

Dr. Randolph Franklin White (1870-1943)

By Jerry Long
c.2026



National Cyclopedia of the Colored Race, Clement Richardson, Editor-in-Chief
(Montgomery, Alabama: National Publishing Company, Inc., 1919) p.177:



While he is really filling the place of a modest business and professional man, Dr. Randolph Franklin White, the Negro Pharmacist, of Owensboro, Kentucky, has so happily mixed business, education, work and travel, that he may be almost called a globe trotter. His travels, which all the

time had in them the purpose of business, have taken him into the leading cities of America, into Canada, into Hawaii, into Japan, and into the Philippine Islands. Few men have made the profession of pharmacy serve them such triple service provide travel, gain experience and supply a livelihood.

Dr. White was born in Warrentown, Florida, June 25th, 1870. He spent his early school days in his native State, and early made up his mind to become a pharmacist. To this end he entered Howard University, from which he graduated in 1897. But Dr. White cannot be said to have begun or to have completed his course at any one time. As he mixed travel with business, so he mixed school education and practical education. Thus while he was attending Howard University, pursuing a course in Pharmacy, he was at the same time gaining practical experience in Pharmacy, working for the Plumnur Pharmacy, in Washington, D. C.

His graduation in 1897 was therefore more attaining freedom and license for he was already ripe in his calling, ready to take charge and manage rather than serve the usual apprenticeship. He found no trouble under the circumstances with securing good responsible posts at the very outset. His first position was in Louisville, Kentucky. Here he took charge of the Peoples' Drug Store, and ran it, giving satisfaction to its stockholders. From Louisville he went to Lexington and for a time joined forces with Dr. Ballard. He was already well known as a pharmacist. The United States Government, needing a Hospital Steward, Dr. White was appointed to the post, and commissioned to serve in the Philippines. Here he worked for two years, from 1899 to 1901. Hence it was that he got his trip to the Orient, and other countries while he was away from the United States.

Having completed his travels and finished his services with the Government, he returned to Kentucky, to begin business for himself. In 1901 he opened a drug store in Owensboro. Dr. White had some difficulty in securing a place to begin business. He therefore bought the store which he was to use and which he still uses. His business prospered from the outset, as he had had wide experience in handling drugs and in handling people. He owns his home and his store in Owensboro and owns three rent houses in Lexington.

Dr. White is a good churchman and a member of several fraternal bodies. He is an Episcopalian, a Mason, an Odd Fellow, U. B. F., and a Knight of Pythias. In the Masonic order he is Deputy Grand Master of the State.

Dr. White was married in Lexington, July 23, 1901, to Miss Fannie Hathaway.

Almost every city has some one individual or business which holds a unique position because of some marked and distinctive feature or characteristic.

Thus in Owensboro, Kentucky. Dr. Randolph Franklin White is known as the Pharmacist.

He has won this distinction from his remarkable success in business, which is universally recognized, but not from this alone, his valued services to the Government during his travels abroad make their contribution to the enviable reputation he enjoys.

His thorough knowledge of his business is evidenced in the great success he has achieved in it and this with his courteous manner and elevated bearing commands the respect of all who deal with him.



Greenwood Cemetery: 1821 Leitchfield Road, Owensboro, KY
Jerry Long (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 2006) pp.15-16
(list of Greenwood Cemetery Association stockholders):

White, Randolph Franklin, D.D., 1 share. Born 25 June 1870 Warrington, Florida; son of Moses & Mercy White. Died 1 January 1943 Louisville, KY (death certificate 1943 - #1619). Buried Zachary Taylor National Cemetery in Louisville. Married Fannie H. about 1901. He was a veteran of the Spanish American War. He is with his parents in the 1870 & 1880 censuses of Warrington, Escambia County, Florida. In the 1900 Federal Census he was at San Fernando in the Philippine Islands. He was then in the US Army's 48th Infantry and was a hospital steward. He was reported to be single and a resident of Lexington, KY. He served with Dr. Perry Green Walker in the Philippines and was listed immediately after him in the 1900 census, they both located in Owensboro during 1902-03 and practiced their professions here about 20 years. He is listed as a druggist in the 1910 & 1920 censuses of Owensboro, in the latter he was reported to be operating his own store. He is found first in the Owensboro City Directories in the 1903-04 edition; it reported that Randolph F. White was selling drugs at 812 W. 5th and residing the same. He is last found in the Owensboro Directories in 1925; he was then living at 812 W. 5th. During this period he was Owensboro's only Negro pharmacist. By 1930 he was a proprietor of a drug store in Louisville, where he and his wife were shown in that year's Federal Census.



Randolph F. White



NOTABLE KENTUCKY
AFRICAN AMERICANS
DATABASE



<https://uksrc001.net/nkaa/items/show/2566>

White, Randolf Franklin

(born: 1870 - died: 1943) Dr. Randolf F. White was a prominent pharmacist in Owensboro, KY, serving both white and African American customers. He was one of the first African American pharmacists in Daviess County.

Dr. White was born in Warrington, FL, the son of Moses and Massie White. His wife Fannie H. White was born in Kentucky. Dr. White and his wife are listed in both the 1920 Daviess County Census and the 1920 U.S. Federal Census.

In 1913, Dr. White was named president of the Pharmaceutical Section of the National Medical Association. He had been a druggist in Lexington, KY and came to Owensboro in 1901, where he operated his drug store, located at 812 West 5th Street, for 24 years. As a young man, John T. Clark, of the Urban League, had been a pharmacist during the summers at White's Drug Store. In 1925, Dr. White sold his pharmacy to Miley R. Coffield.

