



50th

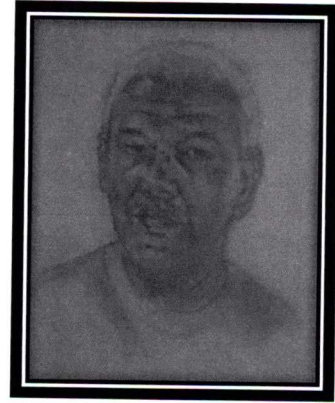
Class Reunion

Eula D. Britton

September 15th, - 16th, 2018

CLASS OF 1968

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK



Greetings!

It is my honor, on behalf of the Eula D. Britton C/O '68 Reunion Committee, to present you with this souvenir journal, celebrating the Golden Anniversary of our high school graduation ... our Golden Jubilee.

We hope the contents of this journal will help to fill this gymnasium with memories from wall to wall and floor to ceiling. We hope those old memories and the new ones we share here, will remain with you forever.

The reunion committee thanks you for the opportunity to make a positive impact.

We are blessed to have a great team to organize and implement this special event. Thank you Annette Larkin, Larry Strange, Dianne Davison May, Doreatha Bates Brown, as well as, Delores (Nan) Jones, Laquitta Owens Lee, Joy Brown and others. We sincerely appreciate all of the hard work.

Again, congratulations C/O '68 and enjoy your Golden Jubilee.

Dragons Forever,

*NELSON WOODS
Chairman*

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 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 Haynes, Mrs. Susie Lewis, Mrs. Emma Stinson, 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 staple 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 (1956-57), 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 subdivisions 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*



MRS. EULA DUNNINGS BRITTON

Principal 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

Principal 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---

We gather here once more
To remember a younger day,
When life was mostly before us
And the future a game to play.
Where activities with friends
Usually consumed most of our time,
And thoughts of a class or test
Occasionally crossed our mind...

There was whispered gossip
As we walked the school hall,
And plans for dates made
As we responded to the bell's call.
There were classes in English, history,
Math, sciences, and language too,
And even an occasional crisis
Which we had to work through...

Most of us gathered here today
Have children fully grown,
And maybe even grandchildren
To call our very own.
The careers we spent our life at
Are now almost through,
And in truth for most of us
Life provided a bump or two...

It is easy for us to see
How different we look this day,
And how the rigors of life
Have over time had their way.
But as we sit and share
The memories of times long ago,
We find that inside of us
Is still the youth we cherished so...

I bring this poem to a close
With a personal wish or two,
That GOD in all his mercy
Will continue to bless me and you.
And that whatever life
Still has for us in store,
We will ever remember
Those high school days of OLD...

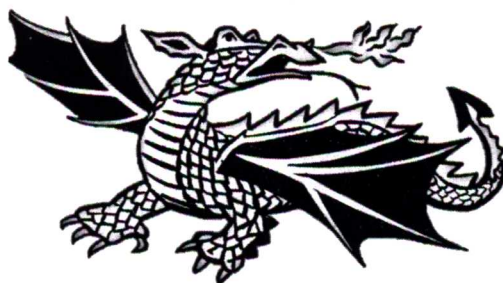


EULA D. BRITTON HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS OF 1968
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

September 15th - September 16th, 2018

THEME:

“We do not remember days; we remember moments”



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 – Alumni Center “The Gym”

11:00 AM to 2:00 PM - Registration & Meet and Greet

Hors d'oeuvres
(Attire – Casual)

7:00 PM to 9:00 PM – Banquet

Speaker – Doris Thomas White
Class of 1968
(Attire – Dressy)

9:00 PM to 12:00AM – School Dance

Sunday, Sept. 16, 2018

Church Services: 11:00 AM

First Baptist Church

802 Martin Luther King Drive | Rayville, LA 71269

Luncheon Following Service

Big John's Steak & Seafood

112 Cottonland Road | Rayville, LA 71269

**Each participant will pay at restaurant*

PLEASE wear your T-Shirt for the luncheon



EULA D. BRITTON HIGH SCHOOL



**CLASS OF 1968
50TH CLASS REUNION**

THEME: "WE DO NOT REMEMBER DAYS; WE REMEMBER MOMENTS"

