

# Samuel Walter Anderson (1837-1923)

By Jerry Long  
c.2025



S. W. Anderson (1837-1923); picture from Sixty Years of Owensboro, 1883-1943, William Foster Hayes (Owensboro, KY: Messenger Job Printing Co., Inc., 1944) p.43.



**Daviess County, Kentucky, 1815-2015, Celebrating Our Heritage, Daviess County Bicentennial Committee (Evansville, IN: M. T. Publishing Company, Inc., 2015) p.13:**

Daviess County Bicentennial Chronology

## 200 Historical Events

By Jerry Long

1908, 9-29 Samuel Walter Anderson (1837-1923) opened his new store, S. W. Anderson's Department Store, in Owensboro in the building that is now the Owensboro Area Museum of Science & History at the southwest corner of Main & Daviess. Since 1889 he had operated a dry goods store in downtown Owensboro at two prior locations. In a few years Anderson's would be known as "Western Kentucky's Leading Department Store". The store closed its doors in 1990.



**History of Kentucky, Volume III, Judge Charles Kerr, Editor**  
**(Chicago & New York: The American Historical Society, 1922) pp.296-297:**

SAMUEL WALTER ANDERSON. For many years active head of perhaps the greatest mercantile organization in Owensboro, Samuel Walter Anderson is able to take a pleasant review of the sixty years of his active career, beginning in struggle and vicissitude, amid the storms' scenes of Civil war, handicapped by individual poverty and a general depression among the people of the South, and his own circumstances have improved with the lifting tide of prosperity, in which he has generously shared.

A native of Pennsylvania, he was born at York Springs in Adams County, a son of James and Hettie (Taggart) Anderson, and is of Scotch-Irish lineage. His father was a merchant and died when Samuel W. was a boy. The latter grew up in the home of his maternal grandfather, Samuel Taggart, who lived near Gettysburg. In that historic battle city Samuel Walter Anderson acquired his first mercantile experience, spending six or seven years as a utility employe in the store of Mr. Fohnestock.

Leaving there before the war and coming south for a time, he clerked at Memphis, Tennessee, and while there formed the acquaintance of Thomas James, a coal mine operator, with whom he entered into partnership and conducted their store or commissary at the mining town known as Jamestown on the Green River. With the outbreak of the Civil war the undertaking was suspended. Then though possessed of only twenty-five dollars for operating capital, Mr. Anderson opened a small stock of general merchandise at Ceralvo, Kentucky. His personal character and business ability were the chief factors that made this business prosper. With prosperity he sought a larger town in which to do business, and leaving Ceralvo he moved to Hartford, Kentucky, was a merchant in that city until 1889, and then something more than thirty years ago came to Owensboro and has kept his general merchandise establishment growing in service and equipment, frequently in advance of the normal progress of the city itself. In 1908 the large and modern stone building was erected which now houses this splendid department store. Two years later the firm of S. W. Anderson Company was incorporated, and it is both a retail and wholesale concern and is known as one of the oldest and most substantial commercial houses in that section of Kentucky.

After being in the South six or seven years Mr. Anderson returned to Pennsylvania, and in 1862, in the midst of war times, married Miss Martha Bentley, the sweetheart he had left behind when he came south. Their first child, James H. Anderson, is now one of the merchant princes of the South, living at Knoxville, Tennessee. He was born in Kentucky, and soon after his birth Mr. and Mrs. Anderson returned to Gettysburg on a visit, not long after the stormy period which

concluded the invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania by Lee's army, ending with the battle of Gettysburg. The second child of their union, Maimie, is the wife of Mr. Hardwick, an Owensboro merchant. The third is Ernest B. Anderson, a prominent Owensboro lawyer. The daughter Kate is the wife of Doctor Murphy, of Cincinnati. Maude is the wife of E. J. Arnold, manager of the S. W. Anderson Company. The youngest daughter is the wife of Mr. Leshar, a retired merchant of Philadelphia.

Mr. Anderson has been a hard worker all his life, and though attending closely to business, especially in its formative years, he has also found time for his church, the Baptist, and since early manhood has been a worker in the Sunday School.

[Note – Samuel Walter Anderson's biography is followed by a biography of his son, Ernest Bentley Anderson (1868- ), who was born at Ceralvo in Ohio County, KY.]



**Owensboro's First Church, 1835-1985: The Sesquicentennial History  
of the First Baptist Church, Owensboro, Kentucky, Wendell Holmes Rone  
(Owensboro, KY: Progress Printing Co., Inc., 1985) pp.345-346 & 348:**

**Anderson, Samuel Walter and Wife.**

This distinguished Pioneer Merchant of Modern Owensboro and Founder of the famous S.W. Anderson Company, Incorporated, was born at York Springs, Adams County, Pennsylvania, near Gettysburg, on November 16, 1837. He was the son of James Anderson and Hattie (Taggart) Anderson, and of Scotch-Irish lineage. His father was a merchant and died while S.W. Anderson was a boy. He grew up in the home of his maternal grandfather, Samuel Taggart, near Gettysburg.

At the age of fourteen he entered the mercantile establishment of Samuel Fahnestock at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, where he served his apprenticeship as a "stock boy" and arose to be head Salesman of that firm. At age twenty-three he went west to Iowa City, Iowa, and there he learned of the growing importance of Memphis, Tennessee, as the coming business city of the South. After a short stay in Memphis, he and Charles James opened a Commissary at Jamestown on Green River, in Ohio County, Kentucky. But the embargo imposed by Union Forces on Green River after the beginning of the Civil War forced them to dissolve their business. This was in 1861. He then returned to his home at Gettysburg.

There he married MARTHA JANE BENTLEY on October 3, 1861. Mr. Anderson and his bride then returned to Kentucky and settled at Point Pleasant, on Green River, in Ohio County, where he conducted a typical Country General Store until 1865. He then moved up Green River to Ceralvo, in Ohio County, where he remained in business until 1879. For the next ten years he was in business at Hartford, in Ohio County (1879-1889). In late 1889 he moved to Owensboro and spent the remainder of his earthly life.

He secured the property at the southeast corner of Second and Daviess Streets as site for a store. Here he planted the seed of what was destined to become one of the greatest Department Stores in Western Kentucky. During his first year in Business (1890) he established a line of credit with Henry M. Sweetzer and David Mackey, who were then conducting wholesale dry goods houses in Evansville, Indiana. His friendship and high regard for these two merchants continued to the time of their deaths.

