

# Walter Haslip Stowers (1859-1932)

Lawyer – Journalist – Author

By Jerry Long  
c.2026



**Evidences Of Progress Among Colored People, G. F. Richings  
(Philadelphia: Geo. S. Ferguson Co., 1896) pp.367-368:**



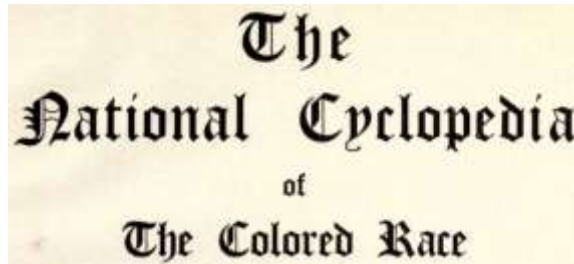
W. H. Stowers

Mr. William H. Stowers is a city clerk in Detroit, Mich. He is one of the bright minds among young colored men. He has been a Deputy Sheriff since 1886. His work on the Plain Dealer as one of its editors marks him as one of the most forcible writers the race has produced. Mr. Stowers and Mr. Wm. H. Anderson wrote "Appointed," an American novel which has attracted considerable attention.



**Who's Who Of The Colored Race,: A General Biographical Dictionary of Men and Women of African Descent, Volume I, Frank Lincoln Mather, editor (Chicago, 1915) p.256**

STOWERS, Walter Haslip, lawyer; born at Owensboro, Ky., Feb. 7, 1859; son of Jesse and Hester Stowers; grad. Detroit High School, Mich., 1879, Mahews Business Univ., 1881; LL.B., Detroit College of Law, 1895; married Susie F. Wallace, of Oberlin, O., Feb. 26, 1886; 2 children: Marjorie R., Walter J. Began as associate editor and pub. Detroit Plain Dealer, 1881, continuing to 1893; admitted to Mich. bar, 1895; since practiced in Detroit; member law firm of Barnes & Stowers; attorney for White Sewing Machine Co., Acme Repair & Tire Co., Almo Amusement Co., Zelah Amusement Co., Villa Amusement Co.; financially interested in the Almo, Zelah, Villa, and Grand Circus Amusement and Acme companies. Trustee Phyllis Wheatley Home for Aged Colored Women. Republican; was clerk of assessors 4 years, deputy sheriff 4 years, deputy county clerk 12 years, assistant chief clerk more than 3 years. Presbyterian. Member Detroit Bar Assn. Mason. Author (with William H. Anderson, Detroit): Appointed, 1888. Home: 306 Meldrum Ave. Office: Chamber of Commerce Bldg., Detroit, Mich.

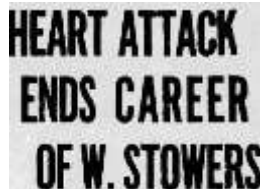


**The National Cyclopedia of the Colored Race, Clement Richardson, Editor-in-Chief**  
**(Montgomery, Alabama: National Publishing Company, Inc., 1919) p.617:**

STOWERS, WALTER HASLIP, attorney, born on February 7th, 1859, at Owensboro, Ky., educated High Schools of Detroit, Mich., Mayhew's Business University, Detroit College of Law. Admitted to the bar in 1895, and for the past twenty-three years has associated in the practice of law with Robert C. Barnes at Detroit. They are one of the leading firms of attorneys of the country. Married Miss Susie F. Wallace, February 23rd, 1886, Oberlin, Ohio.



**The Chicago Defender, Chicago, IL, Saturday, 27 August 1932, p.2:**



DETROIT, Mich., Aug. 26 – Walter Stowers, one of the leading civil attorneys in Detroit, died Sunday afternoon at his home, 4180 Burns Ave. He was the victim of a heart attack. Mr. Stowers was born in Kentucky Feb. 12, 1859. He came to Detroit 65 years ago and entered the Detroit College of Law, graduating in 1895.

