aunt, was born there.

In 1913, the Barnards moved to Ardmore, Oklahoma where he led a band there. Daisy's brother, Leonard, followed along, continuing to play in Barnard's bands, but relocating his family back to Cincinnati where Leonard's son (Leonard L.) was born in 1916.

Around 1920, the Barnards moved once more, this time back to the Cincinnati area and Maysville, KY where he took over leading the Kentucky Cardinals Boys Band and the Horseshoe Boys Band. Barnard arranged most of the music they played. He also conducted the local high school band.

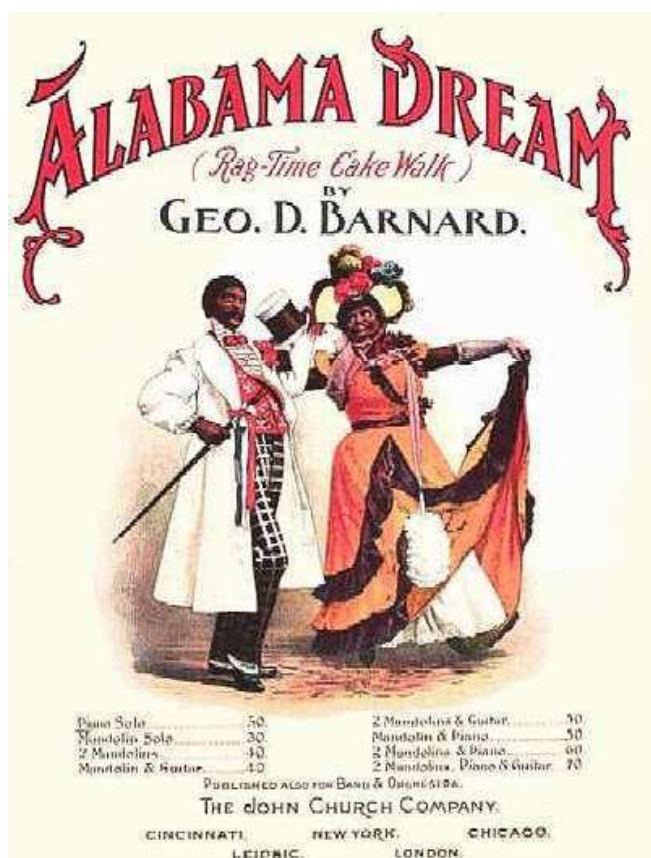
During the summers, George and Leonard would play on the Ohio and Mississippi River excursions, north to Pittsburgh and south to New Orleans.

George Daniel Barnard retired around 1927 at age 70. Yet he continued teaching privately, conducting occasionally, and doing some arranging. In the 1930 Census, he still reported his occupation as Band Master. He died of a cerebral hemorrhage January 19, 1933 and was buried in St. John's Cemetery in St. Bernard, Ohio, a Cincinnati suburb. When Hortensia, who was 20-years younger than George, died in 1950 she was buried beside him. Her brother, Leonard, died in 1953. All are buried in the Wiesmann plot at this German Catholic cemetery.

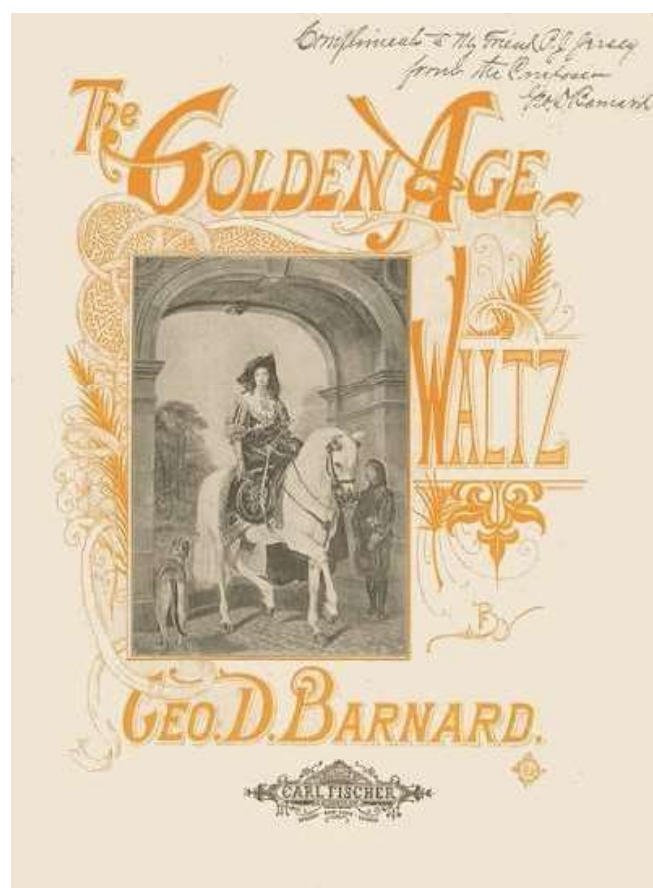
Perhaps ironically, one of George D. Barnard's last compositions was titled "Glory of Youth". The overture was published by C.L. Barnhouse Company in 1931.



George Barnard at left, with his Kentucky Cardinals Boys Band in 1922



Alabama Dream Cake Walk (1899, John Church Co.)



The Golden Age Waltz (1906, Carl Fischer)