

Rufus C. Barkley, a prominent citizen of Charleston, who died July 27, 1898, was born and reared in Fairfield county, and was a student at Mount Zion college, Winnsboro. At sixteen years of age he went to Charleston and sailed to Philadelphia, where he determined to learn the machinist's craft. His determination and that remarkable capacity for attracting friendship which was one of the prime features of his life, made him successful as a boy among strangers. Returning to Charleston several years later, he became engineer of a steamer running to Havana, and was occupied as a stationary engineer in Cuba two years. Subsequently he was for several years a locomotive engineer with the South Carolina & Georgia railroad, until in 1858 he was recommended by H. T. Peake, superintendent of the road, whose daughter-in-law he afterward married, as a traveling agent for the Baldwin locomotive works. During this service he gained the warm friendship of Matthew Baird, of that institution, of great value to him in later life. At the time of the crisis of 1860 he was, like many others of South Carolina, opposed to the dissolution of the Union, but when the State had seceded, he earnestly supported her action, and enlisted in the Washington artillery. Soon afterward he was detached and became first assistant engineer of the blockade runner, Ella Warley. While in this service he was taken prisoner in 1862, and sent to Fort Lafayette, where he was held for several months, being exchanged in time to witness the battle of Malvern Hill. After his return to Charleston he was employed on the South Carolina railroad until the close of hostilities. Subsequently until his death he was engaged in dealing in railroad and steamship supplies at Charleston, building up an extensive business. He was instrumental in the building of the Charleston, Sumter & Northern railroad, and various other worthy enterprises, and was a power in local politics, also in State affairs as a member of the legislature for three terms. He was a member of Camp Sumter, United Confederate Veterans, and of various other fraternal organizations, and enjoyed the esteem of a wide circle of friends. His widow survives him, and three children: Matthew Baird, Jesse Gilbert, and Mary Louise.

Founder of the business of Cameron & Barkley Company.