He immediately entered the law practice, and during the 37 years he had practiced in the city had been counsel in some of the large civil cases. He was a member of the law firm of Stowers & Barnes until Mr. Barnes' death five years ago. Harold Bledsoe and Francis Dent making the firm of Stowers, Bledsoe & Dent after Dr. Barnes' death.

Mr. Stowers is survived by his wife, Mrs. Susie Stowers, and two children, Walter J. and Mrs. Marjorie Saunders. He was a member of the Church of the Covenant, Presbyterian (white), for 43 years.

A brother lives in Cleveland, but members of the family had been unable to locate him Tuesday. The funeral was held from his home Wednesday afternoon.



**The Afro-American, Baltimore, MD, Saturday, 3 September 1932, p.18:**

**Last Rites for Walter Stowers**

DETROIT – Funeral services for Walter H. Stowers, prominent Detroit attorney who died last Sunday, were held at the Stowers home, 4180 Burns Avenue, on Wednesday afternoon. Interment was at the Woodmere Cemetery.

Mr. Stowers was born in Owensboro, Ky., February 7, 1859. the son of Jesse and Hester Stowers. Shortly afterwards the family moved to Detroit where young Walter became the protege of Senator Merrill Palmer. He attended Central High School, Mayhew Business College, and later Detroit College of Law, graduating in 1895.

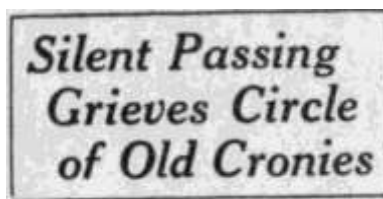
He married Susie E. Wallace on February 23, 1885 and from this union there are two children, Walter H. Jr., and Marjorie Saunders.

After graduation from Detroit College of Law, Mr. Stowers went into the Sheriff's office, serving as deputy for four years. Later he went into the County Clerk's office as deputy clerk, from 1895 to 1905. It was then that he went into the law practice with the late R. C. Barnes, a profession which he followed until his death. For 10 years he served on the Board of Supervisors of the County of Wayne. He also served as a grand master the Union Grand Lodge, F. and A.M., and, as further proof of his diverse talents, was an editor of old Detroit Plain Dealer.

He was also a member of the Detroit Bar Association and the author of a book, "Appointed," which was published some years ago by local publishing house. He is survived by his widow, Susie; daughter, son, and four grandchildren.



**Detroit Free Press, Detroit, MI, Monday, 29 August 1932, p.2:**



Strange how the old timers can slip out of life unnoticed. That was the consensus when Thomas Farrell, County clerk, and several of those who can probe the past sat down to talk.

Their conversation had swung around to Walter H. Stowers, Negro attorney, who died on Aug. 21. Farrell, Councilman John W. Smith, and many of the older judges were frequently meeting old acquaintances unaware of Stowers' passing.

Stowers, they recalled, was born in Owensboro, Ky., in 1859. Shortly afterward the family moved to Detroit where young Walter became a protege of Senator Merrill Palmer. He went to the old Central High School and later the Detroit College of Law. Stowers moved through many political fields.

After graduation he went into the Sheriff's office, serving as a deputy for many years. Later he went into the County clerk's office as deputy clerk from 1898 until 1905. It was then that he went into the practice of law with R. C. Barnes, a profession he was to follow with distinction until his death. For 10 years he also served on the Board of Supervisors. He also served as a grand master of the Union Grand Lodge, F. & A. M., and as further proof of his diverse talents was an editor of the old Detroit Plain Dealer.

Most of those who recalled him regretted that they had not learned of his death time to pay their respect to a kindly and capable fellow of early Detroit. He left his widow, Susie; a daughter, Mrs. Margaret Saunders; a son, Walter J., and four grandchildren.



