

F. S. Whittaker, Lawyer, Father Of Peorian, Die

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Funeral services for Frank Scott Key Whittaker, 65, 2206 Brackenridge St., Houston Tex., father of Miss Juliette Whittaker, head of the drama art department at Carver Community Center in Peoria, will be at 12 noon Sunday at Pilgrim Congregational Church at Houston, with burial there.

Mr. Whittaker, prominent Houston attorney, died Monday of a respiratory ailment at Elizabeth Hospital at Houston. He was born at Montgomery Ala., Nov. 22, 1899, a son of Aaron J. and Martha Warrington Whittaker, and married Julia W. Evans at Charleston S. C., in 1920. She died at Houston in December, 1961.

A resident of Houston since 1926 Mr. Whittaker in 1919 organized Houston College for Negroes, now Texas State College, and was instrumental in organizing the first chapter of his fraternity, Omega Psi Phi at Houston.

After graduating from Vanderbilt University at Nashville, Tenn. in 1920 with an A.B. degree magna cum laude, he attended Harvard Law School where he received his LL.B. degree in 1923. Active in many phases of education since then, he also had served as attorney in many civil rights cases, including Smith vs. Allwright in 1944 which opened Democratic primary elections to Negroes in Texas. He also secured abolition of race differentials in teachers' salaries at Houston, Port Arthur and Beaumont, Tex., and had worked with NAACP at Houston.

A Democrat and a member of the Congregational Church, Whittaker was listed in Who Who in Colored America. In addition to his legal and educational work, he also was an artist and author, having painted extensively and written numerous poems in many forms of literature. Two of his poems appeared in the World Fair Anthology of Verse in 1954 and his "Christmas Lyrics" were published that year. His drama, "30 Pieces of Silver" was published in 1951.

Surviving besides his daughter here are another daughter, Martha E. Collins of Houston, Tex., and two grandchildren.