RAYVILLE ROSENWALD EULA D. BRITTON





SCHOOL REUNION

JULY 1ST – 3RD, 2016

RAYVILLE ROSENWALD/EULA D. BRITTON

ALUMNI CENTER

103 COTTON STREET RAYVILLE, LA 71269



It is with sincere appreciation that we dedicate our 2016 Rayville Rosenwald/Eula D. Britton High School Reunion To



ELDER IRA BRADLEY JR., PHD 1936 - 2014

President Emeritus Rayville Rosenwald / Eula D. Britton Alumni Association

On a brisk day in September, 1942 a young boy was escorted by his neighbor to start first grade at the Rayville Rosenwald High School. The walk from the Bucks Quarters community was a nervous but exciting one for Ira Bradley Jr. With the encouraging words of his parents in his ears, Ira was on his way to get his education. He graduated in 1954 and continued his educational journey remembering the vision inspired through his parents, the late Ira and Teresa Bradley Sr. Upon graduating from high school, he served in the United States Air Force, owned a Dental Casting business in Chicago, and also accepted his call to the ministry. He and his wife Shirley returned to Rayville in 1986.

A servant-minded individual, Ira joined the Rayville Rosenwald/Eula D. Britton Alumni Association to assist in preserving the legacy within the community. He was elected Board President serving for twenty-one years, 1993 – 2014. He was committed to the preservation of the school gymnasium. As President, the following renovations were made: installation of new air condition units, remodeled kitchen and bathrooms, resurfacing of floors, roof, interior painting of building, and a marquee was added and numerous other projects and fundraisers. He used every opportunity available to encourage Alumni to become active members and to support the Alumni Association; *always leading by example*.

A true leader and visionary, he shared his experiences and expertise as he passed the mantle of leadership with his blessings to Mrs. Elaine Elder Coleman as she transitions as the *newly elected* President of the Alumni Association. President Coleman is indebted to him for his words of wisdom and guidance.

Elder Bradley wore several hats in the community including being a fully commissioned Chaplain of the Richland Parish Medium Security Detention Center (Deputy Sheriff). Many clients are thankful for the beautiful smiles he provided them through his Dental Casting business in Rayville.

Elder Bradley humbly became the Pastor of New Bethel B. C., Holly Ridge, LA. He and his wife Shirley worked tirelessly making many personal sacfrices to move the congregation into their own brand new facility in Rayville. He prepared himself for ministerial duties through attending religious classes and conferences thoughout the country, receiving a Doctorate of Theology Degree from Evangel Christian University of America, Monroe, LA. Elder Bradley was a sought out instructor on the local and state level and mentored many men and women in the ministry. He was willing to share and teach God's word to any who wanted to learn.

To the Bradley family, children: Gregory, Katherine and Denise B. Boone, his siblings: David, Albert, Earnestine B. Davison and Doris Jean; our prayers are with you. Thank you for sharing your father and brother with us.

Words cannot express our gratitude to Elder Bradley for his service to the Rayville Rosenwald/Eula D. Britton Alumni Association. He will be missed by all of the members and others he touched in the community. On behalf of President Elaine Coleman, Board members and Alumni locally and across the United States; we say "REST IN PEACE", your steadfast labor of love will always be remembered.

Annie Ruth Stewart Staten, Author





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Fellow Schoolmates and Supporters:

Welcome to our 2016 School Reunion. On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Rayville Rosenwald/Eula D. Britton Alumni Association, we are excited that you are able to join us in this sensational event. We are so pleased that you have chosen to come from around the corner and around the country from many states to share in the festivities. As we gather this year to focus on the historic legacy of our school, our theme is "Celebrating Our Legacy." The history of our great school must always be remembered, cherished and preserved. "The Gym" is the last tangible evidence of our great history and it is our duty to preserve it.

After moving to New Orleans many years ago, Bobby and I always returned home for various 1966 and 1967 class reunions as well as school reunions and were always grateful to see that efforts were being made to preserve and restore "The Gym." After moving back to the area ten years ago, we are both pleased to be able to give of our time and assist in preserving our legacy. Bobby and I remember the good times during our school days as we were taught by educators, who were personally invested in our futures; that we could do and be anything that we dreamed. It is our privilege to carry on their legacy and make them proud.

We are all grateful to our schoolmates who saw the vision of this Association and have carried out the tasks necessary for the preservation of The Gym. Major renovations have occurred over many years to maintain, upgrade and preserve the building. Through the leadership of the past presidents: Mr. Willie Larkin, Jr., Mrs. Susie Lewis, Mrs. Wilma Hill, Mr. John Lancaster and Elder Ira Bradley, Jr., this building has been established as the Alumni Center. In addition to preserving our heritage, it has become a focal point in the community. We honor the legacy of our past presidents as we continue to carry the mantle.

The Board is also grateful to everyone who pays their dues, give additional donations, assist with fundraising and give of your time and talent to move the Association forward. We offer special thanks to the class of 1960 as they have formalized the Legacy Project to display our history in pictures, words and memorabilia.

During the past two years the following maintenance and preservation projects have been completed: installed 2 exterior steel doors (one in kitchen and the other in office), retrofitted ceiling fixtures and installed new energy efficient light bulbs (26 fixtures plus 3 on stage), installed and upgraded electrical outlets and switches for lighting underneath bleachers, installed motion detector exterior lighting on front of each side of building, purchased carts for tables and chairs, purchased additional chairs, purchased new refrigerator, purchased a steel food preparation table, installed a new concrete entrance walkway, and replaced one of the four HVAC units. We are appreciative to all of you who assisted in making these enhancements a reality.

We are here to have fun, reminisce and "Celebrate our Legacy" and heritage. Enjoy the Reunion!!!

