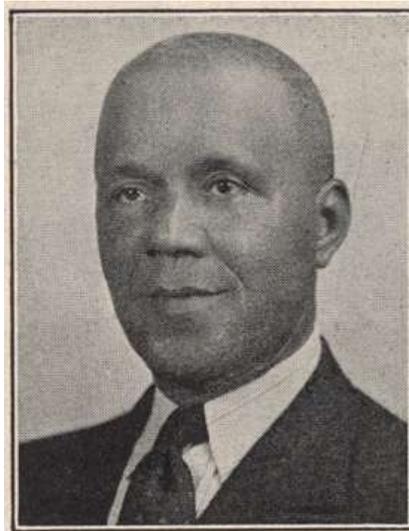


Samuel Lorenzo Barker (1878-1971)

By Jerry Long
c.2026



Sixty Years of Owensboro, 1883-1943, William Foster Hayes
(Owensboro, KY: Messenger Job Printing Co., 1943) p.250:



S. L. Barker principal of
Western High School



Greenwood Cemetery: 1821 Leitchfield Road, Owensboro, KY
Jerry Long (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 2006) p.6
(list of Greenwood Cemetery Association stockholders):

Barker, Samuel L., 1 share. Born 21 April 1878 Christian County, KY. Died 2 May 1971 Owensboro, KY. Buried Elmwood Cemetery in Owensboro (has monument in section E). He married Callie Carr about 1902. Listed as a school teacher in the 1900, 1910, 1920 & 1930 censuses of Owensboro. The 1907 Owensboro City Directory lists S. L. Barker, teacher, wife Callie, residence 820 W. 7th. He was a prominent educator for 50 years in the Owensboro City School system and taught at the Dunbar Elementary School, the

Western Kentucky Industrial College and Western High School. He was principal of the latter school for 15 years (1934-1949).



Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 31 August 1900, p.1:

A New Paper.

Berry Bros. have begun the publication of a new weekly paper, the Kentucky Reporter. It is to be devoted to the interests of the colored people, and will give its principal attention to the publication of local news of interest to them. The mechanical work on the paper is done in the INQUIRER composing and press rooms. R. T. Berry is editor; Dr. J. M. Peters, associate editor, and S. L. Barker, business manager.



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 4 May 1922, p.6:

RECEPTION TENDERED TO PROF. S. L. BARKER

Prof. S. L. Barker, principal of the Eastern colored school, was tendered a reception at the school building by his colored friends in the East end of the city, in appreciation of his services for fifteen years as principal of the school, and his work among the colored people. Mattie Jackson was chairman of the committee on arrangements. About 400 attended. Talks were given by a number of men, and a banquet at the home of Troy Jackson followed.



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 9 June 1935, p.8:

Vacancies Are Filled By Board

... S. L. Barker was made principal of the Western colored high school. He has been principal for several years at the Paul Dunbar school...



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 14 April 1939, p.7:

S. L. BARKER, OWENSBORO, HEADS EDUCATION GROUP

Louisville, Ky., April 13. (AP) – S. L. Barker, principal of Dunbar high school at Owensboro, was elected president of the Kentucky Negro Education association today, succeeding W. H. Foust, of Lexington.

[Note by J. Long – at the time S. L. Barker was principal of the Western High School not the Paul Dunbar school. In 1940 he was re-elected president of the Kentucky Negro Education association.]



Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 5 April 1946, p.2:

COUNCIL CALLED TO ORDAIN S. L. BARKER AS DEACON

A council has been called to ordain S. L. Barker as a deacon of the Fourth Street Baptist church, at 8 p.m. today. The Rev. W. F. Fisher, moderator of the Green Valley District association, will deliver the sermon, and pastors and deacons of local churches will constitute the council. All interested are invited to attend this service.



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 28 November 1948, pp.6B & 7B:

News and Views by W. E. Daniel,
Owensboro Messenger writer

In my many talks with Principal Sam Barker, of the Western colored school, I have never heard the veteran school man speak ill of any person, nor have I heard Principal Barker use words in referring to any person that could be construed as critical. I met the colored high principal in front of the postoffice a few mornings ago. We chatted about a pistol fight on a street in Corydon, Ky., on a Sunday morning more than 40 years ago. I never knew the man killed in the exchange of shots. But I had heard a lot about him. And the impression I had, from what people said about him, was that he was a man of high temper, easy to flame at slight provocation, and when aroused he was not always careful about how he talked to employes.

