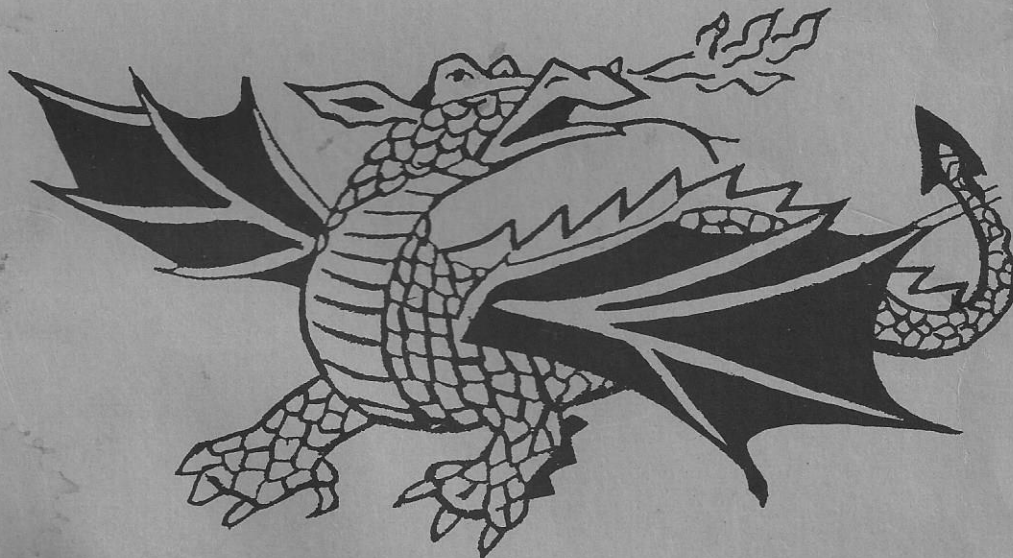


Rayville Rosenwald School

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Eula D. Britton High School  
Reunion 1985

*Theme: "Our Legacy"*



July 5 - 8, 1985  
Rayville Civic Center  
Rayville, Louisiana

1907 - 1970

RAYVILLE ROSENWALD SCHOOL

EULA D. BRITTON HIGH SCHOOL

REUNION - 1985

THEME - "OUR LEGACY"

JULY 5, 1985

10:30 a.m. .... REGISTRATION  
Rayville Civic Center

7:00 p.m. .... OPENING SESSION  
Rayville Civic Center

8:00 p.m. .... BRAG AND BOAST SESSION  
Rayville Civic Center

JULY 6, 1985

10:00 a.m. .... CLASS PICTURES

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. .... BRUNCH

The Lawns of Mrs. Doretha C. Wilkins  
and Mrs. Alma Baker

7:00 p.m. .... BOAT RIDE (SOCIAL)  
Twin City Queen  
Jackson Street North Levee  
Monroe, Louisiana

JULY 7, 1985

9:00 a.m. .... MORNING WORSHIP  
Rayville Civic Center

JULY 8, 1985

10:00 a.m. .... ALUMNI MEETING

7:00 p.m. .... BANQUET/DINNER/DANCE

## FOREWORD

*"We have come over a way that with tears has been watered  
We have come, treading our path..."*

*Yet with a steady beat  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?"*

*JAMES WELDON JOHNSON - "Lift Every Voice and Sing"*

On August 16, 1904, a group of Black citizens formed "The Rayville Industrial and Agricultural School" corporation. The men responsible for the formation of this corporation had availed themselves of the provisions of the general statutes of the State of Louisiana and acts amendatory and especially Act No. 50 of the General Assembly of 1890, relative to organizations of corporations for literary, scientific and charitable purposes and acts amendatory. As a result, the Charter of "The Rayville Industrial and Agricultural School," was published.

The title and corporate name of this institution was designed for a period of ninety nine years from and after the date assigned to the document.

The object of the institute was:

*The education and moral training of colored children, male and female, and the dissemination of knowledge in practical agriculture mechanics, other industrial arts and sciences, together with a thorough academic, literary and business education: including domestic science, fancy, practical and general needle and laundry work and such other useful industries as may from time to time be suggested by experience, or promote the general object and welfare of this institution and prepare its pupils for the indispensable industries of the age and guide, under proper restrictions the head, the hand and the heart of the colored race.*

The corporation was governed by a president and general manager and a Board of Trustees consisting of fifteen members. The first officers and members of this corporation were: President and General Manager, Reverend R. Amos; President of the Trustee Board, Reverend F. Turner; Vice President, N. W. Draper; Secretary, A. B. Strother; Treasurer, N. W. Woodson. Members: W. C. Cooper, J. B. Winchester, Reverend J. L. Elbert, Leroy Coleman. G. H. Washington, Tom Durmick, W. M. Bodgen, John Draper, Gus Kenton, Lee Stephenson, and Alex Tignon.