Elaine Elder Coleman

President

TOWN OF RAYVILLE

109 BENEDETTE ST., P O BOX 878 - RAYVILLE, LA 71269 TELEPHONE: (318) 728-2011 * FAX: (318) 728-7503

Officers

Aldermen

Harry Lewis, Mayor
Willie L. Robinson, Chief of Police
Deborah T. Nealon, Town Clerk
Damon D. Kervin, Town Attorney
David Standifer, Supt. Public Works
Gary Miller, Fire Chief
James Smith, Dir. of Ecom/ Comm. Affairs
James Berry, Town Magistrate

Timothy Tennant, Mayor Pro Tem Valerie Allen James Brakefield Debra K. James Paula Cumpton

June 13, 2016

It is my pleasure to welcome you back to the Town of Rayville for the 2016 Rayville Rosenwald/Eula D. Britton Reunion! It is simply amazing how quickly time has passed since our last reunion.

We invite you to enjoy our small town charm, amenities and hospitality! If you get an opportunity, please explore our town. You will discover how the town is undergoing small transformations. Our goal continues to be to improve the quality of life for all citizens.

As a 1964 graduate and alumni member of Eula D. Britton, I look forward to personally greeting each of you. Please enjoy your time with each other.

The Town Council, my staff, our citizens and I pray that you will have a safe journey home. If it be God's will, we look forward to your visit in 2018. Welcome home and God bless!

Sincerely,

Harry Lewis, Mayor

Town of Rayville



SCHOOL HISTORY 1904-1970

In 1904, forty years after the ratification of the 13th Amendment (THE ABOLISHMENT OF SLAVERY), a group of sixteen indigent black citizens of Rayville, Louisiana petitioned the District Court of Richland Parish to form the Rayville Industrial and Agricultural School Corporation. It is noteworthy that five years before the origin of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), this group had the where-with-all to test society and seek betterment for the Black youth of the Rayville Community.

As a result of the formation of this corporation, educational opportunities for African Americans in Rayville 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" and was headed by Reverend R. Amos, also known as Professor Amos. There were five additional instructors: Professor J. Anthony, Professor P. J. Sims, Miss Elliot, and Professor and Mrs. Toombs. Only Professor J. Anthony resided in Rayville. The others were from surrounding Parishes that had also established schools for Blacks.

The "College" had many financial difficulties as well as a lack of student participation. It had to be dissolved within two years of its beginning. It was not until October of 1916 that another school for the Black youth in Rayville was opened. This school opened in the Macedonia Baptist Church. A Professor Beasley, Sr. of Houma, Louisiana headed the school and served as its principal. Over the next four years the school grew as did the faculty. A Professor Jackson became the principal and his wife, Mrs. Jackson, along with Mrs. Clara Bell Coleman formed the faculty.

In 1922 the Odd Fellow's Hall, at the corner of Jewel and Pearl Streets, was used to house the school. The school was now serving grades 1-6 and the faculty included Mrs. Eula D. Britton, Mrs. O. S. Hill and Mrs. Evans. Mrs. Ollie Hill served a brief time as its principal.

During the latter part of 1924, our school had its anchor cemented when buildings were opened on land purchased from Mr. William Tolliver Cook. This anchor was the large open area in front of our Gymnasium. The school had now grown to include the 7th grade and Mrs. Eula D. Britton was its principal. The first graduates from the 7th grade held their graduation ceremony in Macedonia Baptist Church. Members of this 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 to graduate held their ceremonies at First Baptist Church in 1925. The school was now known as Rayville Colored School. In 1933, the school was approved as a Junior High School and was offering an 8th grade Completion Certificate.

When the 1936 8th grade class received their Certificates many of them showed an interest in going further with their education. There was only one (1) high school for Black youths in Richland Parish and that was located in Delhi, Louisiana. And, there were a few black students who had relatives in Union Parish, which had a high school and also in Grambling, Louisiana where the Black College also had a high school. When a group of ministers in Rayville learned of the wishes of this class they purchased an old bus and hired a driver to transport these students from Rayville to Delhi on a daily basis. This effort proved to be as troublesome as not having a school, with the unreliability of the bus and the driver. This group of ministers, consisting of Reverend Henderson Smith, Reverend H. S. Carradine, and Reverend Eddie Howard along with the owner of a local Funeral Home, Mr. Douglas Allen, decided to petition the Superintendent of the Richland Parish

School Board, Mr. E.E. Keebler, on the thought of expanding the Rayville Colored School to a High School. An agreement was reached to add an additional room a year (another grade) and the School Board would add another Teacher a year. Accurate accounts of how this process worked are sketchy, but we know that this was the beginning of the infusion of monies from the Rosenwald Foundation. These monies, which were matched by the local school and community, continued until the school was actually named Rayville Rosenwald High School in 1949.

The 8th grade class of 1936 became the first graduating class to receive high school diplomas in 1939 after completing eleven (11) years of school. The school had been given a "B" rating in 1939 and this first class consisted of eleven (11) students. In 1940 the school was accredited and given the "AA" rating which was the highest rating given to Negro high schools in the state at this time.

With the infusion of students from the many single room schools for African Americans that had been started in Richland Parish during the forties the school in Rayville became a focal point. Students came from Pardue, Holly Ridge, Mangham, Jones Chapel, Egypt, Pilgrim Rest and New Zion schools. By 1950 Rayville Rosenwald had become a nine month school, to include a twelfth grade. The school contained twenty-four rooms, employed twenty-six teachers with an enrollment of well over a thousand students. Other improvements consisted of a full-time Librarian (Mrs. Thelma Cormier), a well-equipped Home Economics Department run by Mrs. Annie D. Beck, and a fast developing Agriculture Department headed by Mr. Roy Lee Johnson. A complete lunchroom had been opened with seven of the most dedicated and talented lunchroom workers. They were Mrs. Susie Adams, Mrs. Bertha Brown, Mrs. Eddie V. Haynes, Mrs. Susie Lewis, Mrs. Emma Stenson, Mrs. Minnie Summers, and Mrs. Roberta Jones. Later cafeteria staff included: Mrs. Lula Alexander, Mrs. Elmese Elder, Mr. Bennie Harris, Mrs. Lula Howard and Mrs. Georgia Mae Smith. The school hired its first custodian, Mr. Maceo Little, who was later followed by Mr. Alex Elder. We must also mention four pillars to the foundation of these achievements; Mrs. Josie Draper, Mrs. Lureatha Mansfield, Mrs. Zephyr Stephens and Mr. Donzell Brewster. All were instructors during these real "trying" times.