As I repeated what I had heard people say about the man killed that Sunday morning the school principal seemed to be groping backward as if to gather details of events that happened so long ago. And when I hesitated he spoke, slowly, calmly, as if the past was yielding him its secrets. "I worked as a hand in that man's tobacco factory," he began. "I was a boy in Corydon then, and was never better treated by an employer. I found him always fair to people associated with him. If a hired hand did his work well and merited good treatment from that man he got it. He didn't want hands who loafed on the job. In my observation he was never overbearing. He employed a lot of people in the days when I knew him. He was one of the town's leading citizens."

As I came back to the office, after talking with the colored school principal, I thought how much better would be the world about us if all of us always saw only the good in people we associated with. I had thought of the man who many years ago walked the streets of the Henderson county town as one not to be trifled with; one whose anger sprouted quickly after being planted in a dispute. The Western high school principal, who as a Negro boy in Corydon worked in the tobacco factory of a man killed, saw through the mist of years the handsome figure of the prominent business man incline toward him after the lad had put in a good day's work in the

factory. The tall man was kind to the little Negro boy, and the boy now a man past middle life spoke kindly of him.

Many of us say things about people that we later wish we hadn't. For if we would take time to think seriously about them we would remember kindnesses somewhere along the way that proved that individual was not really the hard man pictured by some who had worked for them, as had Sam Barker for the Corydon man killed in a pistol fight. Personally I am very much opposed to liquor, and I have never loafed in or about saloons. But I have many friends in Owensboro who are engaged in the liquor business. At least they are friends of mine, and I believe their attitude toward me is the same friendly feeling I entertain for them. And when their names are mentioned are mentioned in conversation I can always think of something each did or said that makes me like him.



Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 31 May 1949, p.5:

Educational, Church Leaders Pay Tribute To Barker After 50-Year Teaching Career



S. L. BARKER, Western high school principal, receives congratulations from M. J. Sleet, business manager, West Vocational Training school, on completion of 50 years as teacher and principal. Kentucky, From left: Callie C. Barker; Professor Barker; Professor Sleet; and E. W. Whiteside, principal of Lincoln high school, Paducah, and a director of the Kentucky Negro Education association.

State and local educational leaders, school groups, churches, and civic clubs joined last night in paying tribute to S. L. Barker, 70, retiring principal of Western high school after a teaching career of more than 50 years.

M. J. Sleet, Owensboro resident and business manager of the West Kentucky Vocational Training school in Paducah, termed him "one of Kentucky's most gifted and most distinguished sons."

"The exceptionally fine feeling we have Owensboro between the races", Professor Sleet said, "has been largely due to Professor Barker's common-sense leadership.

Twenty-six organizations from Owensboro, Central City, and Daviess county communities presented individual gifts to the retiring principal, and a bound book containing more than 100 testimonial letters was given him by Professor Sleet.

Turpen Pays Tribute

Dr. N. C. Turpen, superintendent of city schools, said the relationship between him and Professor Barker has been one of "mutual respect and confidence," and he said he hoped his listeners "will not let him retire" from an active life of leadership in the community.

Dr. Turpen quoted W. E. Daniel, Messenger and Inquirer staff writer, as paying the professor a fine tribute when he wrote in a News and Views column, "I have never heard him say an ill thing about any individual."

E. W. Whiteside, principal of the Lincoln high school, Paducah, and a director of the Kentucky Negro Education association, said he brought greetings from "more than 1,000 teachers who have caught the spirit of Professor Barker and have endeavored to carry on in the tradition set by him."

The professor is a past president of the KNEA.

Professor Whiteside said also that Western's rating as an A-class school by the Southern Association for the Accreditation of Secondary Schools *and Colleges has been largely to Professor Barker.

All speakers joined in paying tribute the professor's wife, Callie C. Barker. A program dedication read that she, "in her unassuming manner, has contributed greatly to his success."

"Best Town For Negroes"

Professor Sleet said Owensboro is the "best town in Western Kentucky for Negroes, For financial growth, the Negro has as good a chance here as the white man." He said Professor Barker's influence has helped make this possible.

"He has always stood for his community and for Western Kentucky," Professor Sleet said. "The people of Owensboro and Daviess county have a right to be proud of the Barkers and of this occasion."