A considerate employer, a man of affable disposition, a careful buyer and a successful merchandiser, he built up a strong organization in his sales force and a powerful good will in the community. His business outgrew the quarters he first took. These were expanded and later became totally inadequate. This resulted in his building on the old Temple Theater lot, just across Daviess from his old location, the big Department Store which came to bear his name. The store was erected in 1908 and incorporated in 1910. And at the time of his death he was the oldest Merchant in the South, having been in business in Owensboro for nearly thirty-three years.

No information is at hand as to when he and his wife became Christians, and the Baptist Church or Churches to which they initially belonged. It is possible that it was the Hartford Baptist Church. They united with the First Baptist Church by Letter on December 1, 1889, and continued in its fellowship until their respective deaths. And the Church had no more loyal and consecrated members than they. Their Christian influence reached far and wide.

Brother Anderson became a Deacon of the Church in 1890, during the pastorate of Dr. J.H. Boyet. He succeeded James Kennady as Chairman of Deacons in 1907, and continued to serve until his death, being one of the Senior Deacons. For many years, probably from 1890 to 1923, he was the teacher of the Brotherhood Bible Class. Here he gained a reputation as a Teacher that lived with him and continued for many years to live in the minds of those who came under him. He was a self-educated man, an inveterate reader of the best literature. He turned all his knowledge and spirit into the lessons he sought to teach, preparing each one with arduous care. The demand for these from other Sunday School Teachers became so great that he was forced to have manifold copies of each one made for distribution. He was present and participated in the Great Sunday School Clinic conducted at the Church in August, 1923; and his picture, probably the last one made of him, appeared in the November, 1923, Sunday School Builder, a few days before he died. He lived to see the magnificent new Sunday School Annex erected and entered (1921-1922); and, as usual with all Church enterprises, was a liberal contributor to its erection. He also witnessed the laying of the Cornerstone of the new House of Worship in August, 1923.

Brother Anderson was a Charter Member of the Investigator's Club (1894), according to one record, and served as its President in 1900-1901. He continued active in its affairs until his late illness. His intellectual tastes remained with him till the last, his books being his constant companions until the day he was stricken. The Mary Kendall Home was also one of his favorite Charities, and he took a deep interest in its work through his wife, who served as its President for several years before her death, on June 18th, 1921.

Brother and Mrs. Anderson became the parents of seven Children. The eldest, JAMES HUGHES ANDERSON was born at Point Pleasant, Kentucky, on November 6, 1862; and died in Knoxville, Tennessee, on May 22, 1949. He, like his father, became a successful Merchant and Businessman, in Knoxville; and, was one of the founders of the famous Miller Department Store, Incorporated, in that city. His education was in the Public Schools. He became an outstanding Businessman and Christian Layman, for many years a Deacon and Sunday School Teacher in the First Baptist Church of Knoxville. He put great emphasis upon Stewardship, and beginning with the Tithe, he moved on to give nearly all his income through his Church, with the exception of modest living expenses. For some years his weekly check through the Church was \$1,000.00. Over a period of years, he gave more than a Million Dollars, largely designated, for Missions. He made a lasting contribution toward the development of the Cooperative Program; and, from first to last, was a great Denominational Layman in Tennessee and Southern Baptist Ranks. The Layman's Missionary Movement (Brotherhood) received great support and encouragement from him.

The second child was a little girl, MARGARET "MAGGIE" ANDERSON (b. c. 1863-d. c. 1867), who died at age four with "Nettle Fever." The other children were: MAMIE HESTERANDERSON (b. c. 1865-d. ?), who married R.C. Hardwick and is buried in Fort Pierce, Florida; ERNEST BENTLEY ANDERSON (b. September 6, 1868- d. January 16, 1959); KATHERINE MAE ANDERSON (b. 1872-d. 1961), who married Dr. Abraham D. Murphey (1863-1935); MAUD AUGUSTA ANDERSON (b. 1876-d. 1968), who married James Ernest Arnold (1872-1936); and NORA LEE ANDERSON (b. July 26, 1877-d. March 11, 1974), who married Stephen Usher. All of the Anderson Children were born in Ohio County, Kentucky. The first two were born at Point Pleasant, and the next four at Ceralvo, commercial loading points on Green River. The 1880 Ohio County Census shows them living at Hartford, the County Seat, to which the family had moved in 1879. The six living children ranged in ages from 17 to 3-eldest to youngest. By the time the family moved to Owensboro in October, 1889, James H. and Mamie H. had left home; and Ernest B. was completing his studies at the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland (1886-1889), and was away from home.

Ernest B. Anderson united with the First Baptist Church by Letter on November 15, 1890, as did his sister, Katherine "Katie" Mae. Maude Anderson was received into the Church by Christian Experience and Baptism on June 28, 1891; while Nora Lee was received the same way on December 20, 1891. Both were baptized by Pastor Dr. J.H. Boyet. The first two came by Letter from Hartford Baptist Church.

Mrs. S.W. Anderson (nee Martha Jane Bentley) was a very active participant, with her husband, in the affairs of the Church from December 1, 1889, until her death, as noted earlier, at age eighty-one. She was born in Pennsylvania on March 19, 1840, near Gettysburg. Her love for and support of the Mary Kendall Home is legendary.

The Anderson Store at Hartford (1879-1889) was known as "Anderson's Bazaar." The same name was given to the initial operation in Owensboro (1889-1910), until it was incorporated in 1910 as the S.W. Anderson Company, being named for its founder and first President, until his death. He was succeeded, as President, by his son-in-law, Mr. James Ernest Arnold. The Owensboro Store was also called "Anderson's Daylight Store," prior to incorporation, in 1908.

The frame building of the Hartford Baptist Church burned on September 13, 1887. Two days later, on the 15th, S.W. Anderson was made the Chairman of a seven-member Building Committee. A new House of Worship, built of Brick, was constructed at a total cost of \$6,434.80; and occupied for the first time in October, 1889, at the time the Anderson's moved to Owensboro. They sold their home to Dr. Isaac and Nancy C. Foster on September 26, 1889, for the sum of \$2,500.00, just prior to moving.

The Anderson Family Plot in Rose Hill Cemetery, Owensboro, has witnessed the interment of Mrs. S.W. Anderson (1921), S.W. Anderson (1923), James Ernest Arnold (1936), Theodore "Ted" Arnold (1938), Abraham D. Murphey (1935), Katherine (Anderson) Murphey (1961), Maude (Anderson) Arnold (1968); and Nora (Anderson) Usher (1974), as well as E.B. Anderson (1957) and Mrs. E.B. Anderson (1957), through October, 1984.



**Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 5 May 1875, p.3:**

CERALVO AND ITS SURROUNDINGS.

Ceralvo is a pleasant little town, situated on Green River, three miles below Rockport. We have two dry goods stores, one kept by S. W. Anderson, the other by E. V. Kimbly & Son; one drug store, by Henry Tinsley; one family grocery, by Alex Tinsley; one Blacksmith shop, by Kimbley & Tichenor; with A. P. Fogle the anvil; three tobacco factories – but, under the Grange programme, they are dead property; two physicians, in the persons of Dr. Brentwood Muir and Dr. J. M. Everly....



**Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 26 April 1876, p.2:**

From Centertown, 24 April 1876 – Mr. S. W. Anderson, of Ceralvo, is going to start a dry goods store in Centertown, in about a week, with George M. Rowe, behind the counter. Mr. Rowe, has been very successful as teacher, and I expect him to succeed in his new line of business..



**Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 9 April 1879, p.3:**

Mr. S. W. Anderson, of Ceralvo, has moved to Hartford where he will follow his regular business, merchandising. He will occupy the J. W. Lewis store, and will reside on the Dr. W. J. Berry property. We are pleased with this addition to our town.

[On page 2 of Hartford Herald, 16 April 1879 is a large ad for the grand opening of Anderson's Bazaar on Saturday, April 19th.]



**Owensboro Weekly Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 25 July 1889, p.5:**

Mr. S. W. Anderson Coming.

Mr. S. W. Anderson, of Hartford, has been in the city for several days, and has decided that he must come to Owensboro. He has accordingly leased that portion of the building at Main and Daviess streets now occupied by Capt. F. L. Hall 88 a furniture store. He will leave at once for the East to purchase his stock of goods, and he will open out by the middle of September. He will close out his business at Hartford at once.

Mr. Anderson is a thorough-going merchant, alive to all the best methods of doing business, and is an addition to Owensboro's trade circles whose influence will be felt for good from the first day of his arrival here.

Mr. Anderson has a charming family, that will add much to the pleasure of society in the city.



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 12 May 1907, p.1:**

BUILDING TO BE FOUR STORIES  
Temple Theater May Be Converted Into Store.  
WILL BE MODERN IN EVERY PARTICULAR.  
PLANS HAVE BEEN FINISHED  
If Building Is Converted Into Storehouse  
It Will Be Occupied By S. W. Anderson,

One of the handsomest business houses in Owensboro, it is understood, is to be made by a transformation of the Temple theatre at the corner of Main and Daviess streets. This property is owned by J. J. Sweeney, and, if reconstructed, will converted into a store building to be occupied by S.. W. Anderson's department store.

The building will be made four stories high and will have entrances from both Main and Daviess streets. The extensive frontage on Daviess street will make possible an elaborate lighting system and large window space will be made on that side. Show windows will be arranged so that displays may be viewed from either street.

The building will be modern in every particular and adapted to the requirements of a large department store. The plans have been completed and bids will be received in a short time.



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 15 October 1907, p.1:**

TEMPLE THEATER SOLD  
TO BE TORN DOWN AND REPLACED BY FINE HOUSE

S. W. Anderson Will Build Pretentious Modern  
Department Storehouse on the Site.

Mr. S. W. Anderson yesterday finally closed his deal with Mr. J. J. Sweeney for the old Temple theater property at Main and Daviess streets, buying a half interest in the real estate and improvements and will at once begin dismantling the theater, even tearing down the walls, and will build on the site a modern department store of splendid proportions.

Mr. Anderson for more than twenty years conducted a model department store in Owensboro and has been quite successful. He has expanded his business but has long needed a modern storehouse to properly display his goods.

This he will now have and every citizen of Owensboro will be pleased with the improvement.



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 29 September 1908, p.1:**

OWENSBORO IS TO VISIT TONIGHT

Anderson Store Entertains Tonight and Wednesday  
COMMERCIAL LIFE IS OFFERING ITS FEATURES.



FOR THE PUBLIC'S APPROVAL  
Owner S. W. Anderson Sees Realization of Years  
of Anticipation and Planning.

Significant in evidence of commercial advance in the city of Owensboro is the event of opening at the new Anderson store, East Main and Daviess streets, tonight at 7:30 o'clock. During the entire evening and until 6:30 p. m. the following day, the management of the new store will entertain the public, displaying the architectural and decorative beauties of the building and the many lines of merchandise with which it is filled from basement to roof.

New features in departmental development will be certain to interest the visitors at the opening, and the adaptability of the building to the purposes which it is to serve will occasion no small amount of favorable comment.

Modernity and metropolitanism mark every feature of the new business home of the Owensboro store, and cities much larger than this would be justified in envying Owensboro the possession of such an enterprise.

Marking with certainty the care which the store's owner has exercised in planning and executing the myriad details necessarily involved in the modern departmental institution every essential of consideration for the welfare of the patrons has been observed.

**Owner's Hope Realized.**

Surrounded by hurrying clerks and stock handlers, S. W. Anderson, the store's owner, is realizing the hope and a gratification of the desire of years – that of being able to offer the public of Owensboro a mart where it may feel at home, and at the same time find lines of merchandise unexcelled in the larger cities.

Busy, though he was, Mr. Anderson paused long enough Monday afternoon to speak of the reasons for founding a store of such magnitude. With an expression that spoke more plainly than his words, he said: "My reasons? Well, they're many, but among them is this: The people of Owensboro have, for twenty years by their generous patronage and kindly words, been building this business, until they have made it possible for me to offer them a partial reciprocation in the shape of this store. I have tried at all times to treat all fairly and believe that it has been appreciated. But, above all. I say that the credit this store may be to the city or county is due entirely to them.

"For years I have hoped for this time to come, and now that it is here, and I am able to bring about the conception of my business ideals I can only say that I will do all in the future as I have tried in the past, to build up commercial Owensboro, and offer the public the best that I can, in every way, at all times."

'Twas a business man's verbal tribute to his patrons of many years, and expresses the same sentiment as his substantial commercial tribute – the magnificent new structure and its floors filled with merchandise.

**Busy – Basement to Roof.**

From basement, throughout the four floors to the roof, the big building is the scene of activity, and business energy makes itself evident. In the basement the visitor tonight will see the receiving, packing and discharging departments of the wholesale end of the business. Every modern appliance is ready to serve the ends of man, and aid in dispatch.

On the first floor the dry goods department will interest the ladies, while clothing, and men's furnishings will find many masculine admirers. A notion department is in operation on the same floor, and a shoe department adds another feature.



