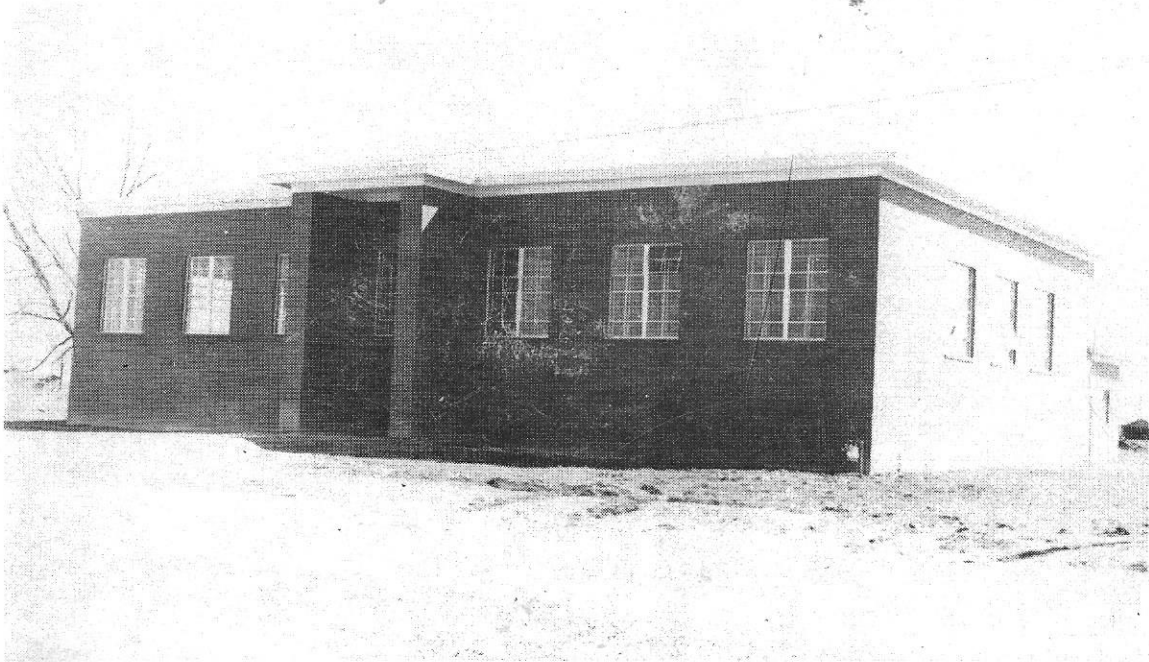


Souvenir Program

*RAYVILLE ROSENWALD,
EULA D. BRITTON
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION*



RAYVILLE ROSENWALD HIGH SCHOOL
GYMNASIUM—AUDITORIUM
MRS. EULA D. BRITTON, PRINCIPAL

*Rayville Rosenwald, Eula D. Britton
Community Center*

Theme: With Your Help We Can Make It?

July 4 - 6, 1997

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
Alumni Board of Directors**

The History of
EULA D. BRITTON HIGH SCHOOL

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 organization 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. L. B. Strother; Treasurer, N. W. Woodson. Members: W. C. Cooper, J. B. Winchester, Reverend J. L. Elbert, Leroy Coleman, G. H. Washington, Tom Burmick, W. M. Bodgen, John Draper, Gus Kenton, Lee Stephenson, and Alex Tigmon.

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 the 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.

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.

In October of 1916, the first school session was held with Professor Edward W. Beasley, Sr., of Houma, Louisiana 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.

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 where a residence on 408 Pearl Street now stands. This location served from 1920-1924.

During the latter part of 1924, land was purchased from Mr. William Tolliver. Cook and grades 1-6 were transferred from the Macedonia Baptist Church to the new school building, (present site of the recreational area). 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 (valedictorian), Mrs. Jessie Williams Gundy (salutatorian), 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 and given a "B" rating, with eleven young men and women receiving high school diplomas. In 1940 the school was accredited and given the "AA" rating which is the highest rating given to Negro high schools in the state of Louisiana. During this time the teaching staff increased and more room was added.