BANQUET PROGRAM

**September 15, 2018
7:00 PM**

Greeting	Delores (Nan) Jones
Master of Ceremonies	Samuel Kennedy
Invocation	Johnny O. Kennedy
Roll Call – Classmates & Sponsors	Larry Strange
Recognition of Deceased Classmates/Sponsors	Joy Brown
Reflections from Class of 1968	Marilyn Hall Johnson
Reflections from Class of 1967	Larry Williams
Reflections from Class of 1969	Charlene Good
Reflections from Teacher	Mrs. Naomi Smith and Mrs. Ola Bunnitt

****DINNER IS SERVED****

Introduction of Guest Speaker	Eddie Williams
Guest Speaker	Doris Thomas White
Presentations	Delores (Nan) Jones
Closing Remarks	Nelson Woods

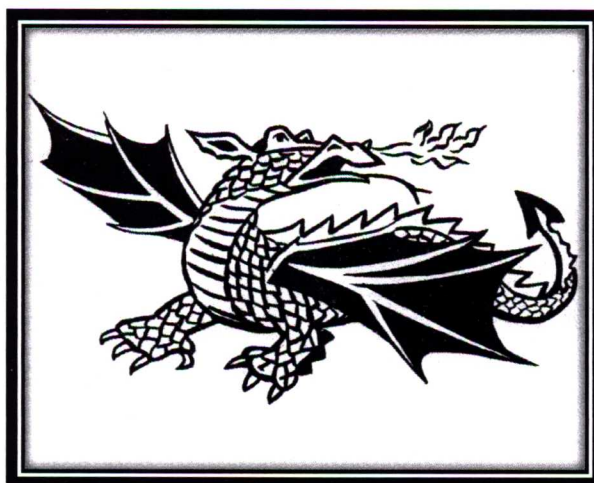
ALMA MATER

Dance-DJ ~ John Diarse

CLASS OF 1968

50th

REUNION CELEBRATION COMMITTEE



NELSON WOODS, Chairperson

ANNETTE LARKIN, Co-Chairperson

LARRY STRANGE, Treasurer

DOREATHA BATES BROWN, Secretary

DIANNE DAVISON-MAY

DELORES (NAN) JONES

LAQUITTA OWENS LEE

JOY BROWN

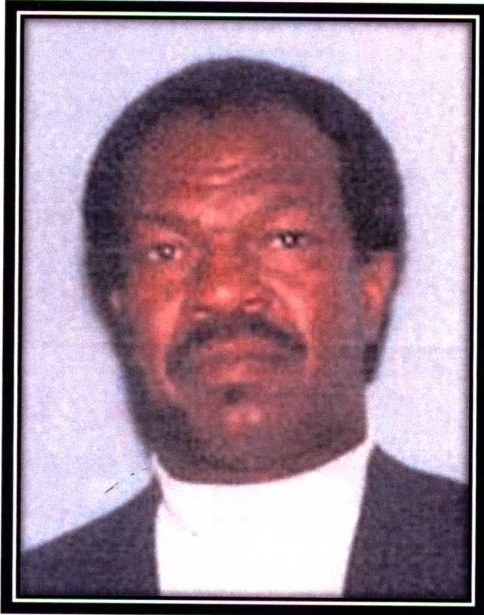
ROLL CALL CLASS OF 1968

*Pauline Autman
Letha Baker
Earnestine Banks
Fred Banks, Jr.
William Barnes
Doreatha Bates
Doris Bishop
Cleo Brice
Willie Bright
J. B. Briscoe
Donald Brown
Joy Brown
Larry Brown
Roy Brown
Barbara Burns
Irene Calloway
Lillie Carter
Orell Chatman
Dorothy Cole
Irma Collins
Nellie Ann Cotton
Joe Curry
Betty Davis
Jimmy Davis
Dianne Davison
Linda Edwards
Carl Fairley
Robert Fenceroy
James Fuller
Carolyn Garrett
Carolyn Gipson
Diane Gray
Marilyn Hall
Mary Jean Harris
Shelby Henry
Sadie Hunter
Gladys Ishop
Charles Jackson
Thomas Jackson*