As a direct result of the 1904 Rayville Industrial and Agricultural School Corporation, the Rayville Rosenwald, Rayville Colored High and finally Eula D. Britton High School had its beginning. The first school was opened in 1907 south of Rayville, (the area known as the "Brickyard"). The school was known as the "College". Professor Amos was the President and instructors were: Professor and Mrs. Toombs, Miss Elliot, Delhi, LA; Professor J. Anthony, Rayville; and Professor P. J. Sims, Lincoln Parish. The students attending the College were enrolled in cooking, sewing, agriculture, music, math and English courses. (Mrs. Jeanette McCaa Smith, who was a student at the College provided the above information).

The College was dissolved because of financial difficulties and the next school for the children of the Black community was held in the Macedonia Baptist Church.

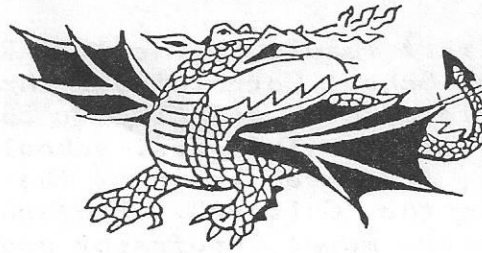
Through the determined efforts of several leaders in the community to provide educational opportunities for the Black youth of Rayville the Odd Fellows Hall at the corner of Jewel and Pearl Streets was secured as a school. In October of 1916 the first school session was held with Professor Edward W. Beasley, Sr., of Houma, LA as the new principal. Some years later Professor Jackson became the principal with Mrs. Clara Bell Coleman serving as the assistant and Mrs. Jackson as the third member of the faculty. The third principal serving during this time was Mrs. Ollie Hill of New Orleans with Mrs. Eula D. Britton, Mrs. O. S. Hill and Mrs. Evans as members of the faculty.

During the latter part of 1924 land was purchased from Mr. William Toliver Cook and grades 1 - 6 were transferred from the Macedonia Baptist Church to the new school building, (present site of the Recreation Park). Mrs. Britton was named the principal and the first graduates from the 7th grade held their graduation exercises at the Macedonia Baptist Church. Members of the class were: Mrs. Mary Jenkins Kennedy, val., Mrs. Jessie Williams Gundy, sal., Mrs. Geneva Cross, Mrs. Alberta Hawkins, and Mrs. Alberta Osborne. The second 7th grade class of graduates (1925) held their exercises at the First Baptist Church.

In 1933 the second school was approved as a Junior High School and in 1939 the first senior High School was approved with eleven young men and women receiving High School Diplomas.

Through the years the growth of the school from the "College" to Eula D. Britton High School, (1954), was phenomenal. The original concept in 1904 until dissolution in 1970 was based on the need to provide educational opportunities for Black Citizens of Rayville. During the 63 years of actual school existence, unlimited efforts were made to ensure the perpetuation of this idea, implanted in the minds of the early pioneers of the Rayville Black Community.

REUNION - 1985



RAYVILLE ROSENWALD SCHOOL

\*\*\*\*

EULA D. BRITTON HIGH SCHOOL

GREETINGS:

Welcome to the Second RAYVILLE ROSENWALD SCHOOL - EULA D. BRITTON HIGH SCHOOL REUNION. It is my pleasure to welcome you-graduates, former students, faculty members, families, and friends.

For us this is a momentous year, for we have the opportunity to reunite, remember, and revere our legacy, together. We have the opportunity to continue, as our forefathers, to serve our community and our world, and to provide a noble example as well as a voice of the past for posterity.

There are many who would do great things in life, but often feel that they must wait for the right opportunity. It is evident that there have been others who have taken whatever opportunities that were present and turned them into "legacies of gold." Had it not been for those who seized the opportunity to build rather than wait, this Reunion would not have been possible.

Again, it is my delightful privilege to welcome you. May you leave this Reunion renewed in spirit, seeking new opportunities to serve, making this "...a better world if you can."

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Marion Wilma Gundy Hill  
Chairperson, Reunion Steering  
Committee

# Dedication



Mrs. Eula D. Britton

The Sculptor

I took a piece of plastic clay  
And idly fashioned it, one day.  
And as my fingers pressed it, still  
It moved and yielded to my will.