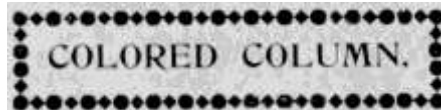
By 1930, Dr. White and his wife lived in Louisville, KY at 2504 W. Madison Street. He owned a drugstore, and his wife Fannie was a school teacher [source: 1930 U.S. Federal Census].

Dr. Randolph F. White died on January 1, 1943 [source: Kentucky Death Certificate]. Arrangements were handled by the J. B. Cooper Funeral Home. Dr. White was buried in the Zachery Taylor National Cemetery. He was a veteran of the Spanish-American War.

For more see "The Pharmacy conducted by Dr. R. F. White ...," The Savannah Tribune, 2/7/1914, p. 4; Dr. R. F. White in "Enterprising Owensboro" in Freeman, 6/30/1906, p. 6; Dr. R. F. White on p. 347 under the heading "Pharmaceutical Section" in the Journal of the National Medical Association, 1914, vol. 5, no. 4; "Southern States," The Pharmaceutical Era, 1925, vol. 60, p. 379; and the paragraph at the bottom of column 1 and the top of column 2 of the article "Past Week at Louisville," Freeman, 10/7/1911, p. 1.



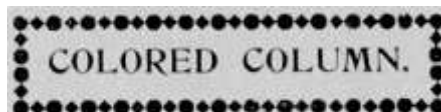
Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 21 July 1901, p.10:



Dr. R. F. White, formerly of Louisville, but recently of the hospital department of the 49th regiment, stationed at San Fernando, Philippine islands, is in the city prospecting. He is favorably impressed with Owensboro, and about the 15th of next month will return and engage in the drug business. Dr. White comes well! recommended, having had several years' experience in stores in Louisville and Lexington, and for the last twenty-one months he has been hospital steward in the distant islands.



Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 25 August 1901, p.2:

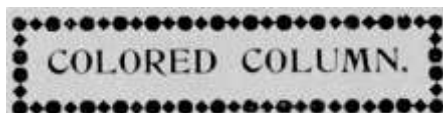


Dr. R. F. White has secured a location on West Fifth street and will at once begin to build a handsome storehouse. He expects to have everything in readiness about the last of September. The doctor could not have selected a better field than Owensboro, and in casting his lot with us we

bespeak for him success. He is a graduate of the pharmaceutical department of Howard university, Washington, D. C., and has had several years' experience in Louisville, Lexington and the Philippines.



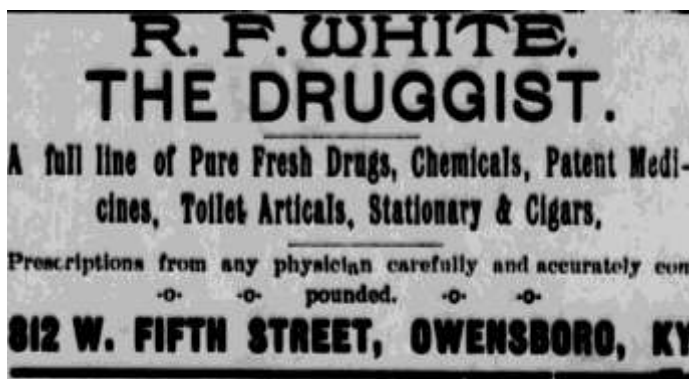
Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 29 September 1901, p.12:



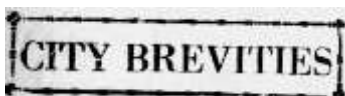
Dr. R. F. White, the druggist, desires all his friends to witness the opening of his drug store Monday, September 30th. He has fitted up his store with a fresh line of drugs and sundries and will give to every person who attends a handsome souvenir. His store is located on the south side of Fifth street, between Elm and Poplar, and he is now prepared to do business.



Kentucky Reporter, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 22 March 1902, p.2:



Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 24 February 1925, p.12:



Dr. R. F. White, who has conducted a drug store on West Fifth street is preparing to leave Owensboro and will locate in Louisville about March 1. Dr. White has purchased a building at Sixth and Walnut streets in Louisville, which is now undergoing repairs, and will be ready about the first of the month. Dr. White has sold his drug store in this city to M. R. Cofield, colored, of Marion, Ky. Dr. White came to Owensboro shortly after he was discharged from the Spanish-American war about 24 years ago. His home was in Florida.



Randolph Franklin White (born 25 June 1870 Warrington, Escambia County, Florida; died 1 January 1943 Louisville, Jefferson County, KY, Hospital Steward, U.S. Army, 48th Volunteer Infantry). Dr. White and his wife, Fannie Hathaway (born 22 May 1868 and died 10 November 1958) were buried Zachary Taylor National Cemetery, Louisville, KY.

The Louisville Defender, Louisville, KY, Thursday, 13 November 1958, p.1:

**Mrs. F. White's
Funeral Services
Are Held Today**

Funeral services will be held today for Mrs. Fannie Hathaway White, 89, of 2504 W. Madison, at the Third Christian Church, 1606 W. Chestnut. at 11 a.m.

Mrs. White. who was the widow of late Dr. R. F. White, one of the first Negro pharmacist and a veteran of the Spanish-American War, died Monday, 3:30 a.m., after an illness of over eight years.

The deceased was principal of George Washington Carver School in Lexington for a number of years.

She is survived by a sister, Mrs. Eva Hughlitt, Indianapolis, Ind.; a brother, Isaac S. Hathaway, Montgomery, Ala.; a niece, Mrs. Nellie Wooten, Indianapolis, and number of cousins.

Interment will be at Zachary Taylor Cemetery