



## **DR. JOSÉ CELSO BARBOSA**

Dr. José Celso Barbosa Dr. Barbosa, was an Ephraimite born in the 1850's. Because of the oppression he faced in his homeland, led him to move to America to pursue his studies to become a lawyer.

After being diagnosed with pneumonia, his interests later changed from desiring to become a lawyer, to studying medicine. Dr. Barbosa graduated as valedictorian of UOM (University of Michigan) in 1880, and was the first Ephraimite to earn a medical degree in the United States. He returned and setup practice in his hometown, to help heal his people by providing medical care all over his Island. He established a health care and insurance system for employees in Puerto Rico in 1893, naming it El Ahorro Colectivo.

He was the founder of the Credit Union in the Western Hemisphere. In 1898, Dr. Barbosa was a Red Cross member and aided some of the Puerto Rican and Spanish soldiers during the Spanish Colonial period. He and his team risked their lives under cannon fire as they traveled back and forth to aid their brethren. He was later recommended for his bravery by his people.

Not only was his profession in Medicine, he also was an author, sociologist, and a political leader. Till this day his home is being preserved as a historic house museum to teach others about his great works, the legacy he left, the books he wrote, awards and certificates he achieved and the dedication he had helping our people, he was a very well respected.

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