Even though athletics and organized sports were always a stable of the school curricula all of these activities had to be conducted outside on the playgrounds. The need for a Gymnasium/Auditorium was always there, but it took the graduating class of 1945 to bring it to the forefront. This class raised and donated \$1300.00 to the Richland Parish School Board as a down payment toward the building we now call "The Gym". This gesture must be noted because it took another seven years before our "Gym" was constructed and opened at the beginning of the 1952-53 school year.

The final expansion of the school occurred in 1956 when a brand new addition was opened. This addition consisted of twenty-six classrooms (fully equipped), a Commercial Department, a Music Department, a Sewing Room, a Science Department, a Clinic, and two (2) teacher lounges. This year also marked the end of an era, Mrs. Britton announced her retirement. With her announcement the school board decided to actually rename the school in her honor. Thus, during her final school year as principal (1956-1957), she presided over "her" school, Eula D. Britton High School.

James P. Smith, a former student of this school and an instructor in the Rhymes Colored School System was named principal to begin the 1957 school year. By then the school was beginning to receive a few "new" books, as the habit of the schools for African Americans receiving the discarded books from the white schools was slowly being phased out. Mr. Smith served as principal until the end of the 1968-69 school year. When, 15 years after the decision of Brown

vs. the Board of Education (calling for the integration of all public schools), Eula D. Britton High School was integrated with the 1969-70 school year showing only integration among the faculty, the school actually never did experience student integration. At the beginning of the 1970-71 school year the school was changed to a middle school, the name (Eula D. Britton) discarded, and all records and artifacts became unaccounted for. In 1980 all of the buildings were torn down and thanks to a small group of former teachers and students the "Gym" was saved. This group was led by Mr. Willie Larkin and Mrs. Creasy Thompson. They convinced the school board to allow the community and the Alumni of the school to assume responsibility for the building.

From the "College" to Eula D. Britton High School, the history of the educational plight of the Black community in Rayville has been phenomenal and will never be forgotten. From its famous sub-divisions that included Greer Road, New Town, Buck's Pasture, River Road, Potts Town, Nelson Bend, Brickyard, Across the Canal, Mid Town, and even Bee Bayou a sense of pride will always remain. The Bus Drivers who transported these students were a part of this pride. They included the following; Mr. Arthur Brown, Mr. Dennis Coleman, Mr. Aaron Davison, Mr. Monroe Harris, Mr. Willie Larkin, Sr., Reverend Luther Mansfield, Sr., Mr. John Newsome, Sr., Mr. Joel Washington, and Mr. Shirley White. The original concept in 1904 until dissolution in 1970 was always based on the need to provide opportunities for the African American citizens of Rayville to better themselves through education. During the 63 years of actual school existence and through the 31 graduating classes, unlimited efforts were made to ensure the perpetuation of this idea.

Our indebtedness to the early pioneers of our community will remain eternally.

School Names

Eula D. Britton High School Rayville Rosenwald High School Rayville Colored High School Rayville Industrial and Agricultural School

Founders

Rev. R. Amos Alex Tignor Rev. F. Turner Rev. J. L. Elbert Nelson W. Draper William C. Cooper A. B. Strother W. M. Bodger Gus Kenton John Draper Leander Stephenson Tom Dunnick N.W. Woodson Leroy Coleman George H. Washington J. B. Winchester

Principals

Professor Edward W. Beasley, Sr.
Professor Jackson
Mrs. Ollie Hill
Mrs. Eula D. Britton
Mr. James P. Smith
Mr. John B. Jennings



"Lest We Forget"

MRS. EULA DUNNINGS BRITTON 1924 - 1957

Mrs. Britton was born in or near Mangham, Louisiana between 1891 and 1894. The actual date of her birth is not known. She was the third child of nine, born to Edward and Mary Jane Dunnings. History tells us that her father began a school on the farm where she was raised. He called it the Dunnings' School. She and her siblings were taught basic reading, writing and arithmetic, during their time away from farm work. Mrs. Britton was able to finish the eighth grade while still on the farm. It is believed that she then attended Homer High School of Union Parish where she received her diploma. She migrated to the Rayville area sometime between 1918 and 1922, where she became a member of the

small faculty of the school that was initially held in the Macedonia Baptist Church. Grades 1-6 were being taught at this school. Mrs. Britton was named principal in the latter part of 1924. From this point on, the history of the school becomes clearer. Mrs. Britton continued to further her education while still the head administrator of the school that began as a five month school, offering only a sixth grade education. The school, however, continued to grow to a fully accredited high school that eventually carried her name. She earned a Bachelor's Degree from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana (1937) and a Master's Degree from Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia (1945). She retired as principal of Eula D. Britton High School after the 1957 school year

Mrs. Britton is credited with laying the real foundation for the education of African Americans in the Rayville community. She was optimistic beyond belief and held a keen sense of responsibility for her community, her work, and her faith. Her outstanding abilities as a teacher and as a principal are reflected in the many students who came under her tutelage. History cannot record all of the many remarkable achievements and services that were formulated through her devotion to excellence, her pursuit of honesty, integrity, and truthfulness, and of her love for God and for her fellowman.

She became a lifelong member of Rankin Chapel A.M.E. Church. She had a passion for education and commitment to those she taught. Her life was a model of excellence and her memory will live forever among those who knew her work. Mrs. Britton died April 16, 1986.