Taking the new passenger elevator to the second floor the visitor is to see hundreds of yards of carpets, of all kinds in one part, while the ready-to-wear department for the ladies and the millinery department occupy the remainder of the space.

The third floor offers still another change of scene. Trunks and bags in one department, and blankets, etc. in another, while the jobbing department of dry goods and millinery occupies another part. Aside from all else is the rest and lunch room for the employees, where, in inclement weather, they may enjoy their noon-day meal undisturbed. The cloak room adjoins the lunch room, while the workshop of the extensive millinery department on the same floor will present the busy scene of sixteen young ladies busily working eight hours each day to gratify the desires and tastes of femininity.

On the fourth floor of the building will be found an exclusive jobbing department, which will be visited by merchants from all of the surrounding towns and cities. This department will have but little interest for the retail buyer but is worthy of a visit from the general public, if for no other reason than to acquire an understanding of modern wholesale business methods.

From top to bottom the entire establishment speaks of what systematic business development can and will do. The careful accounting methods employed in the office and counting rooms on the first floor balcony will appeal to all who investigate them because of the accuracy which they insure.

#### **For the Patrons' Needs.**

An innovation in store equipment is the ladies' resting room on the first floor balcony, equipped with everything to render shopping comfort possible. Floored with mezanine, and furnished in elegance, it is a pleasure spot for the tired shopper. A matron will be in charge at all times, ready to gratify the slightest wish of the patrons.

Up in the elevator to the fourth floor, and then up a short stairway, and the visitor has reached the roof. But an original plan of the store builder has been carried out here, and another short flight of stairs will take the visitor into the tower. A tower on the store building? Certainly, a turret that surmounts all else in the city, and allows a view of the Ohio and Owensboro well as the surrounding county of which it is the seat. Covered by a tight roof and provided with easy seats the tower will soon become one of the favorite resting places of the shoppers, and the novelty of being able to travel over the entire county and still be enjoying a rest, will take.

Attendants will be ready at any time to take the visitor to the tower and there, 100 feet above the ground, the pleasure of viewing the activity of the city, without contact with the hustle of the thoroughfare is to be realized.

#### **The 'Eyes' of the Store.**

A store with eyes? Every floor of this new building has more inlets for daylight, than are really necessary, but they're there and so it's called "The Daylight Store." On the first floor, the "eyes" are particularly fascinating, and the more so because of the excellent decorative genius of Mr. Robert Palmer, who has charge of the trimming.

As the owner says "everything that men and women, boys and girls, and babies wear" is to be found displayed in a manner that bespeaks capability in the trimming department, and judgment on the part of the buyer.

And the management issues the invitation to call.



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 30 September 1908, p.4:**



AND MARVEL AT ITS COMPLETENESS IN EVERY PART  
OPENING CONTINUES TODAY.

Crowds So Great That Management Was Almost Powerless to Entertain Them.

Thronging its aisles and corridors, surging back and forth in its passageways and stairways, till it seemed that the very building must burst with its mass of humanity. Owensboro last night gazed enraptured at the beauty in architecture and decoration revealed at the opening of the New Anderson Store, Main and Daviess streets. In the short space of two hours and a half after half past seven o'clock the magnificent new structure was in a blaze of illumination and color that served to gratify even the most implorable visitor of the many thousands who inspected its beauties.

Comments of wonder and admiration were heard on every side, and approval was expressed when the shimmering glass cases and stock cabinets, filled with new and up-to-date merchandise were inspected. The reception was a complete success in the minds of the patrons who called, but the store's owner sat in his office, worried. Worried, because, as he explained it, he felt humiliated.

#### **Owner Was Worried.**

"I want to say something to all these Owensboro folks who have called to see our new store tonight," he said, "but I hardly see how I shall be able to do so. You see," he continued, "I have an apology to make, and I feel humiliated, that anything should go wrong on such a night as this.

"In some manner, the electrician was unable to make the right connections for the lights on the third and fourth floors, and I am unable to invite my guests to those floors or to our new tower, but I suppose they could not all get up there anyway tonight. Tomorrow conditions will be different and all will have an opportunity to see the entire building."

S. W. Anderson, owner of the store spoke feelingly, as if he felt keenly the disappointment of not being able to show all of his new enterprise at first, but the thought that all might come at any time and see the wonders of the place appeased him partially.

#### **Thanked the Public.**

"I want to thank the Owensboro public for this kindly display of interest," he said, "for I believe that no business or commercial enterprise was ever afforded a more encouraging welcome than this one."

All day today, until 6 o'clock tonight, the management of the store will entertain visitors, and show the many features of the place to interested patrons. Preparations are being made to receive even a larger crowd today than was entertained last night and the entire building will be opened for the inspection and approval of the public.

### **Music and Flowers Added.**

Music and dainty floral decorations added to the natural beauty of the store and the attractive displays of merchandise drew myriad admiring glances from the visitors.

One remarkable feature of the opening was the absolute absence of restraint placed upon the public. No signs bearing the legend "Don't touch," or "Hands off," greeted the eye of the visitor, and absolute freedom to do or say as they pleased was granted the throngs.

That the opening was successful, is to say but little; that it so far exceeded the anticipation of the owner, as to force him to say, "I don't know what to do with them all," was the measurement of its magnitude.

In the words of the management "The Anderson store is dedicated."



**Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 30 September 1908, p.3:**



**STUNNING DISPLAY OF FALL MILLINERY**  
Lights, Music, Decorations, Fine Stock and Immense Crowd  
Among Features of the Occasion.

The magnificent new department store of S. W. Anderson was, after months of preparation and planning, formally, opened and dedicated to the public Tuesday evening. The edifice with beautiful decorations, orchestral music and surging crowds was truly metropolitan in character, and was visited by more people than any opening ever held in Owensboro.

The store is so spacious and airy, the lighting so fine, the plans so perfectly developed that the most critical and experienced could find no suggestion for improvement. The fittings, cabinets, seats and cases are all in mahogany, very massive and elegant but the beautiful walls and ceilings finished in white prevents any air of heaviness. The entire building, which was glittering with lights, was exquisitely decorated by the Tapscott firm, with masses of ferns and palms, and cut flowers. Prominently arranged near the entrance was a huge floral horseshoe, sent, by a Louisville firm, while many other floral tributes were received from many friends, local and out of town.

