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Daniel E. Owens Collection

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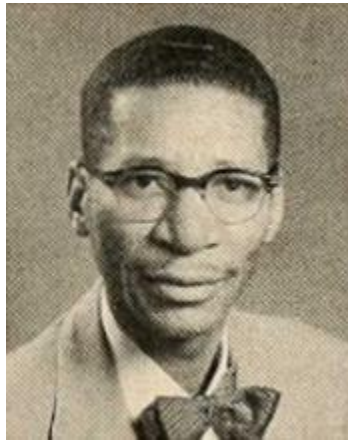
### Daniel E. Owens

Angel Sloss

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## Daniel E. Owens



Daniel Edward Owens (September 24, 1922-November 22, 1986) was born in Northampton, North Carolina to Mr. Charlie Owens and Elizabeth (Johnson) Owens<sup>1</sup>. Mr. Owens worked a general farmer while Mrs. Owens stayed home with his elder siblings George Logan Owens and Francis Owens. Unfortunately, Daniel's elder brother George died of diphtheria a month after Daniel was born (at the age of 3)<sup>2</sup>.

The Owens family migrated to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. By then his younger brother Ralph was born (unfortunately died at the age of 7 months old<sup>3</sup>), and Daniel attended Westinghouse High School and participated in the senior band. Daniel continued to pursue Music in his academic endeavors leading him to a Bachelor of Music from West Virginia State College and a Master of Fine Arts at the Carnegie Institute of Technology<sup>4</sup>.

During his college days, Owens was drafted into the Army and served in World War II between July 21, 1943- December 26, 1945<sup>5</sup>. At some point, Daniel returned home to North Carolina and served for a decade as the band director at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte. He married Helena "Helen" Faye Meadows. Through this union, the couple had sons Gerald "Jerry" Owens, and LT. Col. Daniel Owens Jr. of Nashville, Tennessee.

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<sup>1</sup> North Carolina, Birth Indexes, 1800-2000, [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com)

<sup>2</sup> North Carolina, Death Certificates, 1909-1976, [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com)

<sup>3</sup> Pennsylvania, Death Certificates, 1906-1967, [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com)

<sup>4</sup> The Tennessean, November 24, 1963, [newspapers.com](http://newspapers.com)

<sup>5</sup> Pennsylvania, Veteran Compensation Application Files, WWII, 1950-1966, [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com)

Professor (Prof.) Daniel “Danny” Owens became a longtime Assistant Band Director (hired in November 1924) with Prof. Frank T. Greer and Director of the TSU Jazz Ensemble in the 60s and early 70s before spending his last TSU years as manager of the first campus radio station in the 1980s. It was when he retired that he asked Vallie Pursley, the Special Collects Librarian at that time, to come and get the record albums from the radio station for Special Collections (including several by TSU alumni, and the one he did with the TSU Jazz Ensemble)<sup>6</sup>.

Owens contributed to special music projects on black musicians in 1971 written and narrated by Dr. William O. Smith, professor of music history and strings at Tennessee State<sup>7</sup>. According to the Charlotte Observer (Charlotte, North Carolina), Mr. Danny Owens died November 22, 1986 at Hubbard Hospital in Nashville, TN. His funeral was held at John Calvin Presbyterian Church with burial held at the Nashville National Cemetery in Madison, TN 37115. Mr. Owens was not only known as a band director but as a trumpeter and arranger for Raymond “Flat Tire” Mason’s Band.

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<sup>6</sup> Fletcher Mood, Head of Reference, Tennessee State University

<sup>7</sup> The Tennessean, April 4, 1971, [newspapers.com](http://newspapers.com)