*Karen Johnson
Annie Bell Jones
Delores Jones
Delores (Nan) Jones
Donald Kennedy
Samuel Kennedy
Annette Larkin
James Lewis
Louise McCarthy
Augusta McFarland
Katie Mack
Mary Manning
Leotis Manuel
Willie Massey
Mildred Millage
Linda Morehead
Nazareth Nabors
Willie Mae Nabors
Leanna Newell
Norma Ruth Norwood
Laquitta Owens
Glorice Page
Tom Phillip
Ruby Robinson
Lillian Faye Stinson
Larry Strange
Mattie Taylor
Doris Thomas
Charles Tribett
Dorothy Vaughn
Michael Ward
Robert Wesley
Mose Wheatley
Mildred White
Dorothy Williams
Eddie James Williams
Nunnie Williams
Nelson Woods*

Class Sponsors



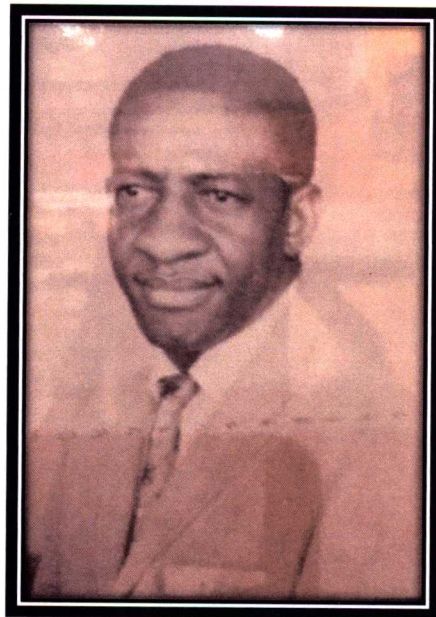
ALFRED JOHNSON



ZEPHR STEPHENS



NOAMI SEASTRUNK-SMITH



MELVIN ROGERS

EDITH BURKS MILLER
*** Not Photographed ***

“GONE – BUT NOT FORGOTTEN”



DECEASED CLASSMATES

Cleo Brice

J.B. Briscoe

Roy Brown

Barbara Burns

Irene Calloway

Joe Curry

Carolyn Gipson

Shelby Henry

Thomas Jackson

Leotis Manuel

Willie Massey

Louise McCarthy

Leanna Newell

Norma R. Norwood

Tom Phillip

Ruby Robinson

Dorothy Vaughn

Michael Ward

Dorothy Williams



DECEASED SPONSORS

Mrs. Edith Burks Miller

Mrs. Zephr Stephens

Mr. Melvin Rogers

Mr. Alfred Johnson

HONORING MILITARY SERVICE



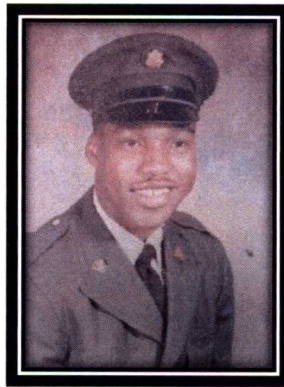
CLASS OF 1968

HONORING OUR MILITARY CLASSMATES

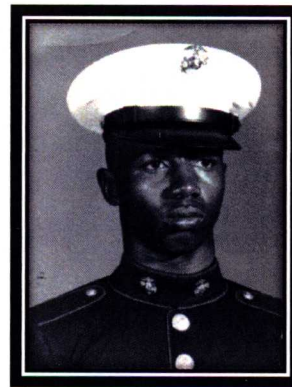
Fred Banks, US ARMY
Willie Bright, US ARMY
Joe Curry, US MARINE CORPS
Robert Fenceroy, US NAVY
Samuel Kennedy, US ARMY
Linda Morehead, US NAVY
Mose Wheatley, US ARMY
Nelson Woods, US MARINE CORPS