Rayville Rosenwald has grown from a one-room, one teacher, and five month school term to twenty-four rooms, twenty-six teachers and nine month school term with an enrollment of one thousand thirty. Other specific improvements have been a full-time librarian, equipped lunchroom with seven lunchroom workers, a well equipped Home Economics building, modern gymnasium and a fast developing agriculture department. Future plans include a new plant with the following: twenty-six classrooms (equipped); commercial department; music department; teachers lounge (2), clinics, sewing department with fitting rooms; a cooking department and science department.

Since Rayville Rosenwald High School has been accredited, it has turned out three hundred and eleven graduates. A considerable number of them entered such schools of higher education as Grambling State University, Leland College, Florida A.&M. University, University of Illinois and others. It boasts of business men, college professors, military men, ministers and other professionals.

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.

The President's Address

TO: Rayville Rosenwald / Eula D. Britton
Alumni, Supporters, and Friends

Greetings and welcome to our 1997 bi-annual school reunion , in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Some of you have come from afar and some from nearby in order to be here today to participate in this school reunion.

In traveling back to Rayville, I am sure that your minds wondered back on your classmates, teachers, and the many events that took place in the old school and this very building, which is the only physical structure left as a reminder of where God has brought us from. From playing basketball on a dirt court when the weather permitted, God not only moved the basketball team indoors, but also made it possible for us to be able to have plays, socials, Junior-Senior Proms and our baecalaureate and commencement exercises in this old reminder of a very important part of our past history.

Speaking of past history, my mind goes back to the Fall of 1942 when a friend and next door neighbor brought me from Bucks Quarters (what was sometimes referred to as "the mud hole") to be enrolled in Rayville Rosenwald Elementary and High School as a first grader. Needless to say, I was one scared child that day.

It was during that time that I became acquainted with a young principal, Mrs. Eula D. Britton, who became a part of my life (and I am sure many of yours) with her strong influence. As my mind continues to reflect back, I am reminded of a passage of scripture from the Holy Bible (Joshua 4: 6&7) which reads:

"That this may be a sign among you that when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, what mean ye by these stones. Then ye shall answer them that the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord;when it passed over Jordan the waters of Jordan were cut off and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever."

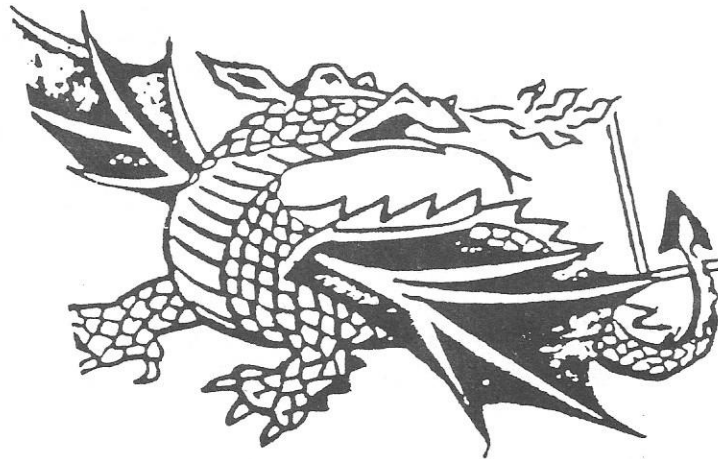
In closing, my fellow alumni, let the bricks of this old building be a reminder to us and a memorial to our children of how God has brought us over the "Dirt Court Jordan"; over the ever present invisible walls of segregation and prejudice to a time when we must carry on what the pioneers of our black heritage- Rayville Rosenwald / Eula D. Britton founders- kept alive many years ago.

I welcome you, I challenge you to a renewed commitment to your alumni association and to carry the news of what has happened here this weekend back to those you know who could not be here, letting them know that we need their support.

Thank you and may God richly bless you.