NOTABLE KENTUCKY  
AFRICAN AMERICANS  
DATABASE



<https://nkaa.uky.edu/nkaa/items/show/123>

### Stowers, Walter Haslip

(born: February 12, 1859 - died: August 21, 1932)

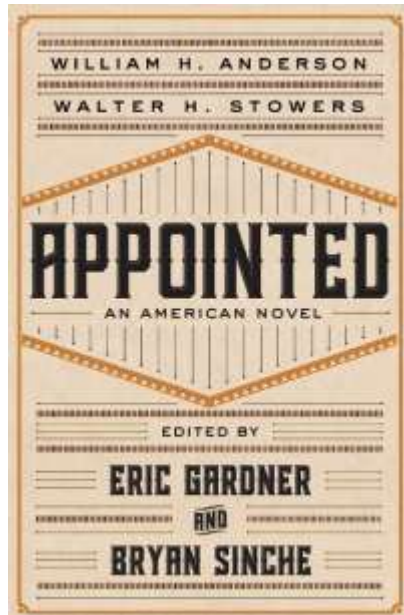
Said to be born in Owensboro, KY, Walter H. Stowers became a lawyer and author. Michigan and Canada are also given as his birth locations in the U.S. Federal Census. Stowers was a deputy sheriff and deputy county clerk in Detroit, MI. He established two newspapers, Venture and Plaindealer (Detroit). He led the fight against restrictive covenants in Detroit. Because of the controversial content of his book, the pen name Sanda was used when he co-authored Appointed: an American Novel [co-authored with William H. Anderson], published by the Detroit Law Printing Co.

Walter H. Stowers is buried in the Woodmere Cemetery in Detroit Michigan. He was the son of Jesse and Esther A. Bosley Stowers. He was the husband of Susan F. Wallace Stowers.

For more see Evidences of Progress Among Colored People, by G. F. Richings; Who's Who in Colored America, 1933-37; Walter H. Stowers (1858-1932) at Find A Grave.



**Amazon.com :**



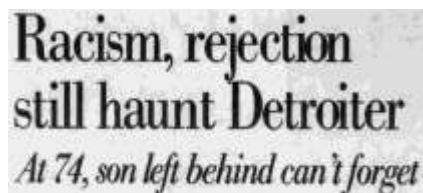
Appointed: An American Novel, by William H. Anderson (Author), Walter H. Stowers (Author), Eric Gardner (Editor), Bryan Sinche (Editor); 348 pages

Appointed is a recently recovered novel written by William Anderson and Walter Stowers, two of the editors of the Detroit Plaindealer, a long-running and well-regarded African American newspaper of the late nineteenth century. Drawing heavily on nineteenth-century print culture, the authors tell the story of John Saunders, a college-educated black man living and working in Detroit. Through a bizarre set of circumstances, Saunders befriends his white employer's son, Seth Stanley, and the two men form a lasting, cross-racial bond that leads them to travel together to the American South. On their journey, John shows Seth the harsh realities of American racism and instructs him in how he might take responsibility for alleviating the effects of racism in his own home and in the white world broadly.

As a coauthored novel of frustrated ambition, cross-racial friendship, and the tragedy of lynching, Appointed represents a unique contribution to African American literary history. This is the first scholarly edition of Appointed, and it includes a collection of writings from the Plaindealer, the authors' short story "A Strange Freak of Fate," and an introduction that locates Appointed and its authors within the journalistic and literary currents of the United States in the late nineteenth century.



**Detroit Free Press, Detroit, MI, Sunday, 21 April 1991, p.5F:**



By Jeanne May, Detroit Free Press Staff Writer

Detroiters Nelson and Louise Saunders know racism is alive and well in America, but they say it doesn't touch their everyday lives.

They are very much a part of Detroit's black community, but people who do not know them often assume they're white. On their family trees, each has at least one forbearer born into slavery and at least one from the white community.

"I don't pay attention to black and white anymore," Nelson Saunders said at their northwest Detroit apartment. "That's out of the question."

He is 74, and his wife is 64. Their lives have not always been as free of racism as they are today. At least for Nelson Saunders, racism has inflicted grievous wounds.