### **Lower Floor.**

The western half of the lower floor is devoted to the clothing and gentlemen's furnishing departments. Here are seen handsome mahogany cabinets to contain the clothing, and mahogany

framed triple mirrors and every up-to-date -modern fixture. On the front and east side of the store are to be found the dress goods and notions in great variety. While a well arranged shoe department extends across the rear of the store. Here the shoes are conveniently disposed in mahogany cabinets of medium height, and large comfortable settees await the customer.

A handsome stairway very wide, with steps easy of ascent is finished with splendid newel posts and balustrades of Flemish oak. These were wreathed with vines in a very artistic manner. On the mezzanine floor the rest room and offices are placed. The rest room is charming and invitingly fitted with handsome rugs, screens, comfortable couches and chairs; and elegant mission table in the center of which was a vase of beautiful flowers. In front of the office was placed Daniel's orchestra which played delightfully all evening.

#### **Second Floor.**

The second floor is a revelation of modernity in the perfection and beauty of its arrangements. Across the rear of this floor is the carpet department where were tastefully displayed magnificent rugs, all kinds of carpets, curtains, draperies, screens, and novelties in upholstering. The greater part of this floor is devoted to the ladies' ready-to-wear and millinery departments. Here the furs, jackets, cloaks, and tailored suits are. displayed in a series of small rooms, or cabinets of mahogany with frosted glass ceiling which admits the light but excludes the dust. Specially notable were the handsome tailored suits in the latest hipless style, the Directoire was also in evidence, and some house dresses were very charming.

#### **Notable Millinery.**

In the millinery display were noted s some exquisite creations for the fascination of womankind. These were shown in mahogany wall cases, along the west side of the room, and plate glass cases across the end. Many masterpieces were seen among the imported hats, the Nell Brinkley designs being picturesque and charming. This was shown in several magnificent black velvet and satin hats, notably a black velvet with braided brim and four immense black ostrich plumes, with extremely long jet buckle across the front, with satin strings and ruff attached. Another Nell Brinckley was in black with the black and white plumes. Directoire hats in the new blue, and green velvet with jetted net and lace were among the handsomest seen. Among the dressiest hats was one of white swan skin, with splendid brilliant buckle, and white plumes. With this was a muff and neckpiece of the swan skin. The exhibits showed immense shaded plumes, great buckles and lovely flowers and gorgeous bands, stiff with embroidery, which fascinated the eye.

#### **Many Conveniences.**

Here and there throughout the center of the room are comfortable seats while new and improved racks for display and inspection of skirts and suits added to the convenience of shopper and attendant. On this floor is the hospital. dainty and immaculate, and tempting the shopper to play sick. Here also is the sewing machine department, and the handsomest of lace and net waists and lingerie are shown.

#### **Third and Fourth Floors.**

The millinery work rooms where 17 girls are employed, and a rest and lunch room for employes are located on the third floor. Here also are to be found the trunks, bags and blankets, while the fourth floor is given over to the wholesale department. From this floor the stairs lead to the tower, where the finest view in Owensboro is to be obtained.

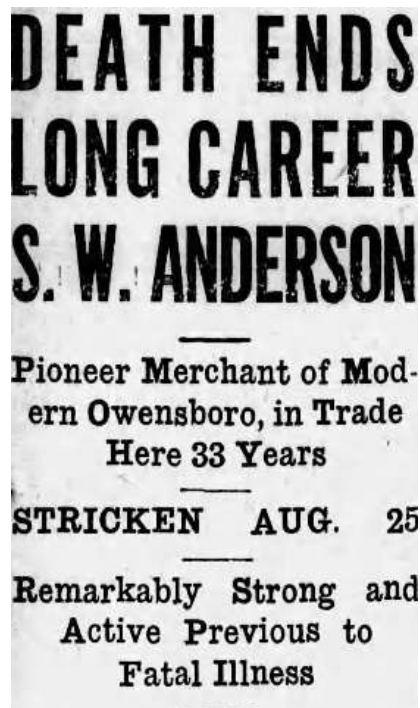
The entire establishment is exceedingly handsome, and cannot be compared with any store in Kentucky outside of Louisville, and the modernity of its appliances cannot be surpassed in Louisville. The store is not. only a tribute to Mr. Anderson's good taste, enterprise and progressive

spirit as a business man, but is an excellent advertisement for the city of Owensboro, which can support such an immense store.

The opening, which is being held until 6:30 this evening has been well attended all day.



**Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 28 November 1923, pp.1 & 3:**



S. W. Anderson, a pioneer merchant of the Owensboro of today passed away at his home at 216 East Fourth street at 7 o'clock this morning. Death came as the result of a paralytic stroke suffered on the last Sunday in August, following which he sank steadily, with a few short rallies.

Mr. Anderson was 86 years old. It was the marvel of his friends that until he was stricken his mind was as alert as that of a young man and his interest in business, affairs of state and his church was undimmed up to the time of his stroke. Physically active too, he had enjoyed perfect health, having had no need a doctor in years.

Mr. Anderson came to Owensboro 33 years ago, from Hartford, and started in business in a small way in the store building on the southeast corner of Second and Daviess streets. Here, he planted the seed of what destined to become one of the greatest department stores in western Kentucky. A considerate employer, man of affable disposition, a careful buyer and a successful merchandiser, he built up a strong, organization in his sales force a powerful good will in the community. His business outgrew there quarters he first took. These were expended and later became totally inadequate. This resulted in his building on the old Temple theatre lot, just across Daviess from his old location, the big department store that now bears his name.

#### **Active In Church Work**

Mr. Anderson was an influential member of the First Baptist church, of which he was a senior deacon and for many years a teacher of the Brotherhood Bible class. Here he gained a

reputation as a teacher that lived with him and will live in the minds of those who came under him, for many years. He was a self-educated man, an inveterate reader of the best literature. He turned all his knowledge and spirit into the lessons he sought to teach, preparing each one with arduous care. The demand for these from other Sunday school teachers became so great that he was forced to have manifold copies of each one made for distribution.

One of the charter members of the Investigators Club, Mr. Anderson was active in its literary affairs till time of his late illness. His intellectual tastes remained with him till the last, his books being constant companions until the day he was stricken.

The Mary Kendall Home was one of his outstanding charities. In this he took a deep interest, through his wife whom he lost a little more than two years ago, she having been its head for many years prior to her death.

At Mr. Anderson's bedside were all of his children, when the end came. He is survived by: Mrs. R. C. Hardwick and Mrs. Ernest Arnold of Owensboro. Mrs. A. D. Murphy, of Cincinnati: Mrs. Stephen Leshner, of Philadelphia, James Anderson, of Knoxville, Tenn., and E. B. Anderson, of Owensboro. He is also survived by several grandchildren.