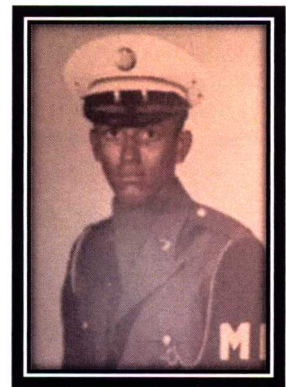
Nelson Woods



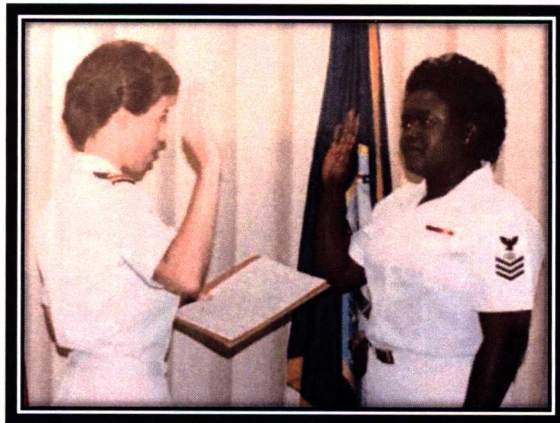
Mose Wheatley



Joe Curry



Willie Bright



Linda Morehead



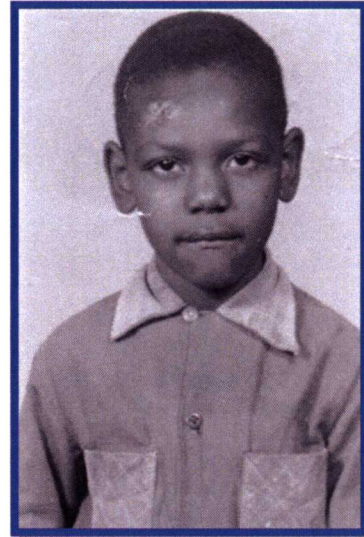
Fred Banks (Military)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY!!!

REMEMBER THE TIME



***Joy Brown, Shelby Henry,
Louise McCarthy & Teddy Calvin***



***Nelson Woods
1st Grade***



Class Representatives - Yearbook 1964



Reading left to right:

GRADE

Row I

W. Barnes, G. Garrett, L. Baker, C. Gibson, A. McFarland, L. Johnson, A. Jones, K. Harris, S. Hunter, V. Nelson, O. Sanders, E. Ricks, L. Carter, L. Dangerfield, O. McMiller, E. Banks, G. Summers, E. Thomas.

Row II

R. Carter, J. Wesley, D. Cole, W. Marzett, S. Kennedy, M. Ward, M. Jackson, F. Banks, J. Reed, L. Lawson, N. Jones, V. Aytch, L. Newel, B. Holmes, D. Thomas, M. Taylor, J. Curry.

Row III

H. Aytch, R. Fenceroy, L. Persey, L. Brown, J. Griffin, L. Rivers, L. Smiley, D. Smiley, R. Wesley, J. Brisco, W. Morris, J. Davis, J. Fuller, C. Brice, O. Collins.



Mrs. I. Armstrong



Mrs. P. Brown



Mrs. J. Draper

Reading left to right:

Row I

D. Gray, J. L. Brown, I. L. Collins, C. Brousaard, N. Cotton, N. R. Norwood, M. Owens, W. Bright, C. Jackson, N. Woods, E. Williams, D. Brown, D. Kennedy, L. Manuel, J. Davis, A. Larkin, M. White, B. Davis.

Row II

S. Bass, D. Williams, F. Jones, O. Chatman, D. Bishop, H. Watkins, M. Whestley, J. Jones, C. Jackson, J. Lewis, J. White, R. Reynold, J. Collins, R. Coleman, R. Wilson, A. Baker, D. Bates.

Row III

K. Johnson, D. Williams, F. Johnson, F. Phillips, E. Burton, W. Massey, C. Ward, C. Walker, S. Henry, B. Williams, J. Flowers, C. Tribett, L. Edwards.

