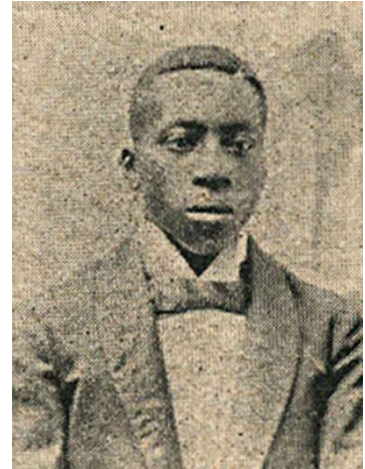


## “Fakers” vs “Readers”

- ragtime music originated with African Americans (as did blues and jazz)
- Many black musicians didn't have the benefit of a formal music education
- In the language of time, there were two groups: “Fakers” could not read music; “readers” could
- Hundreds of black piano players who played by ear worked the sporting houses, theatres and county fairs
- As there were no tape recorders, and nothing was written down, most – if not all – early ragtime has been lost to time
- One benefit: Since they played by ear, “fakers” would often improvise (creating new melodies or musical phrases on the spot, instead of playing an arrangement note for note)
- Improvisation is a key element of blues and jazz

## Joplin et al

- There were several African American composers of ragtime who were trained professional musicians: Scott Joplin and James Scott – this was the start of classic ragtime, written down and published as sheet music
- When white middle-class musicians started playing ragtime, it soon became mainstream (the pop music of the time)



### Arthur Marshall (1881-1968)

- ❖ born on a farm in Missouri and grew up in the nearby town of Sedalia
- ❖ In 1900, he co-published his first rag with Scott Joplin who was a lodger with the family
- ❖ earned a college music degree
- ❖ made his living as a piano player in St. Louis and Chicago before moving to Kansas City and retiring from the music business in 1917