Presenting gifts were representatives of Western school, Negro Chamber of Commerce, Mt. Calvary Baptist church, Dunbar school. Fourth Street Baptist church, Married Ladies Industrial club, Tenth Street church, Tresart club, Sweeney Street church, Negro Davets, Center Street church, St. Martha's temple, Eastern Stars, Twentieth Century club, Little Zion church, Asbury church, United Brothers of Friendship, St. Paul A. M. E. church, Mt. Pisgah lodge No. 20, Hope church of Petit, Central City, Bryant's chapel, Maceo, Negro American Legion, Negro American Legion auxiliary, and Sorgho.

The Rev. R. B. Jackson read the scripture, and the Rev. J. T. Dentham offered prayer.

Musical selections were offered by the Fourth Street senior choir, Western high glee club, NEA quartet, Marie Washington, Asbury church, Dunbar Girl Scouts, Gidionites of Center Street church, Negro Chamber of Commerce, Mt. Zion church junior choir, St. Paul A. M. E. church, and the Rev. B. F. Greene.

Was Preacher's Son

Professor Barker was born April 21, 1879, in the Barker's Mill section of Christian county, the son of the Rev. Robert Barker and his wife. The son was named Samuel Lorenzo.

From South Christian the Baptist preacher moved his family to Clarksville, Tenn., and when Samuel was about 14 the family moved again to Corydon, Ky. Two years later the preacher's son had obtained enough education to be awarded a teacher's certificate, and in the fall after he was 16, he hired himself to teach school at Cairo, Ky., near Corydon.

His salary that first year as teacher was \$25 a month. The term lasted five months and the teacher had \$100 when school was out. He didn't pay board, as it was a custom for the patrons to board the teacher. From Cairo he taught in Corydon and then in Hawesville before coming to Owensboro.

While beginning to teach in Henderson county he worked in the tobacco factories of Fred Powell and Green Pritchett, in Corydon, and at "Dutch" Thornberry's in Poole, 10 miles from Corydon, in Webster county. Tobacco work in factories then lasted all summer. The young teacher became adept in his work in tobacco factories, and about the time he located in Owensboro he came to what might have been a turning point in his life, when he was offered a job in a factory at better pay than teaching.

Declined Tobacco Job

Professor Barker pondered quite seriously before deciding in favor of teaching for less pay than he have received in tobacco factory, and with more promise of promotion. But he soon earned a factory, and with more promise of promotion. But he soon earned a position here that his larger salary working in tobacco could not have procured for him, although that work would have taken him into larger cities.

Here he owns a two story frame house, a comfortable home. For 38 years he has been superintendent of the Fourth Street Baptist church Sunday school. He married Callie Carr, a Clarksville teacher who, like her husband, has been interested in church work. They have reared nine daughters, all now married, and have 32 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Professor Barker attended college in Clarksville and in Frankfort. For several years after coming to Owensboro he managed the Negro chautauqua at the county fairgrounds, and brought here many able lecturers on a variety of subjects, and a number of musical organizations and entertainers in other lines.

He has made more than 100 commencement addresses in Indiana, Illinois, Tennessee and Kentucky. For many years he was an instructor in teachers' institutes during the summer months. He began teaching here under Supt. McHenry Rhoads. Next was Supt. J. H. Risley, and then J. L. Foust. His last two years were under Dr. N. C. Turpen. He has not lost a day from school because of illness.

Friend of Senator Stanley

For more than 40 years Professor Barker has lived and worked in Owensboro, the past 15 years as Western high school principal, where his staff numbered 16 men and women when he retired. One of his teachers was J. P. Perkins, who married one of the Barker girls. The professor's home, with several bookcases filled with books, marks him a scholar. To him the cultural advantages of teaching were worth more than the larger pay offered him to work in tobacco.

He stands almost six feet tall, is erect in figure and weighs about 200 pounds. His home is a considerable distance from the high school of which he has been principal so long, and he has walked back and forth, always at a leisurely pace.

He has been for 50 years a teacher and principal in Owensboro. He was principal 22 years at Dunbar elementary school and 15 at Western.

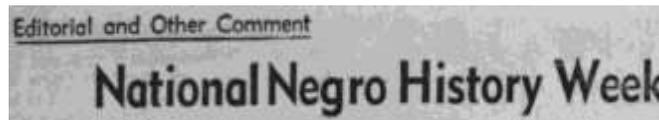
One of his close friends from early manhood is A. O. Stanley, who located in Henderson to practice law in the spring of 1898, when the now veteran educator was teaching in Corydon. His early admiration for Senator Stanley brought them into contact throughout the political life of Stanley, as congressman, governor and senator.