After his parents married they bought a two-family house just north of Detroit's handsome Indian Village.

The house had been built by a family named Henze and sold on a land contract in 1916. When that owner decided to sell several years later, she had to get permission from the Henzes. They gave it, but with a proviso: The house could not be sold to anyone who wasn't white or was Jewish.

"My father looked like white, my mother looked like white and they bought the house," Saunders said. "And then here comes my grandfather moving in who didn't look like white."

The Henzes sued the Saunderses, claiming fraud. The Wayne County Circuit Court found that before the sale, Nelson's father, also named Nelson, had been asked whether he had Jewish blood and had responded, "Not a drop." But no one had asked about his race.

So the court found no fraud, and the state Supreme Court affirmed the decision in 1921.

The winning lawyer in the case was that grandfather who didn't look white, Walter H. Stowers.

#### **Determined to succeed**

Stowers was born in Owensboro, Ky., and came to Detroit as a small boy. His father was a foreman at the Thomas Palmer farm, where Palmer Park is now.

"Mr. Palmer is the one who sponsored him, who was his mentor," Saunders said. "He was the one who got him into law school."

Stowers became one of the first two black students at the Detroit College of Law.

"My grandfather used to walk from up there in Palmer Park to downtown to go to law school," Saunders said. "Down and back. Every day. See, he wanted an education bad."

After law school, Stowers became Wayne County sheriff, then' deputy county clerk, and in 1905, he went into private law practice with Robert C. Barnes.

Although Stowers had saved the house for Nelson's parents, the marriage didn't last.

#### **Father turned his back**

Nelson's father worked at the old R.H. Fyfe Co., on Grand Circus Park. It was the biggest shoe store in town, and Nelson's father was its only black employee.

"Back when Fyfe's shoe store was *the place*, he was *the man*," Saunders said. "Everybody was so crazy about that man. He came down with TB, and Mr. Fyfe sent him to Arizona, to a health place ..."

"My father decided to be white ..."

"He never came back to his wife. He never came back to Detroit. In fact, he met a woman out there, and she was white, and he married her eventually."

The father opened a real estate, insurance and land development company and moved into a white area of Los Angeles. He wanted no part of his son, living in Detroit's black community.

"He was at one time president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce in Los Angeles," Saunders said. "He was white, and he didn't want anything disturbed."

It was devastating to a little boy. More than six decades later, it is devastating to the grown man. Even today, it's hard for him to get the words out when he talks about the father who rejected him.

"I guess I'll never get over my feelings about him," Saunders said. "I despise the man. ...

"I don't know what would have happened to me if it hadn't been for my grandfather. ... Grandpa was my father."

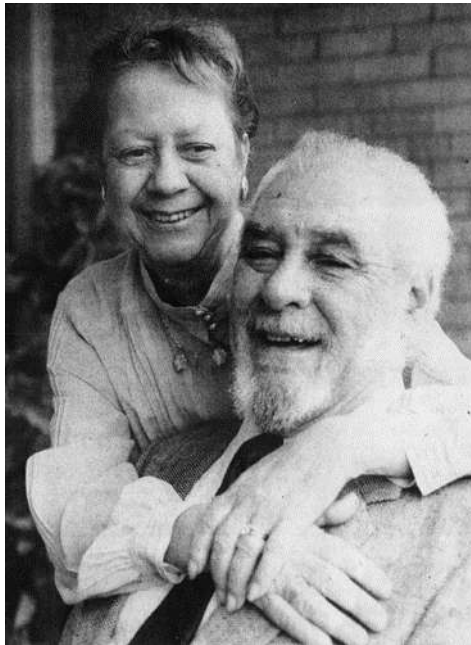
Nelson Saunders' mother, Marjorie Roberta Stowers Saunders, was a Detroit schoolteacher, and he graduated from the old Eastern High School. "I went to Wayne for a while, but I never finished," he said.