~ She Laid the Foundation ~





"The Builder"

MR. JAMES PHILLIP SMITH 1957 – 1969

Principal Smith was born in Rayville, Louisiana on July 17, 1925 to Reverend and Mrs. Henderson E. Smith. He was the youngest of three. He attended school in Rayville and was part of the 1944 graduating class from the then Rayville Colored High School. Both of his siblings graduated ahead of him; Robert, in 1939 and Pearlie Mae in 1941. All three received their diplomas after completing eleven years of school. Principal Smith spent two years in the United States Army prior to entering Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana where he received his BS Degree in Education in 1949. He later earned the Master of Education Degree from Louisiana State University. He began his career as an educator at Rhymes Colored High School in 1949, teaching American History and remained there until 1957 when he succeeded Mrs. Eula D. Britton as principal of Eula D. Britton

High School. This was the same school that he graduated from but it had been re-named in honor of the principal who served during his high school days. He became known as the "BUILDER". He loved his work as principal and prided himself on being able to communicate with students in such a way as to be helpful in their choices of preparing themselves for the world of work. He was also a strict disciplinarian, and he believed that each student should aim high and embrace values that were long lasting. He also taught the students to have pride in themselves, show respect to others, work hard, be dedicated and always possess courage and integrity. He always would say "It's not what we gain....but what we give that measures the worth of the life we live". Principal Smith served as principal at Eula D. Britton High School until 1969 when he was assigned to various supervisory roles with the Richland Parish School Board. He retired as an educator in 1985.

Principal Smith was called to the ministry in 1982 and was ordained the same year. He later attended the Theological Seminary of Monroe, Louisiana, where he received the Bachelor of Theology Degree in 1983. He became the pastor of St. Luke Baptist Church in Bonita, Louisiana, and served until his death in 1987.

~ A Master Carpenter of Education ~



"A Salute To OurFormer Teachers"



We, the former students of the Rayville Rosenwald/Eula D. Britton High School, would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for the hard work, and dedication that you displayed in helping to shape and mold the lives of so many people – young then, but much older now.

We know that for many of you, it was not an easy task; but because of the love, motivation, and inspiration for teaching, you persevered. We also know that it could not have been for the PAY!

If it were not for teachers like you, there would be no doctors, nurses, preachers, or even a black president.

Teachers, this is your night, and we take great pride in saluting you. We want you to know that we truly love and appreciate you. May God continue to bless and keep you ins His tender loving care.



Forever Grateful, **Your Former Students**

RAYVILLE ROSENWALD / EULA D. BRITTON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Reunion 2016 Itinerary

Theme - "Celebrating our Legacy"

Friday, July 1, 2016

Registration /Meet and Greet (Refreshments)		
Night in White (hor'doeurves & DJ) BYOB		
Saturday, July 2, 2016		
(Wear Reunion T-shirt)		
Breakfast		
"Down Memory Lane"		
Alumni Meeting		
Open House Recruitment – (Refreshments)		
Black and Gold Ball (hor'doeurves & DJ) BYOB		
Sunday, July 3, 2016		
Ecumenical services		
@ Macedonia Baptist Church		
Sermon – Elder James Turner, Class of 1962		
Alumni Banquet		
Speaker - Freddye Webb Petett - Class of 1961		
Atting. Draggy		





REUNION 2016

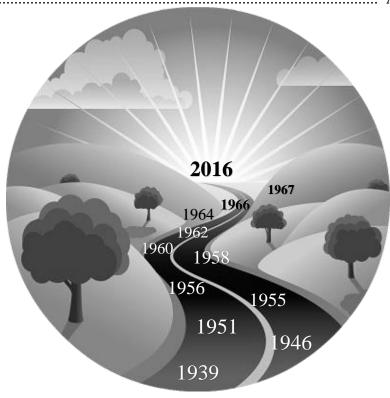
"Down Memory Lane"

Saturday, July 2, 2016

10:00 A.M

Greetings	Elaine E. Coleman, Class of 1967
Facilitator	
Sharing the L	egacy through Our Memories
	Luther Mansfield, Class of 1946
	Rev. Eugene Harris, Class of 1955
	Betty West, Class of 1956
	Jessie Tyson, Class of 1958
	Morgan Moss, Class of 1962
	Freddy Rivers, Class of 1970
Special Preser	ntationOla W. Bunnitt, Class of 1951
	From Student to Teacher
	My Journey at Rayville Rosenwald & Eula D. Britton High School
7771 1	A 1 G G

Fhanks Annie S. Staten



Rayville Rosenwald/Eula D. Britton Alumni Association

JULY 2, 2016

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

REUNION ALUMNI MEETING AGENDA

- I. Call to order and President's Opening Remarks State of the Alumni
- II. Reading and Approval of Minutes of July 5, 2014 Reunion Meeting
- III. Communications
- IV. Reports of Officers
- V. Reports of Committee Chairs and Committee Members
- VI. Unfinished business
 - Bylaws Discussion and Approval
- VII. New business
 - Maintenance and Upgrades of Alumni Center "The Gym"
 - Reunion Registration Fees 2018
 - Consideration of Dues Increase
- VIII. Election of Directors and Officers
- IX. Closing Remarks President/ Others
- X. Adjournment



RAYVILLE ROSENWALD/EULA D. BRITTON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

REUNION 2016

THEME: "Celebrating Our Legacy"

Open House Recruitment Program

Saturday, July 2, 2016

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Welcome Elaine E. Coleman, President, Class of 19 ~We need your support and participation~		
Board Member-At-Large & Drago	on Ambassador Joe Jones, Class of 1982 Rayville High School	
Dragon Ambassadors	Denise Sanders, Class of 1973 Rayville High School Ruby Jewell Reed, Class of 1974 Rayville High School	
The Legacy Project	Quincy Mason, Class of 1960	
Guest Speaker	Elvin "Big E" Hayes, Class of 1964	
Join the Legacy	Delores Walker, Class of 1960	

OTHER DRAGON AMBASSADORS

Dorothy Broussard Whitfield, Rayville High - Class of 1973

Doreatha Robinson, Rayville High - Class of 1985

Tabitha Elder, Rayville High - Class of 1989

Katina "Tina" Spencer, Rayville High - Class of 1991



ECUMENICAL SERVICE

RAYVILLE ROSENWALD/EULA D. BRITTON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH Rev. Mark Sledge, Pastor

Sunday, July 3, 2016 8.00 A.M.