Senator Stanley has many times proved his friendship for the teacher and professor, who in return has spoken good words in campaigns for the man who was his friend.

No successor has yet been for Professor Barker – teacher, churchman and leader.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Monday, 13 February 1956, p.10:



"Negro history in an era of changing human relations" is the theme of National Negro History Week which is being observed February 12 to 19. The purpose is to recognize the part played by members of the Negro race in both the present and the past.

It is in the area of music that one sometimes is first to remember the accomplishments of the Negro race. Marian Anderson is only one of many of her people that have added much to the language that touches the heart of mankind.

In poetry, too, has come acclaim. James Weldon Johnson's cycle of poems on creation have long been recognized as belonging among America's best. Incidentally, his brother, James Rosamond Johnson, was a noted musician.

Among others mentioned as worthy of acclaim recently have been Dr. Carter G. Woodson, historian, said to be the greatest living authority on the Negro in history; Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, educator, who founded Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, Fla.; Dr. Ralph Bunche, statesman and representative to the United Nations; and Dr. Charles Drew, developer of a new way to preserve blood plasma.

All of the above mentioned are alive today and active in the life of the nation. One, of course, remembers George Washington Carver, the scientist, and Booker T. Washington, the noted educator. But with the changing times have come changes in the parts played by the leaders. Today the educator works with different tools than a century ago. He builds on the foundation Booker T. Washington laid.

And in Owensboro tribute has been paid to Dr. P. J. Walker, physician and philanthropist, and to Nannie Locke, missionary, for the fine work done among their people in years past. Both have gone on, but the naming of the Negro Housing Units for them attests that their people have not forgotten. Dr. Walker was from Maryland, but Miss Locke was a native of Owensboro. Also among those no longer living who accomplished much for their people may be named Dr. C. E. Simpson, a native Alabaman, who lived in Owensboro for about 30 years, and Stirman Wheatley, business man, a native of Owensboro, who was active in both a civic and religious way.

Among the leaders of today should be mentioned Dr. Reginald C. Neblett and Mrs. Neblett who take part in religious, recreational and civic movements.

M. J. Sleet, while maintaining his residence in Owensboro, has for 23 years been the business manager of the Western Kentucky Vocational School at Paducah and also served as its

president in 1946-47. His interest in education is equalled by his interest in religion and politics. He is the only Baptist layman among the trustees of Simmons University in Louisville. He is a native of Perryville, Boyle County, but has made Owensboro his home for many years.

Prof. S. L. Barker, retired, was principal of Western High School for 15. years, and a part of the Owensboro city school system for 48 years at his retirement. Asked to mention improvements seen during these years, Barker mentioned the equalization of teachers' salaries, the improvement of facilities for the Negro pupils, and the improved relationships between the races. Says Prof. Sleet: "Much credit is due, I think, to both races for improvement."

One might go farther and mention other Negro educational leaders of today, including Prof. H. E. Goodloe and his force, but one should surely not fail to mention another pioneer, Miss Emma Edwards, principal of Dunbar School. She, too, has noted with satisfaction the improvement of economic conditions of her race, the better attendance, and the higher level of education in general.

Yes, both colored and white may pause with satisfaction to think of what has been done in Owensboro. Much remains to be done, no doubt. That is true of every level for both races. But, since this is the week when observance is being held over the nation, we pay our respects to our own neighbors. To make Owensboro our ideal city, it takes all of us doing our part in whatever corner either race, creed or color has happened to place us.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Monday, 21 March 1960, p.10:

American Negro May Be The Key In World Power Race

In the race between leading nations of the world, in which each nation seeks to be the most powerful, "The American Negro may become a determining factor," Dr. Whitney Young, president of Lincoln Institute, of Lincoln Ridge, Ky., told an Owensboro audience yesterday.

"Each of us has problems, but let us not overlook that others have their problems, too," Dr. Young told listeners who comfortably filled the auditorium of 4th Street Baptist Church yesterday afternoon. "On the basis of the spiritual experience of our forefathers following their establishment in this country, we are qualified to solve our problems, as are others to solve their's, by keeping uppermost in mind the responsibility of every citizen to make the best contribution to his country that he or she is capable of making," Dr. Young said.

