



PROMINENT LUNENBURGERS
Remembering the People that Make Us Special
1753-2013



Courtesy the late Frances Glover

John T. "Barney" Arenburg

b. April 1868, d. November 1941 in Bridgewater

Associated Places: 'Arenburg House,' 58 Cumberland Street; St. John's Anglican Church; Lunenburg Armouries

Contributions: Music

John "Barney" Arenburg began his career as a band leader in the 1890s, first in Yarmouth as head of the Citizen's Band. Two years later he returned to Lunenburg to direct the 75th Regimental Band and a band in Caledonia. In 1910 Arenburg handpicked musicians across Nova Scotia to play at Boston's Mechanics Exposition, an appearance honoured by an invitation to play with 'one of the finest American marine bands.'

When the First World War was declared in 1914, Arenburg was made a Captain and Bandmaster of the 106th Battalion. Under his exacting supervision, comradship, and attention to quality the 106th Band was recognized as one of the finest in the Canadian Army.

Captain Arenburg survived the war and returned to command the Lunenburg Armouries, before representing the Province as the Town's chief vendor. He also ran an instrument shop and continued his original trade as a sail maker. Barney continued his musical contributions as chime ringer at St. John's Anglican Church. Although he died at 73, his death came as a shock to many, who remembered him as an energetic and active citizen.