THEME: Celebrating Our Legacy

SCRIPTURE:

And the people came up out of Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and encamped in Gilgal, in the east border of Jericho. And those twelve stones, which they took out of Jordan, did Joshua pitch in Gilgal. And he spake unto the children of Israel, saying, When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean these stones? Then ye shall let your children know, saying, Israel came over this Jordan on dry land.

~Joshua 4: 19-22~

Presiding, Samuel Stewart

,		
Musical Prelude		
Director		
Scripture and Prayer		
The School and Church Legacy Connection		
Congregational Singing "We've Come This Far By Faith"		
Introduction of Speaker		
Sermon Elder James "June" Turner		
Class of 1962 Invitation to Discipleship		
Music/Song"I Will Trust In the Lord"		
Remembering Staff & Classmates (Lighting of Memorial Candles) Mr. & Mrs. Danny Henderson		
Soft Music		
~ Offering ~ Dr. Katherine Robinson, Mrs. Carolyn Armstrong-Johnson, Mr. Charles Robinson, Mr. Samuel Donald, Mr. Bobby Coleman		
~ Ushers ~ Mrs. Velma Twyman, Ms. Barbara J. Wilson, Ms. Ruthie Kelly, Mr. George Mason, Mr. Larry Williams		
Closing Remarks Elaine Elder Coleman		
Benediction Elder James "June" Turner		

ALUMNI BANQUET

Sunday, July 3, 2016 6:00 PM

THEME: "Celebrating Our Legacy"

Master of Ceremony –Dr. Samuel Donald Agriculturalist and College Administrator

Musical Prelude	Mr. LaDonald Ensley		
Seating of Super Senior Graduates:			
•	Dr. Robert Smith, Class of 1939		
Raswille Colored High Graduate			
	Mrs. Mable Nealon Rogers, Class of 1946		
Seating of:			
•	Mrs. Mary Plain & Mrs. Ethel Berry		
_	ge Camron E. Smith & Zaire C. Rivers		
	Mrs. Ola Bunnitt, Class of 1951		
Invocation			
Music/Solo	Ms. Cierra Wallace		
Welcome	Mrs. Elaine Elder Coleman		
Greetings			
Blessing of the Food	The Honorable Harry Lewis		
Dinner is Served (soft music)			
Introduction of Speaker	Mrs. Anita Rubin		
Speaker	Mrs. Freddye Webb Petett, Class of 1961		
Special Recognition			
1	Mr. Quincy Mason, Class of 1960		
	Mrs. Gwendolyn Wilson Gene, Class of 1989		
NFL Legend (Indianapolis Colts)	Mr. Roosevelt Potts, Class of 1989		
Class Anniversaries and Special Recognition	Mr. Quincy Mason		
Gone But Not Forgotten Since Last Reunion	Mrs. Dianne Davison May		
President's Presentations and Recognitions	Mrs. Elaine Elder Coleman		
Door Prizes			
TV Raffle			
Remarks/Announcements			
Hehere Mr Lur	mas Broussard, Mr. Joe Jones & William Elder		

SEATING ESCORTS

Rayville Junior and Senior High School Girls and Boys Basketball Team Members

Micaela Wilson, Senior
Alexia Elder, Junior High - 8th grade
Mylik Wilson, Sophomore
Jamargas Wilson, Sophomore
Jamicaheal Wilson, Sophomore
D'Montreal Wilson, Senior



Banquet Menu

Chicken Breast

Brisket

Yellow Rice

Salad

Green Beans

Dinner Rolls

Dessert

Tea/Water



Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints. Psalm 116:15

~ 2014 ~

David Brown: 1962

Elder, Ira Bradley Jr, PhD: 1955

Mrs. Shirley Bradley*

Jerry "Blackcat" Harris: 1962

Lena McMillion Harris: 1964

Curtis Hayes: 1964

Lillie Mae Turner: 1953

Mack Charles "Bo" Williams

Freddie Woods: 1966

~ 2015 ~

Teacher

Mrs. Pearl Smith Hall: 1941

Charles "C.W." Brown *

Ella James Bradley: 1965

Eddie Garrett: 1960

Bobby Leroy McCaa: 1953

Vernon Warner: 1964





~ 2016 ~

Teachers

Mrs. Thelma Comier

Mrs. Mildred Lyons

Mrs. Marie Hill, Pardue Elementary School

Dorothy Gilbert Banks: 1960

Mary McCarthy Douglas: 1968

Annie Bell Griffin: 1966

Eunice Fuller Frances: 1958

Lula Mae Jackson: 1945

James Jefferson Jr.: 1958

John Henry Jones: 1953

Dr. Willie "Spongey Boy" Naylor: 1959

Viola Logan Martinez: 1964

Ivory Mock: 1962

Harry Addison Summers: 1965

*Class not known



A Daily Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

I thank You for this day. I thank You for my being able to awake once again, to see, and to hear this morning. I'm blessed because You are a forgiving God and an understanding God. You have done so much for me, and You continue to bless me. Please forgive me every day for anything I have done, said, or thought that was not pleasing to You, and I ask now for Your forgiveness. Please keep me safe from all danger and harm. Help me to start this day with a new attitude and plenty of gratitude. Let me make the best of each and every day to clear my mind so that I can hear from You. Please broaden my mind that I can accept all things. Let me not whine and whimper over things I have no control over. Let me continue to see sin through Your eyes and acknowledge it as evil. And when I sin, let me repent and confess with my mouth my wrongdoing and receive Your forgiveness. And when this world closes in on me, let me remember the example of Jesus – to slip away and find a quiet place to pray. It is the best response when I'm pushed beyond my limits. Continue to use me to do Your will. Continue to bless me that I may be a blessing to others. Keep me strong that I may help the weak. Keep me uplifted that I may have words of encoureagement for others. I pray for those who are lost and can't find their way. I pray for those who are misjudged and misunderstood. I pray for those who don't know You intimately. I pray for those who don't believe that You change people, and You can change all things. I pray for all my sisters and brothers and for each and every family member in their households. I pray for peace, love, joy in their homes; that they are out of debt; and that all their needs are met, I pray that every eye that reads this knows there is no problem, circumstance, or situation grater than You. Every battle is in Your hands for You to fight. I pray that these words be received into the hearts of every eye that sees them and every mouth that confesses them willingly.