His grandfather died in 1936, his mother in 1940, and when World War II came, he was drafted into a black unit. He came home a first sergeant, moved into the house his grandfather had saved for the family and went to work for Wayne County.

He and Louise were married in 1947, and the old family place became their home. They quickly produced three children:

- In 1948, Adrienne. She's now Adrienne Wells, a special education advocate with the Flint Community Schools.
- In 1949, Nelson Warren. He's a Democrat who represents Detroit in the state House.
- In 1950, Ernestine. She's assistant principal at Grayling Elementary School, near the State Fair Grounds.

Their father loves them unconditionally. Asked to explain Wells' job, he said: "Don't ask me what she does. I don't know what she is." He paused. "But she's a damn good one."



Detroiters Nelson Saunders, 74, and his wife, Louise, 64, who are black, say people who do not know them often assume they're white. "I don't pay attention to black and white anymore," he says.

### Reminders of Grandpa

The family lived in the old house until about 1960, when a friend of young Nelson's died of a drug overdose. They fled, moving the family to northwest Detroit.

"I cried when I left there," Saunders said. "It was home."

He worked for Wayne County for more than 30 years, his last t job as guardian for mentally incompetent people. About 10 years ago, he retired, and he and his wife moved to the apartment where they live now.

Hardly a day goes by that Nelson Saunders doesn't remember his grandfather.

"It's too bad that our children don't really learn enough about our history," he said. "It's so enlightening. It really awakens you...."

"My grandfather, I remember hearing him talk. He and John Lodge were very close friends ... so I look at John Lodge Freeway and I immediately think of my grandfather. ..."

"When I go by Palmer Park, I think of Grandpa because he lived there. ..."

"And all of these things become a part of you, not just history, they're real. They show you: This is my roots."

Research on Henze vs. Saunders was done by Edward Littlejohn, a professor at Wayne State University Law School, who is writing a book titled "Black Before the Bar: African-American Lawyers, Cases and Laws in Michigan and United States History."



**Detroit Free Press, Detroit, MI, Friday, 16 October 2020, pp.4A & 11A:**

## PLAINDEALER LEGACY NOW ON THE RECORD

Site of Detroit's 1st Black newspaper  
gets historical marker, recognition

By Kyla L. Wright, Detroit Free Press

If you've ventured to downtown Detroit or anywhere else around the state, you've likely seen one of those dark green signs with gold lettering. These markers, used to commemorate Michigan's historical landmarks from the Motown Museum to Tiger Stadium, have added another famed location to the collection of over 1,800.

The Plaindealer newspaper was founded in 1883 by brothers Benjamin and Robert Pelham Jr., Walter H. Stowers and W.H. Anderson with a mission to promote civil rights and provide coverage of local and national events. Detroit's first "Afro-American" newspaper, as the founders called it, rejected the term "negro." It also was one of the first papers of its kind in the country. The Plaindealer ceased publication in 1894 due to lack of funding, but its legacy will now remain downtown, mounted at the corner of the Westin Book Cadillac at Shelby and State – its former office.

The Plaindealer initially received its marker approval in 1977, but it wasn't erected until this year.

When Karen Hudson-Samuels, chair of the Black Historic Sites Committee, an affinity group of the Detroit Historical Society, learned about the marker, she began making calls around the city, seeking a letter of support from the Michigan Historical Commission.

Jeremy Dimick, director of Collections at the Detroit Historical Society, received one of those calls. He found the Plaindealer's marker in early January in the society's 100,000-square-foot storage facility in southwest Detroit, which houses nearly 250,000 historically significant objects.

"It looked like it had come right out of the box," said Dimick. "Even the posts that were supposed to be installed with it were sitting right next to it, just waiting on its day to be installed, seen and read by everyone; and I guess, today is that day."

The unveiling took place Thursday at Capitol Park, a location Hudson-Samuels said she saw as fitting for the occasion.

"If you look around Capitol Park, this is a district that preserves some of the most important history of Detroiters," she said during the ceremony. Hudson-Samuels gave a brief history of Capitol Park being home to Michigan's first capital, the Finney Barn historical site and the Albert Kahn building.