"When an individual accepts his responsibility as a citizen, he is in a better position to expect recognition of his rights," Dr. Young said, adding, "every right we have as Americans carries a corresponding responsibility."

Dr. Young was the principal speaker at a meeting arranged in honor of a leading Negro Baptist layman of Owensboro, observing twenty years of service as an officer in his church's lay movement. Numerous others paid brief tributes to Prof. Barker who retired in 1949 as principal of Western High School, after almost 50 years' service in the Owensboro school system.

Prof. Barker was presented with a gold plaque bearing the inscription: "Orator, Educator, Statesman. Kentucky Baptist Laymen's Movement, Auxiliary to the General Association of Kentucky Baptists, Makes This Presentation, to Prof. S. L. Barker, Its Treasurer 1940-1960." Officers of the organization came from Louisville, Hopkinsville and Smith's Grove for the presentation.

Prof. Barker, now 80, came to Owensboro in 1899, from Christian, by way of Henderson County. He began teaching in the Owensboro schools in 1901. He was advanced to principal of Dunbar, and then Western. He was delegated often to participate on behalf of groups with which he was associated to represent them on city councils of civic affairs. Coupled with his civic interests, was a long record of dedicated service to his church organizations. Prof. Barker is a trustee of Simmons University, president of the Green River Valley Sunday School Convention, secretary of the Mission Board, and has been, for 40 years, superintendent of the Sunday School of 4th Baptist Church.

Paying tribute to Prof. Barker, in short talks, were: Mark Anthony, president of the Baptist Laymen's group; C. G. Gaines, Hopkinsville, vice president; L. D. Britt, Smith Grove, secretary; Ike Ferguson, state organizer; E. D. Davidson, western organizer; William Weaver, Owensboro; Mrs. Queen Ella Sullinger, Owensboro, Rev. Q. L. Jones, 4th Street Baptist pastor; Prof. H. E. Goodloe, Western High Principal, and Lawrence W. Hager, editor and publisher of the Messenger and Inquirer.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 2 June 1968, p.1B:

**Many Lives Have Been Influenced
By Philosophy Of Prof. S. L. Barker**

By Frankie Hager, Messenger & Inquirer Staff Writer

The letter to the editor began with this plea: "Please do a feature on two remarkable and deserving old people Aside from being worthy and commendable citizens of this community, they have made contributions and rendered services in civic and religious activities as long as they were physically able to do so"

The couple referred to in the letter are Professor and Mrs. S. L. Barker of 731 Center St., Owensboro. Both recently had birthdays and both are 90 years

"Time is passing fast," the letter continued, "and I fear that they may never have the opportunity of knowing that they are appreciated and highly respected by their fellow citizens... "

120 Descendants

The couple are the parents of nine daughters. They have 120 descendants. This August they will celebrate their 66th wedding anniversary. They have 66 grandchildren, 42 great-grandchildren and three great-greatgrandchildren.

For 52 years, Professor Barker was a teacher, educator and administrator. Nearly 50 of those years were spent in the Owensboro school system. He taught at Western High for nine years, was principal of Dunbar Elementary for 25 years, and principal of Western High for 15 years before his retirement at the age of 70, twenty years ago. He also taught at Western Kentucky Industrial College, Paducah, for 10 summer sessions.

Mrs. Barker was also a school teacher, although she did not teach after coming to Owensboro in 1901, except within her church. She taught the Women's Bible Class of Fourth Street Baptist Church for 50 years. She served as instructor of the State Baptist Missionary Convention, and of the Green River Valley Baptist Missionary Institute. She also organized and

taught the Fourth Street Baptist Church Home Sunday School and organized Home Mission Circles and taught the East-End Circle for many years.

Delegate To '48 GOP Convention

Professor Barker was also an active church worker. He was superintendent of Fourth Street Baptist Sunday School for years, president of Green River Valley Sunday School and BTU Convention, secretary of Green River Valley Baptist Association for 17 years, secretary-treasurer of Green River Valley Baptist Mission Board since its organization, and on the executive board of United Brothers Friendship Lodge. He was one of the organizers, manager and secretary of the Owensboro Negro Chautauqua for 19 years. Another position he held was treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Layman's League from 1940-1960.

Mr. Barker was also active politics. A life-long Republican, he was a Kentucky delegate to the GOP National Convention Chicago in 1948.

"The Kentucky delegates were pledged to Taft," Prof. Barker said, "but we voted for Eisenhower on the second and third ballot."