FOUR



Betty Davis
Marilyn Hall
Katie Mack
Linda Moorehead
Emily Gypson



Carrie Broussard
Nunnie Williams
James Lewis
Louise McCarty



Deloris Williams
Barbara Burns
Lillie Tyson



EIGHTH GRADE

MRS. ROBERTA L. JONES, Teacher



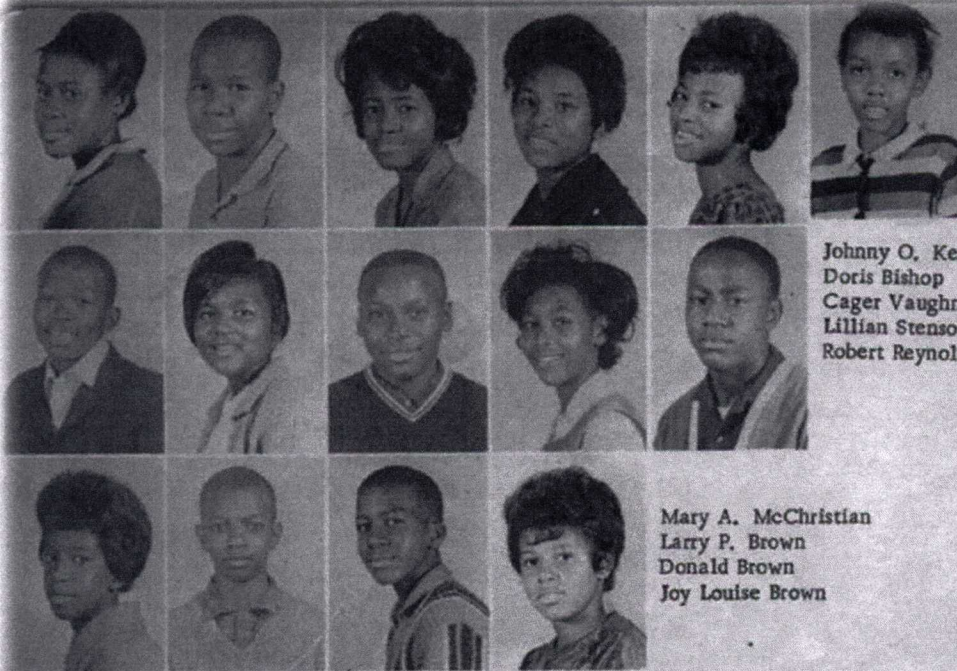
Lillie Tyson



Barbara Burns
Mildred Milliage
Louise Miley
Mary Mannings



John Cooper
Nellie Cotton
Beatrice Neal
Gladys Ishops
James Carpenter

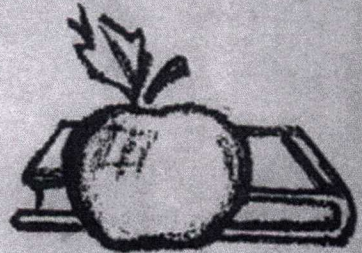


Mildred White, President
 Willie Massey, Vice President
 Karen Johnson, Secretary
 Linda Faye Edwards, Assist. Sec.
 Marilyn Owens, Treasurer
 Cleo Brice, Parliamentarian

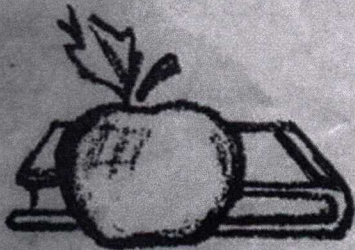
Johnny O. Kennedy
 Doris Bishop
 Cager Vaughn
 Lillian Stenson
 Robert Reynolds

Mary A. McChristian
 Larry P. Brown
 Donald Brown
 Joy Louise Brown

8th GRADE - B



MRS. PEARL S. DAVIS



Willie James Bright
 Charles Ray Jackson
 Robert L. Fenceroy
 Shelly Ray Henry

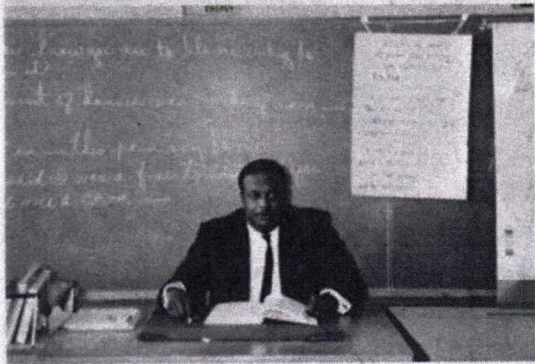


Orrel Chapman
 Norma R. Norwood
 Leodis Manuel
 Joseph Jones
 Odessie McMiller



Larry Strange
 Tom Phillips
 Dorothy J. Williams
 Fred Banks, Jr.
 James Fuller
 Donald Kennedy





MR. HERSHELL WHITE

Leatha Baker
Diana Gray



Augusta McFarland
Annie B. Jones



Mary D. Williams
Deloris Jones



Annete Larkin
Doretha Bates
Betty J. Brice



Jerry W. Brewster
Beverly Holmes
Charles E. Tribbett
Dianne Davison



Eddie J. Williams
Lillian R. Alexander
Robert Westley
Pauline Autman



Louise Johnson
Irma L. Collins
Earnestine Banks
Carolyn S. Gibson