I came again, when days were passed,  
That bit of clay, was hard at last,  
The form I gave it, still it bore,  
And I could change that form no more.

Then I took a piece of LIVING clay  
And gently formed it, day by day.  
And molded with my power and art,  
A young child's soft and yielding heart.

I came again when years were gone,  
It was a man I looked upon.  
He still that early impress bore,  
And I could change it, nevermore.

(Author Unknown)

THE RAYVILLE ROSENWALD - EULA D. BRITTON SCHOOL

REUNION STEERING COMMITTEE

DEDICATION



MRS. JEANETTE McCAA SMITH

*Class of 1907*

STUDENT AT THE "COLLEGE"  
(The Brick Yard)

Member of the RAYVILLE ROSENWALD SCHOOL  
AND  
EULA D. BRITTON SCHOOL REUNION COMMITTEE

We thank you for sharing your many memories of yester-year,  
as a student at the first school in Rayville for Black  
youth, "THE COLLEGE."

We thank you for your devotion, contributions and ideas in  
helping us to make the FIRST REUNION - 1982, a success.

Thank you, also, for your unrelenting spirit, perseverance,  
and your gift of love in planning this SECOND SCHOOL REUNION.

THE RAYVILLE ROSENWALD - EULA D. BRITTON SCHOOL  
REUNION STEERING COMMITTEE

# OPENING SESSION

Friday, July 5, 1985

7:00 P. M.

## PROGRAM

OPENING ..... Mrs. Dorothy G. Washington  
Class of 1945

MUSIC.. "The Star Spangled Banner" .... Reverend Eugene Harris  
Music Director - Class of 1955

MEDITATION ..... Mrs. Lureatha Davison Mansfield  
Former Faculty Member

GREETINGS ..... Mrs. Marion Wilma G. Hill  
Chairperson, Class of 1952

The Honorable Joe Kalil  
Mayor of the City of Rayville

Reuben Hayden, Superintendent  
Richland Parish Schools

Mrs. Camille Newsom, Principal  
Rayville High School

William P. Moore, Principal  
Rayville Jr. High School

## SOLO

"THE WAY WE WERE" (Two Minutes)

Mrs. Josie B. Draper - Class of 1924

Vernon Wade - Class of 1945

Mrs. Evelyn Johnson Norris - Class of 1953

Ronnie Jenkins - Class of 1964

Freddie Rivers - Class of 1970

REFLECTIONS - ADMINISTRATORS - (Two Minutes)

Mrs. Eula D. Britton

Reverend James P. Smith

Dr. Eugene F. Holtzclaw



BRAG AND BOAST (REGIONAL).....Robert L. Piper, Presiding  
Class of 1959

NORTH - Theolis Stenson, Jr.  
Class of 1950

SOUTH - Marvin Livingston Allen  
Class of 1958

WEST - Mrs. Evelyn Johnson Norris  
Class of 1953

EAST - Mrs. Ruby C. Moore  
Class of 1955

ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Mrs. Thelma Nealon Pellor  
Class of 1961

ALMA MATER

# WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, July 7, 1985

9:00 A. M.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

READING OF THE SCRIPTURE

PASTORAL PRAYER.....Reverend G. G. Griffin, Vice President  
Alumni Association  
Class of 1925

MUSIC.....The Revelations  
Guests - Monroe, LA

MEMORIAL SERVICE.....Mrs. Falba Joanne W. Williams  
Class of 1953

MUSIC.....The Revelations

ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Mrs. Creasy B. Thompson  
Class of 1945

OFFERING.....(Melvin Rogers, Director) All Former Athletes

MUSIC.....Reverend Eugene Harris, Music Director  
Class of 1955

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER  
*Act 2:1-3* Reverend Clarence R. Jackson  
Class of 1965

GUEST MINISTER.....The Reverend Roosevelt Bryant  
Minister, New Rocky Valley Baptist Church  
Grambling, LA

MUSIC.....The Revelations

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

CLOSING HYMN....."God Be With You".....

BENEDICTION

USHERS.....CLASS OF 1970

MUSIC.....THE REVELATIONS  
and  
REVEREND EUGENE HARRIS, MUSIC DIRECTOR

BANQUET/DINNER/DANCE

RAYVILLE CIVIC CENTER

Monday, July 8, 1985

7:30 P. M.