He says he hasn't missed election "in 50 years." In 1955 he was co-vice state campaign chairman for Edwin Denney of Lexington, Republican nominee for governor.

50 Testimonial Letters

A high point in the Barkers' lives occurred on May 30, 1949, when there were "Appreciation Services" held in their honor, upon his having served "one-half century" in the schools Owensboro. That day was known as "Prof. S. L. Barker Day." Prof. Barker received telegrams and 50 testimonial letters from local, state and out-of-state educators, and public officials. Judge Wilbur K. Miller of the U. S. Court of Appeals, Gates Young, David Brodie, Whitney M. Young were among those sending him congratulations.

D. B. Cabell of Henderson wrote: "Here then is our friend who elevated himself above race, and by brains and force of character, lifted himself into the hearts of all men."

Another pinnacle of his career was just eight years ago when there was another meeting in his honor. This time it was in observance of his 20 years of service as an officer in his church's lay movement.

He was presented a gold plaque bearing the inscription:

"Orator, Educator, Statesman, Kentucky Baptist Laymen's Movement, Auxiliary to the General Association of Kentucky Baptists, Makes This Presentation to Prof. S. L. Barker, Its Treasurer 1940-1960."

Make Best Of Misfortune

The guiding principle of Professor Barker's life has been this simple philosophy:

"Make the best of misfortune. If they give you a lemon, make lemonade."

A Bible verse that gave him comfort during the hard days when he was trying to make his way was:

"Seest thou a man diligent in business, he shall stand before kings."

He feels the Poor People's| March will "do some good or some harm. It does seem to be meeting with some unfortunate situations. Their aim is all right; I'm not sure about the means." Work,

Work, Education Essential

His advice to young people is this:

"Have faith, believe in yourself and work hard. Work is essential to success."

But first, he counsels, "Get all the education you can. Then, if you are diligent and put forth all the energy you have into your work, you'll have a successful life."

All of the Barkers' daughters have had at least three years of college. Two who received degrees are the late Delinia Laughlin of Hazard, and Mrs. Florence Perkins, librarian at Franklin School. Mrs. Perkins and her husband, Joseph, a teacher at Foust Junior High, share the rambling two-story Barker home with her parents. The Perkins also believe in education. All six of their children completed college. One of the three boys has his masters degree and two of the three daughters have their masters'.

Other Barker daughters living in Owensboro are Mrs. Fannie Jackson, Mrs. Floy McFarland, and Mrs. Margaret Kelley. Living elsewhere are: Mrs. Imogene Morrow, Muncie, Ind., Mrs. Roberta Woodard, Elkhart, Ind., and Miss Marie Barker, who works on computer systems for the government in Cleveland, Ohio.

Has Faith In Owensboro

Barker has faith in Owensboro. He says the town has "a pretty aggressive spirit." He credits the newspapers, radio stations and schools with contributing to it.

"People get along better in Owensboro and live together more harmoniously than they do in any other town in the country," he said.

His big regret is that more children don't have the opportunity for a college education. He remembers how hard it was for him to work his way through Kentucky State College and Simmons University. His father was a Baptist minister and was too poor to help him financially.

"However, when I came along," he said, "chances for getting an education were poor to what they are now."

"Education, in the general term, is most essential thing to a successful life," Barker said. "Other essentials are a strong faith and a good family life and opportunity to live in an ambitious community."

(P.S. The friend who wrote the letter was Mary Fisher Morris, 729 Hathaway St.)



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 2 April 1969, p.2A:



MRS. SAMUEL BARKER

Mrs. Callie Carr Barker, 90, of 731 Center St., died Tuesday at the Daviess County Hospital following an illness of five days.

Born at Cheatham County, Tenn., on May 31, 1878, Mrs. Barker had lived in Owensboro for 66 years and was a member of the Fourth Street Baptist Church and the Green River Valley Baptist Missionary Society.

Her survivors include husband, Samuel Lorenzo Barker; eight daughters, Mrs. Florence Perkins, Mrs. Fannie Jackson, Mrs. Floy McFarland, and Mrs. Margaret Kelly, all of Owensboro, Mrs. Imogene Morrow and Dorothy Phillips of Muncie, Ind., Mrs. Roberta Woodward of Elkhart, Ind., and Miss Marie Barker of Cleveland, Ohio; one sister, Mrs. Bessie Hoosier of Los Angeles, Calif.; 41 grandchildren; 66 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren; and one foster son, Benjamin F. Hyde of Chicago, Ill.