#### **Born in Pennsylvania**

S. W. Anderson was born in Adams county, Pennsylvania, November 16, 1837. At the age of fourteen he entered the mercantile establishment of Samuel Fahnestock at Gettysburg, Pa., with him he served his apprenticeship. Having risen to be the head salesman of that establishment, he left the employ of Mr. Fahnestock at the age of 23 years, and in 1860 went west to Iowa City, Iowa, which at that time was the farthest point west to which the railroads had been extended. In a conversation with the proprietor of the hotel at which he was stopping, he was told that Memphis, Tenn., was the coming business city of the South. From Iowa City he returned to St. Louis and there took a boat for Memphis, Tenn. Having arrived there he met a gentleman, Charles James, who was a merchant and a coal operator on a small scale doing business at Jamestown, a village on Green river. These two then engaged in business there, but the Civil war came on, and the embargo placed on the transportation of coal by the United States Government, interfered with their coal business, it was necessary to dissolve that partnership venture.

#### **Moved to Kentucky in 1861**

Mr. Anderson then returned to Gettysburg, Pa., and there married Martha Jane Bentley, October 3, 1861. Mr. Anderson and his bride then came back to Kentucky and settled at Point Pleasant on Green river, where he conducted a small store and continued in business for several years. Leaving that place he went to Ceralvo, Kentucky, in 1867, and there remained in business until 1879, when he moved to Hartford, Kentucky. There he conducted his business until 1889, when he came to Owensboro. During his first year in business he established a line of credit with Henry M. Sweetzer and David Mackey, who were then conducting wholesale dry goods houses in Evansville, Ind. his friendship and high regard for these two merchants continued to the time of their death. At the time of Mr. Anderson's death, he was the oldest living merchant in the South. Mrs. Anderson died July 18, 1921.

#### **Funeral Thursday**

Funeral from residence 216 E. Fourth street. Thursday afternoon at three o'clock. Active pall bearers: W. P. Simpson, J. D. Hays, Emmet Wells, John Lyne. C. W. Wells, and Dr. Dellus Haynes.



**Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 28 November 1923, pp.1 & 4:**

**S. W. ANDERSON IS DEAD**

The death of S.W. Anderson, pioneer Merchant of modern Owensboro, a citizen of remarkable character and rare virtues, ends a life that has been one of beauty and inspiration.

For fourteen years we have known S.W. Anderson. For fourteen years we have marveled at his life. A student of it could learn much of the value of right living, wholesome reading and thinking, devotion to the development of one's finer sensibilities and Christian character. To have known him intimately was not our good fortune, but to have seen him in his relations with his city, his country, his Church and his fellow man and glimpsed his sacred relation to his home, has been sufficient to arouse the greatest of admiration and to understand the love felt for him by those close friends to whom his loyalty amounted to an intense devotion.

His struggle up the ladder of commercial life to the success that crowns thrift, steadfastness, keen foresight, industry, with the aid of a devoted, unselfish, encouraging help-mate, is a beacon light summoning and inspiring the boy who faces the world young and penniless with an optimism, a faith and a will born of a great ambition. To a careful observer that ambition was not to possess great wealth, though as material wealth goes here, his efforts were rewarded with an abundance of it. One would judge that his greatest aim was to build in himself and in his family a large capacity for appreciation of the eternal truths, the nobler things of life and for service to his community, his country and his Master. In this his success was complete.

How to build a fortune in gold one may learn from many miserable, sour, unloving, ungenerous, god-less men. How to climb from poverty to comparative riches, build a beautiful character, be happy and spread joy all along the way, preserve the health and enthusiasm of youth till the day you come to die in a ripe old age and there pass on the greatest heritage man can leave, an honored name to sturdy survivors, is taught by few. S.W. Anderson was one of them.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 29 March 1989, p.8A:**

**'Opera house' stood where  
Anderson moved store**

By Keith Lawrence, Messenger-Inquirer

When S.W. Anderson Co. Inc. closes its downtown store to concentrate local sales at Towne Square Mall, it will be the latest move for a company that began life as a general store in a now abandoned Ohio County town.

Samuel Walter Anderson, son of a Pennsylvania merchant, was clerking in a Memphis, Tenn., store in the 1850s when he was offered the chance to operate the commissary at Jamestown, a mining town on the Green River in Kentucky.

After the Civil War, Anderson moved to Ceralvo, an Ohio County town on Green River, with a new wife and \$25 to start a general store that would bear his name.

A decade later, his dreams took Anderson and the store to a bigger city - Hartford. And then on Sept. 13, 1889, at 52, Anderson again moved the store - this time to the southeast corner of Second and Daviess streets in Owensboro.



It was 18 years later, in 1907, that Anderson moved into the downtown location that has borne his name for the past 82 years.

The building on the southwest corner of Second and Daviess was originally the Temple Theatre.

Built in 1888 for \$28,000 by Robert Conway and J.J. Sweeney, the Temple was listed as an "opera house," although it featured musicals, dramas, political rallies and exhibits such as "Sallie McCallister, a 22-year-old Amazon who tipped the scales at 653 pounds."

It seated 1,200 people – 300 less than the planned RiverPark Center. The Temple opened Oct. 7, 1888, with McKee Rankin's dramatic company's production of "The Runaway Wife."

In May 1889, it became the second theater in the state to install opera glasses attached by chains to each seat. They worked when a quarter was deposited in the chair arm.

A fire destroyed the Temple on Oct. 10, 1891. But it was rebuilt and reopened on Sept. 17, 1892, with the musical, "Ship Ahoy."

When the theater closed in October 1907, Anderson bought the building for his department store, which would be known as "Western Kentucky's Leading Department Store."

It would eventually expand into three buildings, stretching from Second to Third streets along Daviess Street and include a parking lot of almost one acre across Third Street from the store.

Anderson died Nov. 28, 1923.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 25 October 1989, pp.1C & 4C:**

### **Anderson's store closes Jan. 31**

By Keith Lawrence, Messenger-Inquirer

S.W. Anderson Co. Inc., Owensboro's oldest department store, announced plans Tuesday to close its century-old downtown store Jan. 31.

Jack Connor, chairman of the board, said the company will concentrate its operations at its Towne Square Mall location.

Plans to close the store were announced in March. But a date for the closing had not been set until this week.

About 35 full-time, part-time and temporary employees will be affected by the closing, Connor said.

The 76,000 square feet of buildings at East Second Street and almost an acre of parking nearby have been on the market for nearly two years, he said in March. He declined to say what the company was asking for the property, but confirmed that it is more than \$1 million.