"Journalism is the first draft of history, and we're making history here today."

Other members of the Black Historic Sites Committee chimed in about the importance of the event, as well. Malika Pryor, senior director of education and programs for the Detroit Historical Society and staff liaison for the committee, noted the society's mission to tell Detroit's stories and why they matter, referring to Detroit as a city of the world.

"There are so many stories, virtually infinite narratives that have purpose and power that we have the opportunity to tell," Pryor said, adding that because The Plaindealer began telling those stories and others, is why this event was so monumental.

With the marker being in District 6, Council-woman Raquel Castañeda-Lopez said she attended the ceremony to show her support not only for the marker, but for Black and brown people in journalism.

"To have these journalists honored, and this newspaper honored, is key and important, more [now] than ever in today's times where we face divisive rhetoric and a lack of representation of Black and brown voices in the media field," she said.

Castañeda-Lopez went on to acknowledge the need for the Plaindealer then, and the precedence its founders have set for journalism among underrepresented communities now, especially in Detroit.

"[We] don't have enough journalists of colors covering stories. It's really important that we are telling the stories of these communities," Castañeda-Lopez said. "[We] should have people that are from [underrepresented] communities who understand the challenges, and history to elevate [their voices], because without that, we really aren't complete."

Historical marker inscription: Detroit Plaindealer – The office of the Plaindealer, Detroit's first successful black newspaper, was located on this site. Founded in 1883 by five young men, it served as an advocate of black interests in Michigan and throughout the Midwest. Especially concerned with developing racial pride, the paper preferred the designation Afro-American rather than Negro, and encouraged the support of black businessmen and politicians. Its managing editor, Robert Pelham Jr., was perhaps the best-known black political figure in late nineteenth-century Detroit. In 1889 he helped organize the Afro-American League, the first nationally prominent civil rights group. Later he held the position of census clerk with the federal government. The Plaindealer, however, failed to receive sufficient financial support in the community, and ceased publication in 1894.



**Stowers, PLLC – law firm of Nathan M. Saunders**  
**The beginning (<https://www.stowerspllc.com/stowers>)**

I have dedicated this page to share the story behind the firm’s name, Stowers. It is an inspiring story, that I treasure. I hope you will consider reading on.

When I was planning the details around my firm I considered doing the obvious thing and naming it after myself, but thankfully I decided otherwise. I have always been a history enthusiast and as a child I enjoyed listening to stories of my own family history. Today, I often think about the legacy I will leave for my five children and the stories they will tell. Here I would like to share the legacy of my great-great-grandfather Walter Haslip Stowers, the man behind the name.

Walter Haslip Stowers was born February 7, 1859 in Canada, where his parents, Jesse and Hester Stowers, had fled to escape the persecution of slavery. At the age of seven, his family relocated to Detroit, MI where Walter received his formal education. Walter graduated from Detroit High School in 1879 and went on to attend Mayhew’s Business University from which he graduated in 1883. Soon thereafter, Walter entered law school. Walter became the first of two black graduates from Detroit College of Law, which is now Michigan State University College of Law. Walter was admitted to the Michigan State Bar in 1895.

Walter’s legal career saw many accomplishments, including arguing multiple cases before the Michigan Supreme Court. His crowning achievement, though, was co-founding The Detroit Plaindealer, a newspaper dedicated to covering topics relevant to the African American community. The mission of The Plaindealer was: “To overcome distrust; to demonstrate that The Plaindealer is an impartial advocate of everything for the welfare of Afro-Americans; to set an example that there is no field of labor which cannot be successfully explored and cultivated by the Afro-American who is energetic and painstaking; to provide a medium for the encouragement of literary work; for the creation of a distinctive and favorable Afro-American sentiment; for the dislodgment of prejudice; and for the encouragement of patriotism.” The Plaindealer saw tremendous success throughout Southeast Michigan and stood as one of its vital institutions.