TOASTMASTER..... Claude Minor, Co-Chairman  
Class of 1944

P R O G R A M

MUSIC .....Mrs. Bettye Gipson Hardy

MEDITATION.....Mrs. Dorothy G. Washington  
Class of 1945

RECOGNITION OF ADMINISTRATORS AND FACULTY MEMBERS.....  
Mrs. Zephyr Stephens, 1943

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS, FORMER STUDENTS, and VISITORS.....  
Mrs. Rebecca Barnes Brown  
Class of 1953

SOLO.....Mrs. Joyce Staten Smith  
Guest Artist

AWARDS.....Mrs. Marion Wilma G. Hill, Chairman  
Class of 1952

Mrs. Mary Nealon Ricks, Secretary  
Class of 1953

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER.....Willie Larkins, III  
President, Alumni Association  
Class of 1953

GUEST SPEAKER.....Mr. Charles Johnson  
City Council Member - City of Monroe, LA  
Principal, Swayze Elementary School, Monroe, LA

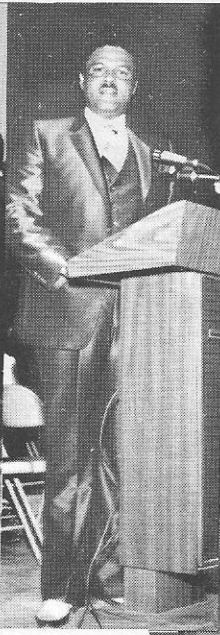
ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Mrs. Milderia West Fleming  
Class of 1954

ALMA MATER.....Mrs. Earlene Ward Harris  
Class of 1951

D A N C E

**Scenes From  
School Reunion 1982  
Morning Worship  
Banquet  
and Picnic**





COORDINATING/PROGRAM COMMITTEE

\*Mrs. Dorothy G. Washington  
Mrs. Marion Wilma G. Hill, Chairperson  
Claude Minor, Co-chairman  
Mrs. Rebecca Barnes Brown  
Mrs. Pearlle Smith Hall  
Mrs. Susie Lewis  
Mrs. Thelma Nealon Pellor  
Mrs. Mary Nealon Ricks  
Mrs. Creasy B. Thompson  
Mrs. Rotina Allen West  
Mrs. Falba Joanne Williams

FINANCE COMMITTEE

\*Mrs. Pearlle Smith Hall  
Mrs. Susie Lewis  
John L. McCaa  
Mrs. Thelma Nealon Pellor  
Mrs. Rotina Allen West

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

\*Mrs. Falba Joanne Williams  
Mrs. Lillian Faye Arrington  
Mrs. Marion Wilma G. Hill  
Mrs. Emma Griffin Kennedy  
John Lancaster  
Claude Minor  
Mrs. Mary Nealon Ricks

HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE

\*Bennie Harris  
Mrs. Rebecca Barnes Brown  
Mrs. Zola Haynes Moore  
Freddie Rivers  
Mrs. Rosie L. Bibbens Rivers

SPECIAL COURTESIES

Mrs. Emma Griffin Kennedy  
Mrs. Thelma Nichols Brown  
Mrs. Rosie Caldwell  
Mrs. Erma Hunter  
Mrs. Romonia Littleton Lewis  
Mrs. Rosie Bibbens Rivers  
Mrs. Bettie Jean Bolden West

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

\*Mrs. Thelma Nealon Pellor  
Mrs. Marion Wilma G. Hill  
Mrs. Emma Griffin Kennedy  
Mrs. Susie Lewis  
James L. Nealon  
Mrs. Mary Nealon Ricks  
Mrs. Creasy B. Thompson  
Mrs. Rotina Allen West  
Mrs. Falba Joanne W. Williams

KITS, BADGES, SOUVENIR COMMITTEE

\*Mrs. Falba Joanne W. Williams  
Mrs. Lillian Faye Arrington  
Mrs. Rebecca Barnes Brown  
Mrs. Marion Wilma G. Hill  
Mrs. Mary Nealon Ricks  
Mrs. Zephyr Stephens  
Mrs. Dorothy G. Washington  
Mrs. Rotina Allen West

PROGRAMS

Arthur Edwards  
Mrs. Milderia West Fleming  
Mrs. Marion Wilma G. Hill  
\*Mrs. Dorothy G. Washington  
Mrs. Betty Jean Bolden West  
Mrs. Rotina Allen West  
Mrs. Bessie W. Williams

FACULTY ADVISORS

Mrs. Eula D. Britton  
Mrs. Josie B. Draper  
Mrs. Annie Beck Harris  
Mrs. Lureatha D. Mansfield  
Reverend James P. Smith  
Mrs. Zephyr Stephens  
Mrs. Bessie W. Williams



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