

**D**r. Dana Olden Baldwin (1881-1972) moved to Martinsville in 1910 after receiving his medical degree from Leonard Medical College at Shaw University in Raleigh, N.C. He and his family members—four younger brothers and sisters later followed him north—were the impetus for many businesses and social outlets for the city's black community.

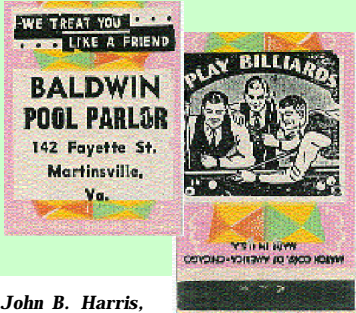


Dr. Baldwin is believed to be the first physician from Martinsville to volunteer to serve in World World I. Commissioned as a lieutenant, M.R.C. at Ft. Des Moines, Iowa after basic training, he served in France during with the 92nd Division, 317th Sanitary Train, and the Ambulance Corps of Company 368.

**T**hrough his entrepreneurship, Martinsville gained a wood yard, a brick company, a pharmacy, a hospital, movie theater, swimming pool, bowling alley, pool hall, dance hall, cafe, hotel, a newspaper for blacks and wage work for black women at a new pants factory. The Baldwin brothers are also credited with organizing annual black fiddler's conventions, Agricultural Fairs, and Martinsville's annual June German Ball.

**D**r. Baldwin's memberships included the Virginia Medical Society, National Medical Society, Masons, Elks, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church on Fayette Street. His hobbies ranged from ballroom dancing and playing the guitar to checkers and shuffleboard.

— Sources include published profiles of D.O. Baldwin, M.D. by John B. Harris, John P. Bing, M.D., the Martinsville Bulletin and Fayette Area Historical Initiative oral history interviews; Photo courtesy of Beverly Millner from the History of the American Negro, Virginia, edited by Arthur Bunyan Caldwell, 1921; matchbook cover courtesy of Douglas L. Stegall.



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WORKING AND PLAYING ON FAYETTE STREET: an exhibit created through the partnership of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and the Fayette Area Historical Initiative.

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