Over a century after Walter Stowers began his legal career, I, Nathan M. Saunders, Walter’s great-great-grandson, formed Stowers, PLLC. The firm was founded to carry on the ideals embodied in Walter’s life work: commitment to service; excellence in legal representation; and cultivation of an environment in which both business owners and laborers can successfully explore their chosen fields by any lawful means. With over a decade of real-world business acumen combined with top-notch legal education and experience, I am uniquely positioned to serve your legal needs.



**Nativity of Walter H. Stowers**

Walter H. Stowers was born 12 February 1859 in Owensboro, Daviess County, Kentucky. This is reported in the following documented biographies:

- Who’s Who Of The Colored Race,: A General Biographical Dictionary of Men and Women of African Descent, Volume I, Frank Lincoln Mather, editor (Chicago, 1915) p.256
- The National Cyclopedia of the Colored Race, Clement Richardson, Editor-in-Chief (Montgomery, Alabama: National Publishing Company, Inc., 1919) p.617
- Detroit Free Press, Detroit, MI, Monday, 29 August 1932, p.2

- The Afro-American, Baltimore, MD, 3 September 1932, p.18
- Detroit Free Press, Detroit, MI, Sunday, 21 April 1991, p.5F

The 1870 and 1900 censuses of Wayne County, Michigan give Walter's place of birth as Canada. This is proven wrong by the 1861 census of Essex County, Canada, which records that he was born in the United States. His family during 1859-1861 had left the U. S. (Kentucky) and sought refuge in Canada as many slaves did.

The following entries were recorded in the 1861 Canada census and 1870 Wayne County, Michigan census:

#### 1861 census of Canada – Essex County

Stowars, Jesse	farmer	44	married	farmer	born – U.S.	religion – Baptist
“ Ester		33	married	female	born – U.S.	religion – Baptist
“ Jane		16	single	female	born – U.S.	religion – Baptist
“ Cath.		12	single	female	born – U.S.	religion – Baptist
‘ Jessey		10	single	male	born – U.S.	religion – Baptist
“ Jos.		4	single	male	born – U.S.	religion – Baptist
“ Walter		2	single	male	born – U.S.	religion – Baptist

#### 1870 census of Greenfield, Wayne County, Michigan

Stowers, Jesse	52	male	mulatto	farmer	born – Kentucky
“ Hester	43	female	mulatto		born – Kentucky
“ Cathron	22	female	mulatto		born – Kentucky
“ Jesse	18	male	mulatto	works on farm	born – Kentucky
“ Joseph	14	male	mulatto	works on farm	born – Illinois
“ Walter	12	male	mulatto		born Ontario, Canada
“ William	9	male	mulatto		born Ontario, Canada
“ Mary	6	female	mulatto		born Ontario, Canada
“ Fanny	4	female	mulatto		born Ontario, Canada
“ Hester	5	female	mulatto		born Ontario, Canada

Walter Stowers' mother, Hester (Esther / Ester) Ann Stowers died on 12 February 1878 Greenfield, Wayne County, MI. The Michigan, U.S., Death Records, 1867-1952 reported that Ester A. Stowers died of consumption at the age of 50 years & 2 months, she was married, a native of Kentucky and was a daughter of Jo. & Etta Jones. Her original surname is given as “Bosley” on a 1906 marriage of her son, Joseph H. Stowers.

The 1888 City Directory of Detroit, MI (p.1266) lists:

Stowers Mrs Elizabeth, dressmkr, 94 Harriet, h same.  
 “ Jesse (col'd), lab T W Palmer, h e s Hastings 1 n of Warren av.  
 “ Jesse (col'd), waiter Brunswick Hotel, h 94 Harriet.  
 “ Joseph H (col'd), lab, h 206 Benton.  
 “ Walter H (Plaindealer Co), h 44 Division.

