

# Baxter Heritage

## Negro Leader Left Mark on City

James Miller Baxter, born and educated in Philadelphia, came as a youth to Newark to teach and later became the first Negro principal in the city public school system.

He married the former Pauline Mars of Brooklyn, who conducted a successful catering business in New York. They had five children, four of whom are now deceased.

One son, the late Dr. J. Leroy Baxter, was a dental surgeon with a practice in Newark and Orange for more than 40 years. He also completed three terms in 1929 as a Republican assemblyman in the Legislature and served four terms as president of the Newark branch of the NAACP, among many other activities.

### NAACP Founder

Mrs. Grace Baxter Fenderson, daughter of the Negro educator and a graduate of the old Newark Normal School, was one of the first regular teachers in the city's school system.

She was a founder in 1914 of the Newark NAACP and served in later years as president of

the chapter and chairman of its executive committee. She was also a vice president of the national body of the Negro organization.

Mrs. Fenderson was a leader in the NAACP's campaign for the appointment of Negro principals and vice principals by the Newark Board of Education. At an NAACP dinner in 1959, she

### NEGRO HISTORY WEEK

Feb. 12 through 18 . . . originated to coincide with Lincoln's birthday by Association for the Study of Negro Life and History . . . Washington, D.C.

"Newarkers of today have only to look back to the struggles and hardships of those Newarkers of yesterday to realize that, in spite of race, creed, color or origin, they achieved."

—Grace Baxter Fenderson.

declared: "I am determined not to die until I see another Negro principal in Newark."

Mrs. Fenderson, who died in 1962, didn't live to see her wish come true, but two years after her death, a Negro principal, Dr. E. Alma Flagg, was appointed to head the Hawkins Street School.

Mrs. Fenderson's husband, Walter E. Fenderson, also long active in community affairs, resides at the original Baxter homestead at 15 Elm St.

James Baxter's surviving child, Ernest, 78, operates a dental laboratory, and lives with his wife, Ethel, in Orange.



JAMES M. BAXTER  
First Negro Principal



DR. E. ALMA FLAGG  
Current Principal

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