

*In Memory of*  
JOSEPH NEWBURGER

Born Coffeerville, Miss., June 12, 1858  
Died New York, N. Y. December 22, 1926



*Whose life is an inspiration to all, for he so lived that when he departed from this earth, he left the world a better place for having lived.*

## Joseph Newburger

(Deceased)

The name of Joseph Newburger stands foremost in the annals of Jewish philanthropy in the city of Memphis. Every year, the Junior Congregation, of Children of Israel Temple, awards a silver cup to the Jewish citizen of Memphis who has rendered the most outstanding service in memory of Joseph Newburger. Records for many of his deeds went without the knowledge of any other living being.

Joseph Newburger was born in Coffeerville, Mississippi on June 12, 1858. Mr. Newburger attended public school in Mississippi, and completed his studies at Spring Hill College.

He returned to Coffeerville in 1874, and entered the mercantile business under the firm name of Newburger and Kory. In 1881, he and his brother Edwin, bought out their Uncle, Mr. Kory. The business was later bought out by Edwin Newburger.

However, it was in this business that Mr. Newburger conceived the idea of selling cotton directly to the mill. Success followed success in his new enterprise and the business grew steadily larger. The increased business called for expansion, and Mr. Newburger moved to Grenada, Mississippi where he remained until 1896, when the Newburger Cotton Co., moved to Memphis.

The business was a co-partnership until 1926, when it was changed to a stock company and applied for a charter. This business was capitalized at one million dollars.

The Newburger Cotton Company was among the first cotton firms in the South, and a pioneer in the development of the Mississippi valley. The Newburger Cotton Company had agencies in England, France, and Holland, and offices in Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Sweden, and Greece, and representatives in Spain, Portugal, Austria, and Russia.

Behind this vast enterprise, was the guiding genius of Joseph Newburger.

Mr. Newburger's interests were many. He was a past president of the Memphis Packing Corporation, part owner of the Federal Compress and Warehouse Co., Standard Rice Co., had extensive farm interests, and was financially interested in many firms over the entire United States. He was a member of the New York, New Orleans and Memphis Cotton Exchanges.

Mr. Newburger was well versed in art, and the beautiful structure of Congregation, Children of Israel was his idea. He wanted it to be a duplicate of St. Sophia's of Constantinople.

His benefactions were far too numerous to ever think of mentioning. He gave liberally to all causes regardless of religion or color. He was the idol of the Newsboys of Memphis and contributed greatly to their improvement and enjoyment. He served as president of Congregation, Children of Israel, largely financed the construction of the Joy and Mary Newburger Addition to the temple. He headed the Goodfellows Club and helped provide a merry festival for children of all creeds. His position in the community is best described by this quotation, "Joseph Newburger was not a mere citizen—He was an institution of Memphis."

Mr. Newburger was keenly interested in younger men, and was a source of inspiration to them. He taught the cotton business to many of them, and some were destined to become his associates in business with him, they always referred to him as "Mister Joe" in loving respect for the part which he played in making them successful. We have spoken to a number of these men, and all give Mr. Newburger credit for the success which they achieved.

Mr. Newburgerr was a thirty-second degree Mason, member of the New York Automobile Club, Ridgeway and Memphis Country Clubs and a Rotarian.

Mr. Newburger was married twice, and has two children from his first union, Joy and Mary. His second wife was the former Miss Rose Cohen.

Mr. Newburger died suddenly in New York City at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, on Friday, December 17, 1926. His death was mourned by thousands of his admirers over the entire country.

The life of Joseph Newburger will remain an inspiration as long as any remain who knew and loved him. Despite his many interests, he was never too busy to listen to anyone, and to aid whenever the appeal was worthy. Memphis has produced many great men, but we doubt if the records of the entire city will reveal any man who was loved and admired as was Joseph Newburger. Despite the fact that he has been dead for some years, we find his name as a vital force today in moulding more noble men, and in making Memphis a better city in which to live.