The first Jesse Stowers listed is the father of Walter H. and the second Jesse is his brother; Mrs. Elizabeth Stowers is the wife of Jesse, Jr. Jesse Stowers (Jr.) died of consumption in Detroit, MI on 30 March 1889 – a death record reported he was age 38, born KY, married, was a waiter and was a son of Jessie & Hester Stowers.

On 28 July 1891 Walter H. Stowers petitioned the Wayne County MI probate court to appoint him administrator of the estate of Jesse Stowers, deceased. The said Jesse died on 19 July 1891 (Michigan, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1784-1980 for Jesse Stowers). Petitioner Walter H. Stowers was named as executor in the last will and testament of Jesse Stowers. Will was written by Jesse Stowers on 15 April 1891. By the will he left one-half of his personal & real estate to his son, Walter H. Stowers. The other half of his estate he left to his son, Joseph Stowers, and grandson, Sumner Williams. Joseph H. Stowers, brother of Walter, was born circa 1856 in Gallatin County, Illinois later resided Cleveland, Ohio, where he is buried in the Lake View Cemetery.

In the 1860 federal census slave schedule there is only two counties in Kentucky where there were white slave owners who carried the Stowers surname – A. H. Stowers in Daviess County and Richard & David Stowers in Pendleton County. Owensboro, reported to be the birthplace of Walter H. Stowers, is the county seat of Daviess County.

In 1860 A. H. Stowers owned six slaves – males aged, 51, 30 & 18 and females aged 24, 8 & 6. Two Stowers were listed in the 1850 census slave schedule for Daviess County – James B. Stowers (6 slaves) and A. H. Stowers (4 slaves). The two brothers, James B. and Alexander Harrison Stowers are buried in the Stowers family Cemetery one mile south of Sorgho in Daviess County – James B. died at the age of 33 on 30 December 1853 and A. H. Stowers born 26 October 1817, died at the age of 46 on 8 November 1863.

Harrison Stowers was born 26 October 1817 in Breckinridge County, KY. He was the son of John C. Stowers and Nancy Ann Edwards, who were married on 10 December 1807 in Jefferson County, KY. John Stowers is listed in the 1820 census of Breckinridge County, KY, at the time he owned 4 slaves (2 males and 2 females. In Breckinridge County, KY deed book C, page 259 it is recorded that John Stowers, of Jefferson County, KY, on 2 October 1813, purchased 600 acres in Breckinridge County from Norborne B. Beall. It included the mouth of Blackford Creek along the Ohio River west of the town of Lewisport. The area became part of the new county of Hancock County, KY in 1829. Harrison's mother, Ann Stowers, is listed in the first tax list of Hancock County in 1829 and appears as a household head in the 1830 census of Hancock County.

Harrison Stowers married Elizabeth Balee, on 19 February 1840 in Daviess County, KY. He is listed in the 1840, 1850 and 1860 censuses of Daviess County, KY. He resided near where the town of Sorgho is now located. His widow, Elizabeth Stowers, married John K. Smith, 16 October 1865, Daviess County, KY. Elizabeth Balee Smith was born 9 November 1822 and died 1 February 1894; she was buried in the Stowers cemetery at Sorgho. Harrison and Elizabeth were the parents of – James William, Catherine L. (Mullican), John Peter, Sumner, Elizabeth (Shaw) and Richard Alexander Stowers.

Harrison Stowers had siblings – Catherine Mary Greathouse, Sarah Ann Beauchamp, William Chapman Stowers; George Washington Stowers, Juliette Ann Banks, James Berkley Stowers and John M. Stowers. Harrison had a first cousin, Mary Emaline Stowers, who married Edward Bosley (1808-1893) in 1841. A daughter of Samuel Stowers & Henrietta Edwards, she was born 26 November 1822 in Hancock County, KY and died 16 February 1905. She was buried in the Bosley Cemetery in what is now part of the city of Owensboro, KY.

Walter H. Stowers' parents, Jesse & Hester Ann (Bosley) Stowers, are likely inter related to the Stowers & Bosley families of Daviess Count, KY.

