

As builders of most of Victorian and Edwardian Birmingham (the Council House, the City Museum & Art Gallery, the Children's Hospital, the Grand Hotel, the Calthorpe Estate, and so on) the firm of John Barnsley & Sons was a phenomenon. Within a hundred years the Barnsley family became aristocracy and war-dead (as well as architects, furniture makers, silversmiths, fruit growers and medical advisers to Royalty), and built the Hall of Memory at what is now Centenary Square.