Connor said Tuesday that no sale of the property is pending. It remains for sale. The company, however, is keeping its offices and receiving department in the middle of the three adjoining buildings, he said.

Downtown Owensboro has ceased to be a retail center, Connor said earlier. "Retail sales won't come back downtown," he said in March.

Samuel Walter Anderson, who began his career as a merchant running a coal company commissary on the Green River in the 1850s, opened a store in downtown Owensboro on Sept. 13, 1889. He moved to the present location in 1907.

In time, Anderson's came to be known as "Western Kentucky's Leading Department Store." It was considered the place to shop downtown.

In 1978, Towne Square Mall opened south of the U.S. 60 bypass and downtown, already battered by shopping centers scattered throughout the city, went into a steep decline.

Anderson's became the only department store left downtown. But the company also committed itself to the suburban shopping scene, opening its first branch store in the new mall in 1978.

The downtown store includes three buildings of two-, three- and four-stories. But in recent months, only the bottom floors have been used to display merchandise.

Last year, Anderson's opened its first store outside Owensboro – in a Richmond mall. And the company has branched out, operating Benetton's clothing store franchises in Owensboro, Elizabethtown and Louisville.

The downtown store is in the same block as the new \$5.2 million Judicial Center and diagonally across the street from the planned \$13 million RiverPark Center.

Mayor David Adkisson said earlier that the property is in a good location to take advantage of the tourism expected to be generated by the performing arts center. Adkisson was out of town Tuesday and could not be reached for comment.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 1 October 2020, p.1B:**

There's a lot  
of history at  
the museum

Keith Lawrence, Messenger-Inquirer

There's a lot more history at the Owensboro Museum of Science and History than just the exhibits.

The building on the southwest corner of Second and Daviess streets has a lot of history of its own.

When it was opened in 1888, it was the Temple Theatre — one of the finest buildings in town.

It was built for \$28,000 — worth roughly \$1 million today — by Robert Conway and J.J. Sweeney.

The Temple was listed as an "opera house," although it featured musicals, dramas, political rallies and exhibits such as "Sallie McCallister, a 22-year-old Amazon who tipped the scales at 653 pounds."

It seated 1,200 people.

Not bad for a city of about 9,800 people.

The Temple opened Oct. 7, 1888, with McKee Rankin's dramatic company's production of "The Runaway Wife."

In May 1889, it became the second theater in the state to install opera glasses attached by chains to each seat.

They worked when a quarter was deposited in the chair arm.

But a fire destroyed the Temple on Oct. 10, 1891.

There was so much demand that it was rebuilt and reopened on Sept. 17, 1892, with the musical, "Ship Ahoy."

But it closed in October 1907, outdated after 15 years.

Samuel Walter Anderson, son of a Pennsylvania merchant, had started his career as a merchant in Memphis in the 1850s.

He later opened a general store that bore his name in Ceralvo, an Ohio County town on Green River.

But Anderson had bigger dreams.

He moved the store to Hartford and then, on Sept. 13, 1889, at age 52, he again moved the store — this time to the southeast corner of Second and Daviess streets in Owensboro.

When the Temple closed in 1907, Anderson bought the building for his department store, which would become known as "Western Kentucky's Leading Department Store."

It would eventually expand into three buildings, stretching from Second to Third streets along Daviess Street and include a parking lot of almost one acre across Third Street from the store.

In 1989, S.W. Anderson Co. Inc., after 82 years in the old Temple Theatre, closed its downtown store to concentrate local sales at Towne Square Mall.

The building sat empty for a few years.

Then, in late 1993, the city bought it to move the museum downtown.

And finally, in 1995, the museum reopened there.

That's a lot of history.



**William Northcutt Sweeney (1831-1895), Jerry Long**  
**Daviess County Historical Quarterly, Volume X, Number 2, April 1992,**  
**Daviess County Historical Society, Owensboro, KY, pp.34-35:**

William Northcutt Sweeney (1831-1895), also, had a role in the development of another pivotal and historic lot on Main St. in downtown Owensboro — that of the lot at the s.w. corner of Main & Daviess Sts., on which S. W. Anderson's Department Store is located at 122 E. Main St. James M. Rogers (1790-1864), W. N. Sweeney's father-in-law, in 1840 built a home for his family on the lot, lot #38 on the original plat map of Owensboro. He lived there until his death on Christmas day 1864 (86). His son, George W. Rogers, was living there in 1871 (87) and during the latter part of the 1870's the house was rented out (88). The Rogers house was still standing at the site in 1881 when a Historical Souvenir Map of Owensboro was drawn (89). On 16 September 1887, the heirs of James M. & Margaret C. Rogers deeded the lot to James J. Sweeney, son of W. N. Sweeney (90).

In 1888 a company composed of W. N. Sweeney, J. J. Sweeney, W. T. Ellis & John Gilmour was formed to build a theatre on the lot at the southwest corner of Main & Daviess Streets

(91). It was named the Temple Theatre and it was opened on the 8th of October of that year (92). The property & construction had cost the company \$38,000 (93). Three years later, on 10 October 1891, a fire destroyed the theatre and the company lost over 2/3 of its investment (94). Reconstruction was soon underway and the Temple Theatre reopened on 17 September 1892 (95). In the years preceding the turn of the century the theatre was one of the most popular entertainment and social meccas in all of Western Kentucky. Numerous events were booked there, including dramas, operas, musicals, vaudeville acts, minstrel shows, political rallies, speakers and many notable entertainers appeared there, including George M. Cohan (96). The theatre was managed by Allan Gilmour Sweeney, a son of W. N. Sweeney. During the late 1890's W. T. Ellis, John Gilmour & the heirs of W. N. Sweeney transferred their interests in the Temple Theatre to James J. Sweeney and by 1899 he was the sole owner. (97)

With the opening of other theatres in Owensboro and the popularity of the Chautauquas the patronage of the Temple Theatre declined in the early 1900's. In October 1907 the theatre was closed (98). At that time S. W. Anderson purchased interest in the property and remodeled the building for his department store (99). The "Anderson's Daylight Store" was opened on 24 September 1908 (100), the name was later changed to S. W. Anderson's Department Store and continued at the location as one of Western Kentucky's leading department stores, until its doors were closed on 20 January 1990 (101). James J. Sweeney at his death in 1921 owned a ¼ interest in the lot and building at the s.w. corner of 2nd & Daviess Sts. His heirs continued to own an interest in the property until 1953. (102)