This is my prayer...and I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior, Amen.

ELVIN EARNEST HAYES, "THE BIG E"

Elvin Hayes is a 1964 graduate of Eula D. Britton High School, and the son of Mr. Chris and Mrs. Savannah Hayes. In his senior year, he led Britton to the state championship, averaging 35 points during the regular season. In the championship game he picked up 45 points and 20 rebounds.

After averaging 35 points per game in high school, Elvin went to the University of Houston, where he was named All-America three times. He averaged 31 points and 17.2 rebounds per game for Houston and was selected as the College Player of the Year in 1968. That year Elvin scored 39 points as Houston ended the 47-game winning streak of the University of California, Los Angeles, and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar in front of 52,693 people at the Houston Astrodome; it was the first nationally televised collegiate basketball game.



At 6 ft. 9 in., Elvin is known as "The Big E." He was the first pick in the 1968 NBA draft and led the league in scoring as a rookie with 28.4 points per game for the San Diego (later Houston) Rockets. He also averaged 17.1 rebounds. Hayes was traded to the Baltimore (Md.) Bullets in 1972 and led the team to the 1978 NBA title, which by 1975 had moved to Landover, Md., and renamed the Washington Bullets.

After an award-winning career in professional basketball, Elvin began a new career as a businessman in the automotive dealership industry. He has owned Ford, Mercury, Lincoln, Volkswagen, and GM dealerships in several cities in Texas. Currently, he is Owner and President of three companies, The Hayes Group, Rosii USA, and King's Valet Services of Houston, Texas.

Elvin has received many awards and honors, including: Basketball's 50 All Time Greatest Players in 1997, 1990 – 1991 Black Enterprise Top 100 Auto Dealers, 1990 Inducted Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, 1989 Washington DC Hall of Stars Inductee, 1988 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Inductee, to name only a few.









FREDDYE WEBB PETETT

Freddye Petett graduated from Eula Britton High in the Class of 1961. She attended Southern University and graduated from Portland State University, in Portland Oregon, earning a BA in Business Administration. She did graduate studies in sociology at the Union Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Freddye has had a rewarding public service career. She was executive Director of the Portland, OR Urban League, assistant to the Mayor of Portland, Oregon and Administrator of Oregon's Welfare Division where she managed 50 offices, 2600 employees and a one billion dollar biennial budget.



Freddye was a program officer for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF) in Battle Creek, MI. At WKKF, She administered the leadership grants program, managed the International Fellows program, supervising fellows in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean, and 5 countries in southern Africa. Her last assignment before retiring from WKKF was coordinator of the mid-south Delta Initiative, a community development program in AR, LA and MS.

Not content to be retired, Freddye joined the Clinton School of Public Service in Little Rock, AR as an assistant Professor and was the Founding Director of the Center on Community Philanthropy. She is now retired, enjoying volunteer activities and gardening.

Freddye currently lives in Pine Bluff, AR with her husband Samuel Brown. She is the proud mother of her son, Andre and grandmother of Zachariah and Malcolm, who live in Portland, Oregon.



QUINCY MASON

Quincy Mason, a 1960 graduate of Eula D. Britton High School received his BS Degree from Southern University in 1964, majoring in Math. Quincy participated in both baseball and basketball while attending Eula D. Britton, but it was his exploits in baseball that landed him at Southern University. He was an integral part of the pitching staff at Southern from 1961 through 1964 and was elected team captain his senior year. He was given the nickname, ICEMAN, because of his stellar relief pitching during his entire career at Southern.



Quincy signed a professional contract with the Chicago Cubs organization in 1964 and spent two and a half years in their Minor League System, attending two Spring Trainings. He moved on to the military becoming an Army Officer. His business career expanded over 40 years in the food industry, retiring as a Vice President from the national grocery chain, Food Lion Stores.

Throughout his career Quincy has received many awards and accolades and was selected as part of the 2015 class of inductees into the Southern University Sports Hall of Fame.

Today, Quincy resides in Reisterstown, Maryland, but he is a frequent visitor to Rayville as he serves on the Board of the Rayville Rosenwald/Eula D. Britton Alumni Association. He is married to Patricia Burris Mason of Franklinton, LA, also a graduate of Southern University. They are the parents of two lovely daughters.





GWENDOLYN WILSON-GENE

Gwendolyn Wilson-Gene, a 1989 graduate of Rayville High School, is the daughter of Mr. Norman and Mrs. Linda Wilson. While attending high school, she was very active in sports as well as academically. After high school graduation, she attended Hinds Community College for 2 years, 1990-1992 and played for Mississippi Junior College, where she received all-star, all state; conference honors, and placed sixth in the 1990-91 National Junior College Athletic Association competition in Tyler, Texas.

Her basketball skills enabled her to be blessed with an athletic scholarship to Southern University and A & M College, attending 1992-1995, playing under *Coach Herman Hartman*. As a Lady Jaguar she started as forward/center, and was a key player for Southern. She was

an outstanding leading scorer, rebounder, had a remarkable block shot and was captain for all post players. Also, she was a member of the first Lady Jaguar team to make history winning the Southwestern Athletic Conference (**SWAC**) Championship Conference in 1993, making all SWAC with a great coaching staff.

Gwendolyn graduated from Southern University A & M College in December 1995 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Therapeutic Recreation Education, remaining on the Dean's List while attending Southern. Gwendolyn is currently working toward a master's degree in Criminal Justice at Grambling State University.