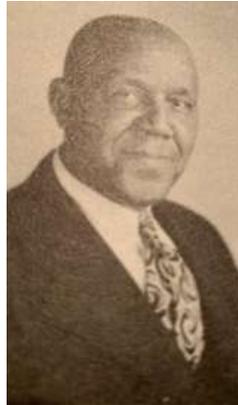
Services will be held at 2:30 p.m. Thursday at the Fourth Street Baptist Church, conducted by the Rev. W. R. Brown. Burial will be in the Elmwood Cemetery.

Friends may call after 12 noon today at the Young's Funeral Home.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Monday, 3 May 1971, pp.1A &2A:

**Samuel Barker, Teacher
For 50 Years, Succumbs**



Samuel Barker

Samuel Barker, 93, 07 710 Center St., who for 50 years taught in the Owensboro City School system, died Sunday at the Owensboro-Daviess County Hospital after a long illness.

Born in Christian County April 21, 1878, he had lived in Owensboro-most of his life and was a member of the Fourth Street Baptist Church and the UBF Lodge.

He had been principal of Western High School for 15 years and had taught at the Dunbar Elementary School and the Western Kentucky Industrial College.

He was the former secretary-treasurer of the Green River Valley District Association, former president of the Green River Valley Sunday School and BTU Convention, secretary of the Green River Valley Baptist Association and superintendent of the Fourth Street Baptist Church. Survivors include a foster son, Benjamin F. Hyde, Cleveland, Ohio; eight daughters, Mrs. Florence Perkins, Mrs. Fannie Jackson, Mrs. Floyd McFarland, Mrs. Margaret Kelly, all of Owensboro, Mrs. Imogene Morrow and Mrs. Dorothy Phillips of Muncie, Ind., Mrs. Roberta Woodard of Elkhart, Ind., and Miss Marie Barker, Cleveland, Ohio; and a number of grandchildren, great-grand-children and great-great-grandchildren.

Services will be conducted at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Fourth Street Baptist Church by the Rev. W. R. Brown, pastor.

Burial will be in Elmwood Cemetery. The body is at the Young Funeral Home, where friends may call after noon Tuesday.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 9 May 1971, p.7C:

Readers' Forum

In Tribute to S. L. Barker

To The Editor:

This is in tribute to the late S. L. Barker, retired Owensboro educator.

“Lives of great men oft remind us
We can make our lives sublime
And departing leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.”

These impressive words from Longfellow's "Psalm of Life" are so fitting in the life of Samuel Lorenzo Barker whose life was dedicated to service, unselfishly, humbly and without showmanship and who can be remembered and esteemed for his worthwhile accomplishments and his courtesy.

He was the husband of the late Callie Carr Barker: the patriarch of a large family – the father of nine daughters and the grandfather of three generations who will be able to cherish his memory in the years to come. He was a dedicated churchman, having served as deacon and the superintendent of Sunday School at the Fourth Street Baptist Church for a long period of years. He associated himself with many activities and organizations of a religious nature.

He was an interested and useful citizen in his community, having aligned himself with worthwhile endeavors that were beneficial to his fellowmen. As one of the co-founders of a local Chautauqua, he rendered invaluable service to the community for many years in the selection and presentation of cultural and exceptional entertainment.

He was politically alert and championed the issues which he considered to be worthy and acceptable. During one time in his life he was chosen as a delegate to represent his party at the National Republican Convention in Chicago.

He was by profession an educator and will be remembered best as teacher and the principal of two Owensboro schools, Dunbar Elementary and the former Western High School until his retirement at the close of nearly 60 years of service. He was elected president of the KNEA during his active years and did special teaching at the Western Kentucky Industrial College. An eloquent speaker, he was in great demand over a long span of years.

We, as his former pupils, his teachers under his former principalship, his fellow churchmen and citizens, his neighbors and his friends, had hoped that during his lifetime some tribute of an enduring nature could be given to a man who had helped to mold and influence so many lives. We are still hopeful that something can be done to perpetuate the memory of one who for 93 years lived such a full and rewarding life and who left his "footprints on the sands of time."

Mary Fisher Morris

729 Hathaway St. Owensboro, Ky



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 23 August 1975, p.2A:

**Local graduate
named recipient
of scholarship**

Edward M. Jackson Jr., a 1975 Owensboro High School graduate, has been awarded a \$400 S.L. Barker scholarship grant by the Barker family.