William N. Sweeney & Elizabeth Jane Rogers were married in Owensboro on 3 January 1854. A native of Owensboro, she was born on 28 January 1833 to the union of James M. Rogers & Margaret C. Muir. The Rogers were a noted and early pioneer family of Kentucky and Owensboro. "Lizzie" Rogers' great-grandparents, James & Martha (Blackburn) Rogers, in 1780 built Rogers Station, one of the first settlements in Nelson County, Ky. Her grandparents, Matthew & Eleanor (Carter) Rogers, about 1807 settled at the Yellow Banks, which later became the town of Owensboro. Both her grandfather & great-grandfather were Baptists ministers. A first cousin of her grandfather was William Casey, for whom Casey County, Ky. was named and whose great-grandson was the famous writer, Samuel Langhorne Clemens, alias Mark Twain. A second cousin of Mrs. Sweeney was the Hon. Ben Johnson of Bardstown, one of Kentucky's greatest politicians. William Muir, Mrs. Sweeney's maternal grandfather, was a popular doctor of Nelson County, Ky. (103)

In an article, "Scraps of Local History", published in the Owensboro Examiner, in 1875 the following was said of Mrs. Sweeney's parents, Mr. & Mrs. James M. Rogers: "Mr. Rogers... never seemed happier than in the entertainment of strangers and friends... Mrs. Rogers was hospitality itself" (104) James M. Rogers (1790-1864) was an early merchant, postmaster & trustee of the town of Owensboro (105). As early as 1823 "a doggery", where whiskey & groceries were sold, was kept by James M. Rogers & his brother, Stephen V. Rogers, in Owensboro, the town then consisting only of 6 or 8 log cabins (106). During the 1830's J. M. Rogers & his son-in-law, James Harvey Blair, conducted a general store at the s.e. corner of 1st & Frederica Sts. (107). Mr. Rogers was one of the first in the county to engage in the tobacco business, cultivating it on his large farm on Panther Creek (108). The first tobacco warehouse in Owensboro was built by him about 1837 (109). Owensboro subsequently became a hub of the tobacco business, which became the town's leading industry.

Sources:

86. Memoirs of Mary Blair Woodford, written in 1914, Woodford family vertical file, Owensboro-Daviess County Public Library, Owensboro, Ky. And Daviess County Circuit Court files, case #827 - "J. H. Blair vs. J. M. Rogers heirs", Daviess County Courthouse, Owensboro, Ky.
87. 1871-1872 Owensboro Business Directory, p.348.
88. Daviess County Circuit Court suit #827.
89. Historical Souvenir Map of Owensboro, Ky., 1881.
90. Daviess County Commissioners Deed Book C, p.538.
91. Owensboro Messenger, Sunday, 11 October 1891.
92. Owensboro Daily Messenger, Tuesday, 9 October 1888.
93. Owensboro Messenger, 11 October 1891 & Owensboro Daily Messenger, 7 October 1888.
94. Owensboro Messenger, 11 October 1891.
95. "Opera house' stood where Anderson moved store", Owensboro Messenger & Inquirer, 29 March 1889.
96. Sheila E. Brown Heflin, "To Be, Or Not To Be: The Stage In Owensboro", The Daviess County Historical Quarterly, Vol.VI, No.4, Oct.1988, Daviess County Historical Society, Owensboro, Ky., p.81.
97. Daviess County Deed Books 65, p.159, 69, p.554, et al.
98. "Opera house' stood where Anderson moved store".
99. Daviess County Deed Books 83, p.455, 85, p.1 & 95, p.306.
100. Owensboro Messenger, Wednesday, 30 September 1908, p.4.
101. "Closing of Anderson's store stirs memories", Owensboro Messenger & Inquirer, Sunday, 21 January 1990, p.18.
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103. History of the Rogers Family of Rogers' Station, Nelson County, Ky., unpublished manuscript by Jerry Long, Owensboro, Ky.
104. "Scraps of local History: Random Recollections, of Owensboro and Vicinity", Owensboro Examiner, Friday, 20 August 1875, p.1.
105. History of Daviess County, Kentucky, p.696. Daviess County Circuit Court suit #827. Memoirs of Mary Blair Woodford & Kentucky State Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1859-1860.
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- Anderson's Bazaar will shortly open, Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 8 September 1889 p.4; 10 September 1889, p.1; 6 October 1889, p.5 (family arriving in Owensboro this week); and 6 October 1889, 11 (ad for Anderson's Bazaar at 104 East Main Street)
- S. W. Anderson has rented the residence of Mrs. Faulds at the corner of Fourth & Bolivar Streets, Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 22 October 1889, p. 4

- S. W. Anderson moving into his new store on Main, between Allen & Daviess Streets, Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 17 September 1896, p.8
- “The New Declaration of Independence”, Samuel W. Anderson, 14 July 1899, Original Paper, Investigators Club files, Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library, Owensboro, KY
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- New S. W. Anderson daylight store to open today, Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 29 September 1908, p.1 and 29 September 1908, p.2 (large ad)
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- “There’s a lot of history at museum”, Keith Lawrence, Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 1 October 2020, p.1B
- “S. W. Anderson building”, Savannah Warren-Lee, website – clio.com, 2020
- S. W. Anderson Biography, Daviess County Public Library, Owensboro, KY – in advanced search engine on Kentucky Room page type in Anderson and select S. W.. Anderson Biography; file has copies of many articles on S. W. Anderson; first two frames are script compiled for portrayal on Anderson in the 2013 production of the “Voices of Elmwood”







S. W. Anderson Company extended from 2nd to 3rd Streets along west side of Daviess Street.  
Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 26 May 1958, p.21A



S. W. Anderson Co, Inc., 120-124 East 2nd Street. Photo was made in 1947.



Former location of the S. W. Anderson Co., Inc., 120-124 East 2nd Street, Owensboro, KY. Picture by Jerry Long, 8 August 1993 – at time picture was taken the building was vacant. In 1995 became the home of the Owensboro Museum of Science and History.



Car dealership, Feldhaus - Weller Company, 125-127 East 3rd Street. Building later became part of S. W. Anderson's department store – men's department





East 3rd Street entrance to the S. W. Anderson department store; Daviess Street is on the right.



Family lot of Samuel Walter Anderson (1837-1923) in Rose Hill Cemetery, Owensboro, KY

Serving Western Kentucky  
Since 1889

*Anderson's*

S. W. ANDERSON COMPANY, Incorporated

WESTERN  
KENTUCKY'S  
DEPARTMENT  
STORE



122 E. SECOND

PHONE 3-4555