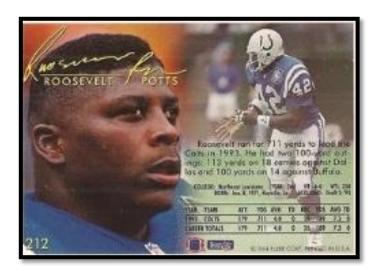
On March 31, 2012, she was inducted into Hinds Community College Sports Hall of Fame on the Utica Campus. She also served as a Metro 3 Girls AAU Basketball coach in Clinton, Mississippi for several years. While in her hometown of Rayville, she was big brother and sister basketball coach. For a year and a half, she was assistant women's basketball coach at Jackson State University, and was softball head coach under Coach Pennington.

Gwendolyn is married to Lamar Gene, and resides in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She is currently employed with Office of Juvenile Justice as Program Consultant – and Social Services Counselor. She attends Mount Zion First Baptist Church, under the leadership of *Pastor Renee' Brown*, where she serves as a Vacation Bible school teacher, in the choir, and on the Pastor's Aide committee. Gwendolyn gives honor and glory to a loving God, a supportive family and outstanding administrators, professors, and staff at Southern University.









ROOSEVELT POTTS

Roosevelt Potts, a 1989 graduate of Rayville High School, is the son of Mr. John Lee Gray and Mrs. Dorothy Mae Brown. He attended and played football for the University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM.) In 1993 he left ULM and completed his Bachelor of Arts Degree at North Carolina College of Theology in 2005. He also received a Master of Arts Degree in Biblical Studies from the same school in 2007.

Roosevelt was a former professional American Football player who played fullback in the National Football League for five seasons from 1993 to 1998 for the Indianapolis Colts, Miami Dolphins, and Baltimore Ravens. At 6', 267 lbs., Roosevelt was often used in short yardage situations. Career: (ULM Most Rushes record 658, Roosevelt Potts, 1990-92) (ULM most yards gained: Career: 3,061, Roosevelt Potts, 1990-92). During his rookie season with the Colts he rushed for 771 yards, and caught 26 passes. He had one rushing and four receiving touchdowns for his career.

Although retired from football, Roosevelt continues to work with the Indianapolis Colts through Public Relations and Community Development, serving on the Foreign Relation's Team. He serves as an Ambassador for NFL Play 60 in Montreal, Canada.

As a philanthropist, Roosevelt just started a Food Bank called Olive Branch. This organization feeds kids ages 1-18 as well as adult seniors, five days a week, three times and a day. He also mentors high school athletes by going to area schools during football season as guest speaker to motivate them before games. In addition to all of this, Roosevelt is VP of 11 Theology Schools.

Roosevelt is married to Tenisha Potts and currently resides in Fishers Indiana, with daughters Taylor and Ragan and son Roosevelt Jr.





ELDER JAMES H. "JUNE" TURNER

Elder James Turner has spent 47 years in the field of education as middle, junior and senior high school teacher and coach, as well as a college professor and coach. He is a 1962 graduate of Eula D. Britton High School and continued his education earning a B.S Degree in Biology, with a Minor in Health & Physical Education in 1968 at Paul Quinn College, Waco, Texas. In addition, he was an honor student and a National Science Foundation Scholar. He continued graduate studies at LA Tech in Biology and earned a M. S.

Degree in Health and Physical Education at Jackson State University in 1973. He also earned an A. A. Degree/General Education from Natchez Junior College in 1996.

His career experience began with teaching and coaching in junior and senior high schools in Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi. Turner was the first African American to win the state basketball championship the 1st year of integration at Mendenhall High School, in a predominate white population.

Elder Turner continued his exemplary career as Associate Women's Basketball Coach and Head Women's Volleyball Coach at Jackson State University where he received the honor of Freshman Teacher of the Year. His career continued as Head Women's Basketball Coach at Southern University; and Athletic Director and Head Men's Basketball Coach, Assistant Professor of Health and Physical Education at Tugaloo College in Tougaloo, Mississippi. Because of his passion for working with children and the sport of basketball, he continues the pursuit today as Head Boys' Basketball Coach at Mendenhall High School in Mendenhall, Mississippi. He has won many awards and accolades, including State Championships in Louisiana and Mississippi, as well as received Coach of the Year honors.

Research and Presentations by Elder Turner includes: "The Effects of Jackson State University's Summer Youth Sports Program on the Heart Rate of Ten and Eleven Year Old Boys and he published an article titled, "The One-Three-One All Purpose Zone Offense", Prentiss Hall, Inc., Inglewood Cliffs, NJ.

Elder Turner is married to Dr. Carrie Turner and proud parents of six children. He is Superintendent of Sunday School and Elder of Mendenhall Bible Church.



Golden Girls



2003 — 2012 Golden Girl Mrs. Ola Bunnitt



2012 Golden Girl Irma Hunter

2012 Golden Girl Court



Left to Right

Madams:

Louise Wilson, Ella Wagner, Jessie Turner, Queen Irma Hunter, Charlene Phillips, Alice Martin & Mary Collins

"In Loving Memory"

Golden Girl 2002-2003

Mrs. Rebecca Brown







Mrs. Clementine Davison Vaughns



2015 Golden Girls Diwas



1st Runner-Up Mrs. Crinda Berry Chatmon



Mrs. Irma Jean Wilson

LITTLE MR. & LITTLE MISS BLACK HERITAGE 2013





ZAIRE CLEOPATRA RIVERS is the 10-year-old daughter of Freddy and Sylvia Rivers. She is an honor roll student at J. S. Clark Magnet School, maintaining a 4.0 GPA. She was recently inducted into the elementary school National Honor Society. She is a piano student of LaDonald Ensley and a dance student at the Missy Crain Dance Studio, studying ballet, jazz and tap. This former cheerleader also studies acting at the Strauss Theater Playhouse during the summers.

CAMRON ELIJAH SMITH is currently 11 years old and will be entering the 6th grade this upcoming August at Rayville Elementary. Camron is a scholar and athlete; he has recently been selected for the 6th grade basketball team at Rayville Junior High and has also received several Honor Roll, Conduct, Star Student and Student of the Six Weeks Awards during his tenure as Little Mister Black Heritage. Camron's hobbies include basketball, swimming, riding his bicycle and entertaining family and friends. Camron is a member of the First Baptist Church led by Reverend Vernon Foy. Camron enjoys attending Sunday School and participating in youth activities presented by the Youth Division of First Baptist. James Smith and Toi Island are the proud parents of Camron Smith.