Jackson, son of Mrs. Ina Jackson of 719 W. 8th St., Owensboro, and Edward Jackson Sr., Owensboro, will attend Kentucky Wesleyan College this fall. He plans to major in sociology.

The scholarship grant was established in 1972 by the family of S.L. Barker, who was an educator in the Owensboro school system 50 years before his retirement at age 71 in 1949.

An OHS graduate who plans to attend college and is in need of financial assistance is selected by a six-member committee annually.

This year's grant was presented in conjunction with the Barker family reunion today in Legion Park.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 24 August 1975, p.1C:

A family affair

"That's nothing like the whole crowd," said a daughter of the late Owensboro educator S.L. Barker as she scanned four generations of his offspring – close to 90 descendants – gathered for an annual family picnic yesterday in Legion Park.

At right, Barker's adopted son Benjamin Hyde, 81, of Chicago, catches up on recent family news with younger members of the clan.

Above, he sits on the second row with his sisters - Fanny Jackson to his left and Margaret Mayes, Floy McFarland and Marie Gilbert to his right. Of Barkers' nine daughters, one is deceased and four were unable to attend the picnic.

The family came from as far as California and Pennsylvania for the occasion. "I'm proud to be a member of the family," said one great-grandson from Michigan.

Although no one had an exact figure, estimates of the full family ranged as high as 200. Born in 1878, Barker came to Owensboro in 1898 and was perhaps the most outstanding educator in the black community here before his death at 94.





Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 1 May 1977, p.2C:

***Planned city park
named for teachers***

The planned city park at Seventh and Walnut streets will be known as the Barker-Edwards Park, city commissioners informally decided Friday at a staff meeting.

The one-acre park on the site of the old Walnut Elementary School is scheduled for development sometime next fall.

The name honors the late Samuel Lorenzo Barker and Emma E. Edwards, both former teachers and principals in the Owensboro school system. Each served the city for more than 50 years.

Barker served as principal of the former Eastern and Western elementary schools and was active in numerous civic, social, religious and political organizations.

Miss Edwards succeeded Barker as principal of Eastern, later renamed the Paul Laurence Dunbar School and later the Opportunity Center. She is now superintendent at the Mary Harding Home, a position she has held for a number of years.

Mary F. Morris, another retired teacher from the city's school system, made the recommendation.



Monument section E, Elmwood Cemetery, Owensboro, KY:
Samuel L. Barker (21 Apr. 1878 – 2 May 1971) and
Callie Carr (31 May 1878 – 1 Apr. 1969)

Professor Samuel Lorenzo Barker was born in Christian County, KY. He was the son of Rev. Robert Barker (1853-1925) & Ellen Sims (1851-1947) and grandson of Chapman Barker

(born c1805 Tennessee). Samuel was the husband of Callie Carr Barker, who was a teacher and seamstress. They were married on 4 August 1902, in Guthrie, Todd County, KY. They were the parents of nine children – Fannie B. Barker Jackson (1893–1947), Delinia Barker Laughlin (1903–1966), Florence Ellen Barker Perkins (1905–2003), Imogene Vivian Barker Morrow (1909–1996), Floy Barker McFarland (1911–1980), Roberta Loraine Barker Woodard (1913–2005), Margaret Barker Mays (1915–2001), Marie Barker Gilbert (1918–1980), and Dorothy Evelyn Barker Phillips (1923–1994).

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Samuel Lorenzo Barker (1878-1971) is best remembered as an education leader. In Owensboro, KY, he was a Dunbar School teacher and principal; he became principal of Western High School in 1934. He was a long-time member and leader in the Kentucky Negro Educational Association (KNEA), first serving as assistant secretary in 1916. He was the 2nd District organizer for the Association of Colored Teachers beginning in 1925. The KNEA reporter in 1928, he later serving on the Board of Directors 1930-1935 and as president of the board 1939-1940.

Barker chaired the Legislative Committee in 1933, ran unsuccessfully for president of the association in 1935 and 1937 and successfully in 1939, serving 1939-1941. He also served on the Kentucky governor's committee for higher education for Negroes in 1940. Professor Barker served on various KNEA committees until the Kentucky Education Association subsumed KNEA in 1956. In his political life, Barker served as a delegate to the Republican National Convention from Kentucky in 1952.

