



## Sager Brown: Sacred Ground

*A. Craig Fisher Ph. D.*

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"Sager Brown, as an orphanage and school in the bayou country of Louisiana, served the intellectual and social developmental interests of black children for over a century when few if any other avenues were available. Their story is one of compassion and heartfelt dedication of key individuals who, with help, countered the destructive force of oppression of post-emancipation and segregation, resulting in thousands of redeemed lives. A brief history of the Bayou Teche area is offered to pinpoint the site of the school, which exists today as the major shipping depot of the United Methodist Committee on Relief for relief supplies both nationally and worldwide. Divine intervention is in evidence throughout the book as the institution ebbs and flows from one crisis to the next, always raising its head to move forward from apparently insurmountable odds to the new light of day. Although Sager Brown is and has always been a Methodist church-supported institution, anyone interested in the plight of children and their eventual redemption will find the book a worthwhile read. It was a joy to document the only in-depth history of this historic institution. "The first week I spent as a volunteer at Sager Brown. I, too, knew I was on 'holy ground.'" I am indebted to Craig Fisher for telling the world how this wonderful facility came to be, for it explains why it has always been a sacred spot. Craig's research is thorough, his presentation scholarly, but he has also captured the essence of the ministry that continues today in Baldwin, Louisiana." Su Kelley, multi-year Sager Brown volunteer and long-time Bible teacher "It is my privilege to recommend Sager Brown: Sacred Ground as an excellent informational and inspirational history of the institution known as Sager Brown in Baldwin, Louisiana. United Methodists are known to be people of 'head and heart' and Dr. Fisher has masterfully woven the threads of the history of this institution to reflect both the passion that inspired and supported it for generations and the hard facts of its impact on countless numbers of children and indeed an entire community. Not only does Dr. Fisher tell the story of the struggle of an institution of change to survive in the deep South, he illustrates the influence persons of passion can have on an institution, a region of the country, and even a nation through a lifetime of service. From a larger perspective, he also tells the story of the denomination's unceasing desire to be relevant to the needs of the world as they change over the centuries. Every obstacle became an opportunity for God to open a new pathway for building HIS kingdom." Rev. Dawne Phillips, Director of Missions, Texas Central Conference, United Methodist Church."

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