On August 21, 1939, William Evans, Edward Gaddis, Morris Murray, Clarence Strange and Otto Tucker entered the Barrett Library and requested library cards. When refused, they sat down and began to read. All five were arrested. Their attorney Samuel W. Tucker, a civil rights advocate, helped organize the protest. They hoped this action would lead to equal access for the city's African American residents, but the city delayed the case and no ruling was ever issued. In 1940 Alexandria built a separate facility, the Robert H. Robinson Library, for African Americans. Seen by many as a positive outcome, it was not the equality that Tucker sought. The Robinson Library now houses Alexandria's Black History Museum. Desegregation of the library system began by 1959.