The First Rayville Rosenwald/Eula D. Britton Honorary Alumni Members



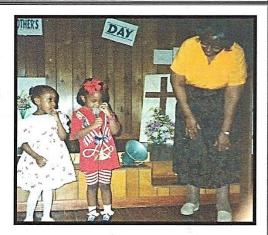
"In Loving Memory"
of
Mrs. Marie Hill

Mrs. Marie Hill was an active church member and an active civic and community participant. She served as treasurer of the Martin Luther King Memorial Society. Whenever children were involved, she wanted to be a part. She was a retired educator, having taught in the Richland Parish School System from 1938 -1972.

3

Mrs. Mary B. Plain

Mrs. Plain is a church and community worker. She worked in the Richland Parish School System for 25 years. She taught at Ester Toombs High School and Delhi Elementary School for 12 years and later became Curriculum Supervisor of the Chapter I Program for 13 years. She has two sons: Wendell and David, Jr.







Mrs. Ethel P. Berry

Mrs. Berry is the former First Lady of the Town of Rayville, the widow of the late Mayor Isam Berry, Sr. She is an active church member and community worker. She is a retired educator, having taught in the Richland Parish School System for 34 years. She is the mother of four children: Isam, Jr., Daryl, Abbie, and Roderick.



Alumni Newsmakers 2014-2016

2014

Mayor Harry Lewis - 1964, Jim Burnette – 1966, Elaine Elder Coleman - 1967 – Featured in Rayville Beacon News accepting \$1,000 grant check from AT&T Communications.

<u>2015</u>

Arthur Edwards, 1966 - One of the best dressed males in Monroe, LA. - Monroe Dispatch Newspaper

Vasa "Peaches" Jenkins, 1960 -- Applewood Homeowner's Association Newsletter (Denver, Colorado) features Goldie and Peaches Sellers in two articles: Meet Your Neighbors and A Valentine Love Story.

Mayor Harry 'Kayo" Lewis, 1964 – Always in the news discussing progress in the Town of Rayville.

Mayor Harry 'Kayo" Lewis, 1964, John El McCaa, 1957, and Dr. Willie "Spongey Boy" Allen Naylor, 1959 – Featured in the book: The Indigenous Black People of Monroe, Louisiana and the Surrounding Cities, Towns and Villages: a 100 Year Documentary by James O. McHenry, ED.D

Quincy "Iceman" Mason, 1962 - Inducted into Southern University Sport's Hall of Fame

Mrs. Mabel Rogers, 1943, and Mrs. Marie Hill (Honorary Alumni) - Featured in the book: The Monroeians: The Pine Street Blues Collective, Life Stories of Distinguished Black Citizens with Historical Associations in the Monroe, Louisiana Region by James O. MCHenry, ED.D

Annie Ruth Stewart Staten, 1966 - First Runner- Up Beauty and the Beast Breast Cancer Pageant, Minden, LA. Twenty- nine years breast cancer Survivor. Certificate awarded from Louisiana Lt. Governor Jay Darden for storytelling performances and serving as a Community Scholar with the Louisiana Folklore Department,

Mrs. Clementine Davison- Vaughn - Ms. Golden Girl 2015

Mrs. Katie Weber - Sellers Aycock Jr. Service Nominee Award

2016

Elaine Elder Coleman, 1967 – Received recognition for 6 years' service as a member of the Board of Directors of United Way of Northeast Louisiana.

Dr. Robert Smith, 1939 – Honored as a Living Legend during New Hope Baptist Church "Back In The Day – A Celebration of Black History", Jackson, MS

Anne Ruth Stewart-Staten, Contributor

Congratulations are extended to all of our Newsmakers; remember we are proud of you!!!

Be sure to send your news to President Coleman so it may be shared with the alumni.



RAYVILLE ROSENWALD/EULA D. BRITTON ALUMNI OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2014-2016



Elaine Elder-Coleman	President
Jim Burnette	Vice-President
Marie Lewis	Treasurer
Delores Walker	Financial Secretary
Clara Wilson	Recording/Corresponding Secretary
Annie Ruth Stewart-Staten	Assistant Secretary/Publicity/Historian

Elder Ira Bradley, Jr.* Bishop John C. Calvin, III Leroy Collins James Gee Danny Henderson Joe Jones Nettie Lee Charlestine Massey-Burnette Quincy Mason Morgan Moss Mary Ricks Freddy Rivers Sarah Rivers-White Charles Robinson Malinda Smith Nelson Woods

PRESIDENTS OF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

*Willie Larkin - 1982-1985

*Wilma Hill - 1985-1988

John Lancaster - 1988-1991

*Susie Lewis - 1991-1996

*Ira Bradley - 1996-2014

Elaine Elder Coleman - 2014- Present



2014-2016 DONATIONS

AT&T Communications

Harriett Black

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Bobby & Elaine Elder Coleman

Wardell Coward

Samuel Donald

Arthur Edwards

James Gee

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Danny Henderson

Marie Hill

Martha Jackson Hunter

Rev. Clarence Jackson

Bobby Jones

Ernestine Kyles Robinson

Versie Larkin

Michael Lyons

Quincy Mason

Gloria Miles

Judith Yelder Moore

Dr. Willie Naylor

Dororthy Nicholson

Jarvis Calvin Pahl

Wendell Plain

Randy Rivers

Charles and Ruby Smith

Robinson

James Sills (Robert Henderson)

Samuel Stewart

Bessie Donald Tabb

Tilmon Taylor

Edward Wagner

Clemmie Wade Wheeler

Sarah Rivers White

Dorothy Broussard Whitfield

Darnell Woods





Rayville Rosenwald/Eula D. Britton

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.





RAYVILLE ROSENWALD/EULA D. BRITTON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Designed & Printed by: Tina Spencer 318.789.0805 Elaine Elder Coleman, Editor