Yours in Christ,

Elder Ira Bradley, Jr., Th. D.
President



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REUNION

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REUNION

RAYVILLE ROSENWALD

EULA D. BRITTON

SCHOOL REUNION

JULY 4,5,6, 1997

REUNION

REUNION

REUNION

REUNION

***Rayville Rosenwald / Eula D. Britton
National Alumni Association***

AGENDA

July 5, 1997

Prayer

**Greetings - - - - - Elder Ira Bradley, Jr.
President**

Reading of the Minutes - - - - - Mrs. Creasy B. Thompson

Report of the Treasurer - - - - - Mrs. Pearl S. Hall

Finance Report - - - - - Mrs. Martha Brown, C.P.A.

State of the Alumni - - - - - Elder Ira Bradley, Jr.

Assessment of Needs - - - - - Mrs. G. B. Curtis

Alumni Views

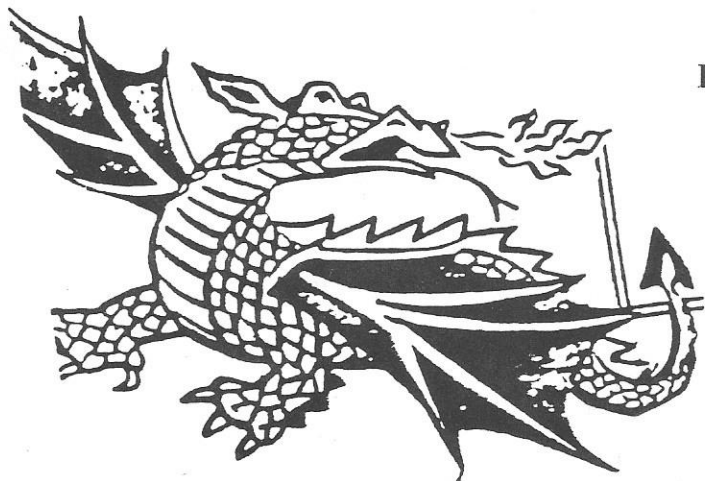
Election of Board Members

RAYVILLE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
FOURTH ANNUAL BANQUET
RAYVILLE ROSENWALD EULA D. BRITTON COMMUNITY CENTER

Saturday July 5th 1997 - 9:00 P. M.

~Program~

Prelude	
Musical Selection	
Invocation	Rev. Urban M. Brown
Music	
Greetings	Mr. Freddy Rivers,
Welcome	Honorable Dr. Isam Berry Mayor of the City of Rayville, LA
Music	
Introduction of Speaker	Mr. Booker T. Hall
Guest Speaker	Dr. Robert H. Smith, Class of 39
Announcements: and Expressions:	
Remarks	President Bradley
Aima Mater:	
Dance	



DINNER IS SERVED
MENU
HONEY BAKED HAM
STRING BEANS
POTATOE SALAD
CAKE
PUNCH
ROLLS

ECUMENICAL SERVICE

**RAYVILLE ROSENWALD EULA D. BRITTON
COMMUNITY CENTER**

107 Cotton Street

Rayville, La.

Sunday July 6, 1997 - 8: O'Clock A. M..

Musical Prelude

Mr. Thurman E. Brown

Call To Praise

Reverend Ira Bradley

Scripture & Prayer

Rev. Albert Woods

Congregational Singing

Mrs. Mary Ricks

Meditation

Mrs. Marge Roberts

Sermon

Rev. J. L. Spencer

Music:

Offering

Mrs. Beverly Brown

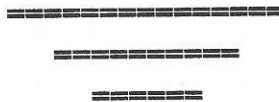
Mr. David Plain

Mrs. Donald Ray Jackson

Final Words of Gratitude

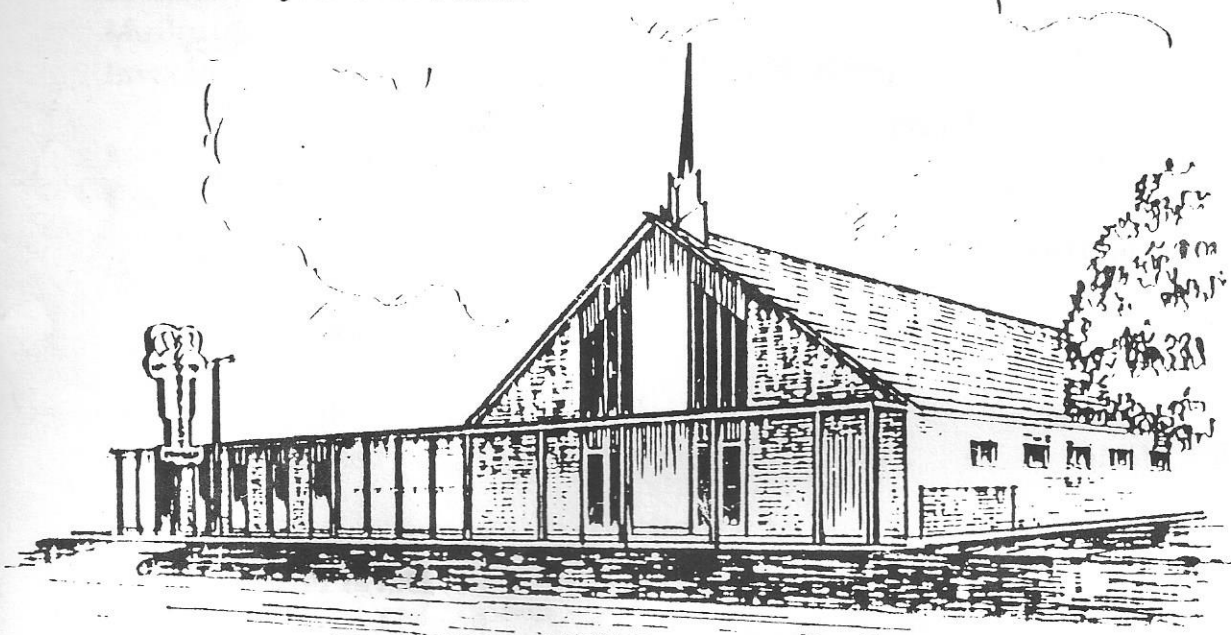
Rev. Ira Bradley

**Mrs. Charlene Phillips
Guiding the Program**



All who need
Comfort in time of loneliness and sorrow
strength in time of temptation
Peace in time of turmoil
Guidance in time of decision

All Those Who Serve The Kings of Kings....
The Captain of Salvation....This Church....
in the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord and
Saviour Says...WELCOME



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Rev. C. R. Jackson, Pastor

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the word of God.

We congratulate the Rayville Rosenwald/Eula D. Britton Alumni for their
efforts and hard work.

Best wishes



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Odell Collins

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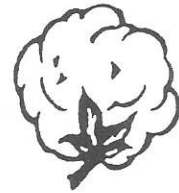
Mrs. Harriette Haley Black



**In Memory of our parent
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Barnes
the children**

**Rebecca Barnes Brown, Andrew Barnes, Pauline Barnes Price, Willie Barnes,
Carrie Barnes Johnson, Quiller Barnes, Charity Barnes, Criggett, Janie Barnes,
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Rebecca B. Brown, Assistant Secretary
Pearl S. Hall, Treasurer
Susie Lewis
Freddy Rivers
Velma Harrison, Honorary*

*Eula D. Britton High School
Alma Mater*

*Let our voices loudly ringing,
Echo far and near.
Songs of praise thy children singing
To thy memory dear.*

*Through the years we've been together,
Fondly we recall.
Days of fair and stormy weather
Thou has gladdened all.*

*Years may dim our recollection
Time its change may bring
Still thy name in fond affection
Evermore we sing.*

Chorus:

*Alma mater, alma mater
Tender fair and true.
Britton High with love unfailing
We owe our love to you.*

